



Newsletter of the Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network

June 2017

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Grants available: M&S Energy Fund

The M&S Community Energy Fund is back and ready to deliver £300,000 to support community energy projects across the UK in £12,000 chunks to switch on bright ideas for renewable energy initiatives and technologies.

Applications are open now until **23rd June** and there's plenty of help on how to pull together the best possible application before submitting online at www.mandsenergyfund.com.

Centrica Energy Storage Systems Project

Centrica has started a £19m Cornwall Local Energy Market project. They are looking to install energy storage systems and/or micro CHP systems in 100 homes in Cornwall for free, preferably within a close locality.

After speaking with them, we thought that WREN members and the people of Wadebridge might be interested in being involved in this project, especially those who were engaged in the sunshine tariff trials.

To be involved the project, register your interest on Centrica's [website](#).

Treworder Solar Farm Community Fund Opens

£10,000 is available to fund community projects that will benefit people living in Wadebridge, St Kew, St Mabyn and Egloshayle. This money comes from the Section 106 agreement made at the time the Middle Treworder Solar Farm was given permission to go ahead.

To be eligible for funds you need to be a community group or voluntary organisation or a not for profit organisation. The **closing date for applications is 13th September 2017** and the results will be announced by the end of September. The decisions about who will get the grants will be made by a committee which includes representatives from Wadebridge Town Council, the Parish Councils of St Kew, St Mabyn and Egloshayle, the landowner and WREN.

The Committee wishes to make grants for projects that will benefit children or young people, people in fuel poverty or at risk of being so, low carbon initiatives, and climate change mitigation or adaptation.

You can get application forms and further details

- from our website [here](#)
- by email from communityfunds@wren.uk.com
- by writing to WREN, c/o Alexander and Co., Negys Gorthybow, Schooners Business Park, Bess Park Road, Wadebridge, Cornwall, PL27 6HB.

Community Fund Awards

We are happy to announce the grants awarded from the St Breock Wind Farm fund and the Pengelly CE Wind fund for 2017.

Over £51,000 was awarded from the St Breock fund to 36 local projects in St Breock, Withiel, St. Wenn, Wadebridge, Egloshayle, St. Issey and St. Columb. The main beneficiaries were St Wenn Parish Council which received £8,776 for community open space and amenity and St Breock Parish Council which received

£7,414 for Whitecross speed monitor phase 2.

The Pengelly fund provided about £7,700 to nine projects, including £1,000 each to Wadebridge Carnival, Wadebridge Creative Hub and St Breock Parish Church.

Full details can be found on our website, [here](#).

South West Water Wind Turbines

South West Water have been great supporters of community energy in the past four years, and they buy power from WREN for Nanstallon Sewage Treatment Works. They will be submitting two wind turbine planning applications in Cornwall in early autumn. We'll be back in touch nearer the time to let you know how you can help demonstrate community support for these.

The two single wind turbines will supply power directly to Stithians Water Treatment Works and Newquay Sewage Treatment Works. The renewable energy generated will help South West Water to manage its carbon footprint, energy bills and protect customers from higher water bills that reflect national increases in energy prices.

Find out more and comment online: www.southwestwater.co.uk/wind



WREN and South West Water celebrate one year of solar electricity at Nanstallon (October 2016)

Fully Charged

Fully Charged is a You Tube channel concerned with renewable energy in all its forms. In this episode, host Robert Llewellyn (Kryten, for fans of Red Dwarf) talks about micro smart grids at EUREF, the European Energy Forum in Berlin. Click [here](#) to watch.



Warnings

One of our directors was recently called about solar panel insurance. He writes:

“If it is not a scam then it is certainly questionable. The call to our (ex-directory) landline was from ESE. They wanted to offer insurance for our PV system, saying that our inverter was out of warranty. When asked where they got our number they said ‘licensed provider’ but couldn’t explain what that meant, but were sure it wasn’t government.”

Our former technical director reckons that the insurance looks poor value, with four years worth of premiums being enough to replace an inverter, the only thing likely to need repair. Also, a solar PV supplier in the Northwest has written about this kind of thing on his [website](#).

So the basic conclusion is to think very carefully before taking it.

A couple of us have also received letters from companies offering to buy our solar PV installation and the rights to the future income stream from FiTs. The householder then just gets the electricity.

There is nothing intrinsically wrong with someone else buying the panels on your roof and taking the FiT income. Indeed, WREN was on the brink of doing just this before circumstances intervened. It could be a help to a householder unable to raise the funds to do it all themselves. But if you have already paid to install the panels, you should think very hard before selling them. As a WREN member said, if it's worth their while buying his panels, it ought be worth his while keeping them.

We are not financial advisors, but here again we reckon you should think very hard, and possibly take some advice, before selling your panels and FiTs.

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