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Newsletter of the Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network

November 2020

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## St Breock Fund

### £60,000 Community Fund Responds to Coronavirus

The St Breock Windfarm Community Fund opens for applications on December 1st. The Fund makes grants to community, voluntary, and not-for-profit organisations in Wadebridge, Egloshayle, St. Breock, St Wenn, Withiel, St. Issey and St. Columb. More than £60,000 is available for projects that benefit these local communities and this year the scope is widened to address problems raised by the pandemic.

The Fund is responding in two ways to the new challenges thrown up by Covid-19. First, funding will be available for community groups who provide support for people affected by the pandemic. Secondly, a ‘Resilience Fund’ will be available for community groups and organisations that face an immediate threat to their existence as a consequence of the pandemic.

This is the sixth year of the Fund. Over that time it has helped a wide range of organisations and projects. Schools, sports clubs, theatre groups, music festivals, support services for vulnerable people, environmental projects and village halls have all benefitted.

Further details, application forms and fund guidelines will be posted on the WREN website <https://www.wren.uk.com/community/apply-for-funds> on December 1st or can be requested by email to [communityfunds@wren.uk.com](mailto:communityfunds@wren.uk.com) after that date.

## Energy Equality Prize Draw

The draw has been made for the £50 prize offered for completing the second Energy Equality survey and providing your electricity usage to the project and the winner is **Andy Driscoll** who lives near Port Issac.

The draw was made by Laurence under the supervision of WREN director Simon Miller and you can see the video here <https://youtu.be/dyJ8YP5AIZE>.

The data everyone submitted was used to refine the usage models that Loughborough University is developing, which they delivered to us on Wednesday morning, 25th November. Many thanks to all.

In other Energy Equality news, WREN has obtained consent from Cornwall Council to look at the potential of installing community owned solar on council-owned local public buildings, such as schools and care homes. The plan is that the solar electricity will be sold directly to the building users with any surplus being sold to other consumers in Wadebridge via a peer-to-peer platform, providing a good return to investors through a new community share scheme.

## Wadebridge Town Council Renewables

WREN has been in recent discussion with Wadebridge Town Council on two topics: putting solar PV on town council-owned roofs (as part of the Energy Equality project) and installing electric vehicle (EV) charging points in town council park parks in the town. At the Full Council Meeting on 7th October, the council resolved to take these projects forward itself using its own funds.

We are delighted that the council wishes to take such an active role, and we have offered support and assistance, using the information and plans that we have already developed.

## Electric Car Sharing Scheme

**Co Cars** is a car sharing club, focussing on low emission and electric vehicles (though it also has electric bikes in Exeter). It currently operates in Exeter, Falmouth, Plymouth, Salisbury and Truro and is looking to grow its shared mobility network across the South West. As part of this growth, it is exploring a number of opportunities to expand its coverage in Cornwall to other locations in addition to Falmouth and Truro. It has an on-line survey form about new locations, and following contact from WREN it has included Wadebridge and Padstow as options on the survey form.

This is a real alternative to owning a car, especially if you don’t use one all the time, so if you’d like to see it available locally please fill in the survey form to say so. (It’s one of the shortest and simplest we’ve seen in a while.)

This is the link to the survey form, from which you will also be able to click around the site to learn more. <https://www.co-cars.co.uk/co-cars-and-co-bikes-locations-in-cornwall/>

## Green Homes Grant Extended

The government’s Green Homes Grant scheme has been extended by a year to 31 March 2022, which is good news for anyone wanting to get green improvements done on their home (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-green-homes-grant-scheme>).

It gives you more time to think about what you want and to find a suitable installer. This is particularly relevant to solid wall insulation, which is not just ‘an installation’ but rather bespoke building work that has to fit with your home, as your reporter is discovering from personal experience. This Centre for Sustainable Energy blog post explains: <https://www.cse.org.uk/news/view/2526>

## In The News

### £3.5m for 150 new electric vehicle points in Cornwall

-- with £2.9m of it coming from the EU’s European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). (Click [here](#) for more info from BBC News). You can also find more on [this link](#).

### Poor air quality

-- kills more than 200 people in Cornwall each year, says council (Click [here](#) for the story at Cornwall Reports)

Cornwall Council had previously designated nine Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAS) in Cornwall, in Launceston, Grampound, Camelford, Truro, Gunnislake, St Austell, Tideford, Bodmin and Camborne/Pool/Redruth. These are places where there have been high levels of nitrogen dioxide recorded - mainly due to road traffic. The council has constant monitoring of air quality in those areas. In 2019 three of the AQMAS - Bodmin, Camelford and St Austell - showed no exceeding of the nitrogen dioxide levels, an encouraging sign.

### Bumper year for solar power

-- thanks to sunny spring and lockdowns. Photovoltaic panels pay off for those who get feed-in tariffs but home installations have dried up without incentives. (The Guardian). Click [here](#).

### SSE plans to triple renewable energy production by 2030

Firm says investment in low-carbon infrastructure will help UK emerge from Covid impact. (The Guardian) Click [here](#).

### City of London buys into new Dorset solar farm

-- to help power Square Mile. City Corporation signs £40m deal with French renewables firm Voltaia to ensure green energy supply. (The Guardian) Click [here](#).

### Chris Coonick, WREN’s technical director

-- has been nominated for the 2020 Cornwall Sustainability Awards. At least, we think it’s Chris, not WREN as a whole. We’ll find out on Friday, 4th December. (Details and tickets at [Eventbrite](#).)

