

# WREN NEWS

Newsletter of the Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network

March 2014

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## Keep warm, save energy, save money

As the weather brightens but before the gales of winter recede in memory, it is a good time to think about how to keep warmer next winter, without spending extra money on gas and electricity.

Many of our members will already have well insulated homes, but if not, help is at hand.

**Loft and cavity wall insulation** is available at **no cost** to you for 90% of people in the Wadebridge/Padstow area, based on postcode.

**Cash back** on other insulation:

- solid walls: up to £4,000 to cover two thirds of the cost
- flat roofs: £550
- room in roof: £1000

**Finance for a new combi boiler:** from £29.58 per month for 10 years, including full warranty.

Contact us for more information on 01208 812992, or email to: [dominic.comonte@wren.uk.com](mailto:dominic.comonte@wren.uk.com) or call into the Energy Shop on The Platt.

## New Appointments

**Rachel Wigglesworth** was co-opted as Director of Public Health at the Board meeting in January.

Rachel is currently employed as an NHS Specialty Registrar in Public Health (Severn Deanery), working across the South West Peninsula, including the European Centre for the Environment and Human Health. She is an Oxford graduate and has a Masters in public health from Cardiff. She held posts researching health policy at LSE and developing services in the community and voluntary sectors, before joining the NHS as a public health specialist and becoming a Public Health Registrar. She enjoys walking and gardening, and spending time by the sea with family and friends.

**Dominic Comonte**, announced in the December 2013 newsletter as WREN's Project Manager, has now been appointed our **Operations Manager**.

Congratulations on the promotion, Dominic.



**WADEBRIDGE**  
Energy Futures

Our Town, Our Future, Our Choice

The three days of the **Wadebridge Energy Futures** exhibition in Wadebridge Town Hall from 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> September 2013 gave a key opportunity to discuss

how Wadebridge gets its energy and the options available in the future. The exhibition is now available in virtual form at [www.wren.uk.com/virtual-exhibition.html](http://www.wren.uk.com/virtual-exhibition.html) thanks to Ashden, and Caroline New and her team at Impress51.

A key question was whether we should build a future that would echo Wadebridge's past as a place of world-class innovation. Throughout most of its history, Wadebridge people used energy from local sources, most recently from the Wadebridge Electricity Supply Company (until that was taken over by SWEB after the second World War). Visitors to the exhibition, WREN members and non-members alike, were asked whether they would like their energy again to come from local, and locally owned, sources. Over 90% said they would. So the WREN team has been working since then to see what is possible.

We are working on an exciting opportunity with **Western Power Distribution** to develop a project that would make it possible to supply local renewable energy with additional benefits for you as the end user too. It is early days, but if these plans move ahead we will need about 250 households to help us pioneer the arrangements. If you might be interested in becoming one of these households, do let us know by email at [energy@wren.uk.com](mailto:energy@wren.uk.com).

## WREN Offer: Diverters

The 'diverters' offer announced in February is still open.

If you generate electricity at your home or business, using solar PV or a wind turbine, say, the chances are that you are exporting up to 70% of the electricity you produce. With a diverter, you can use almost all the energy you produce, saving you money.

A diverter continually monitors the electricity produced by your generation system and the electricity you use in the building. It automatically detects when generation exceeds consumption and, instead of exporting it to the grid, **diverts** the surplus electricity to alternatives such as the immersion heater in a hot water cylinder, storage heaters or battery banks. As soon as it detects that there is no surplus, the diverter stops diverting, ensuring you do not import energy – and pay for it – unnecessarily.

We have researched the diverter market, assessed the relative merits of products and are able to promote to our members two different diverters at a great price of around

**£550 (including installation and VAT)**

One diverts excess electricity to resistive loads such as your

## Saving £100,000 with LED Light Bulbs

The WREN offer in conjunction with local business Bridge Tools, Gonvena Hill, Wadebridge has now closed.

Members ordered over 400 LED bulbs, mainly 5 watt GU10s which replace 50 watt halogen spotlights, and 7 watt GLS A60 which replace standard bayonet fitting bulbs (60 watt incandescent or 15-20 watt energy saving), but also golfball and candle shaped bulbs.

Over the lifetime of the bulbs – an average 30,000 hours – we estimate a total saving of up to £100,000 for our members, depending on the type of bulb replaced. That's a carbon saving of around 360 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

LED bulbs last longer than incandescent, halogen and compact fluorescent energy saving bulbs, so although they are more expensive to buy initially, they save money in the long run.

So next time you need to buy a new bulb, make it an LED.

LED bulbs in a variety of shapes and fittings are still available at **Bridge Tools**, Gonvena Hill, and also at **Glanville's**, Polmorla Road, and **Dickson's Home Hardware**, Molesworth Street.

## Energy supplier switching

WREN is keen to help consumers get the best deal they can from their electricity and gas suppliers.

Call into the Energy Shop with current electricity and gas bills and we will go on-line on the spot to

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immersion heater. The other **not** only diverts to resistive loads but also to a battery bank system or to other electrical loads.

(Battery back-up systems are available from around £3500 for 3kW inverter and 3kWh of stored energy. The supplier can quote for a system suitable for your home.)

To find out more about diverters, or to order one, call Dominic on 01208 812992, email him at: [dominic.comonte@wren.uk.com](mailto:dominic.comonte@wren.uk.com) or pop into the Energy Shop on The Platt.

find if you can get a better deal.

If you are happy with your energy supplier, but know someone who isn't, especially if they do not have access to the internet, do encourage them to visit us. There's no obligation and no pressure. WREN is independent of the energy suppliers.

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