



Newsletter of the Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network

April 2016

Contents

- Pengelly £20,000 Community Fund
- Sunshine Tariff - Last Call
- Creative Energy Wanted
- Top County for Renewables?
- Why don't people switch energy suppliers?

Pengelly £20,000 Community Fund

The Pengelly CE Wind Ltd Community Fund is again available for projects in St Breock and Wadebridge and this year there is £20,000 available for grants to not-for-profit organisations.

Projects should either provide services or opportunities for disadvantaged people or enhance and enrich the social, community or cultural life of the area. The maximum grant will be £1,000 so the fund committee is looking for 20 or more local projects. Previous recipients of grants can apply again this year - all applications will be considered on their merit.

The fund has just opened for applications and will close on **31st May 2016**.

For application forms and further details contact communityfunds@wren.uk.com, click [here](#) to download, or call in or phone the Energy Shop, The Platt, Wadebridge, Tel. 01208 812992.

Last year's recipients are also listed on the website.

sunshine tariff trial

Last Call

We banged on about the Sunshine Tariff in our last newsletter, so we won't do it again. Just to say that smart meters have been installed, the 5p tariff is in operation, but there are still a few days left to [sign up](#) - we will close for applications on **Friday 15th April**.

Sunshine Tariff in a nutshell

- 5p per unit (kWh) 10am - 4pm (18p outside these hours) until Sep 2016
- VAT included and no standing charge
- Easy to switch - just fill in the form and we make it happen
- No cost to you for switching
- No exit charge - you are free to leave at any time
- New smart meter installed free of charge
- Extends the benefits of solar power to people who do not have their own roof-top panels (but if you do have them, you can still sign up)

Creative Energy Wanted

Over the next few months, WREN will be offering a series of activities exploring different aspects of energy in a fun and creative way. This will include writing, performance and art workshops, events and exhibitions. If you might like to take part, and would like more details about art or writing activities, please email events@wren.uk.com.

These activities are funded by FEAST - a programme to make great art happen across Cornwall: feastcornwall.org.

FEAST harnesses the talents and energy of Cornwall's artists and communities, generating new opportunities for everyone to enjoy the arts. The focus is on bringing people together to share experiences as audiences or participants, and on animating local celebrations and cultural life.

Investment for FEAST comes from Arts Council England and Cornwall Council. The programme is managed by Creative Kernow Limited.



Top County for Renewables?

Did you know that Cornwall is not the top county for wind power? To listen to some people, you'd think that all the turbines in Britain were concentrated here, but in fact Cornwall is only 12th in the list, which is headed by the East Riding of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, each of which has more than double the Cornish capacity.

However, Cornwall is top for solar PV, including domestic roof tops.

Details can be found on the Green Alliance's newly published "[renewables locator website](#)" and there is also a good write-up in [The Guardian](#).

Why don't people switch energy suppliers?

There is much talk about high energy prices, but one source of pressure on energy companies to reduce them is conspicuous by its absence. It is hard to get people to switch to a cheaper supplier, and the reasons are not really known.

Anecdotally, we hear that only 10%, or perhaps 20%, of people have ever switched. Some worry that it will be difficult or complicated (it isn't). Some think it not worth the bother to save a few pounds. Some think it is swings and roundabouts, that their tariff might be more expensive now, but will be the cheap one in a few months (not generally true - the Big 6 make more money when people don't switch, and even switching tariff within the same supplier can save money). And despite the talk and publicity, some people just don't hear the message.

The Economist magazine, in a February 2016 article, asks: "What to do with a market in which consumers ignore the cheapest prices?" Click [here](#) to read it.

An older piece from NEF focuses on the underpinnings of our broken energy market and outlines a few possible reasons. Click [here](#).

What we see in WREN is a few people asking for help to switch, and we have been

very glad to offer this as a free service. But it is only a few and we are fairly sure that we haven't been able to reach some people who are also in need of help. We wish we had an answer to the question.

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