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## Newsletter of the Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network

Net Zero Community  
COP26 Wadebridge Walk-in Surgery  
Wed 10th Nov – John Betjeman Centre,  
5.30pm - 8pm – drop in at any time  
See below for more details, or click [HERE](#)



November 2021

### Contents

- What's the story..?
- Who's with us?
- We want you, too
- Do you have a smart meter?
- In the News

## What's the story..?

Net Zero Community (NZCom) is our major project to understand what 'net zero emissions' means for our community in the Padstow and Wadebridge Network Area and how we can get to that target whilst leaving no one behind.

The current COP26 proceedings in Glasgow have highlighted the need for action on the climate emergency, and anyone who watched the BBC Panorama programme *Wild Weather: Our World Under Threat* last Wednesday (3rd November) will have had the message reinforced several times over. [You can view it on [iPlayer](#)]

We - the human race - need to do something, and governments are needed to make decisions about closing down coal urgently and reducing oil and gas to nothing over the next two or three decades. At the same time, we - the people of North Cornwall - will have a part to play as well. And we're not talking just about buying an electric car or putting in solar panels (though if you want to, and can afford it, by all means go ahead).

We will be impacted by governmental decisions. For example, there will be a ban on gas boilers in new build homes from 2025, though it's important to say that no one is going to come along and "rip out" your current gas boiler. From 2030, new petrol and diesel cars cannot be sold, though some hybrids can be until 2035, after which new cars will have to be electric or hydrogen-powered. Again, existing cars can continue to be run.

What will life be like when this has happened? More urgently, what will life be like while it is happening? How will the transition happen?

The short answer is: "No one really knows," and that's really quite scary. There are some fortunate people who can afford to replace their gas boiler with a heat pump, but not everyone is. There are many, suffering under the recent increase in electricity prices, who will regard boiler replacement with horror, as simply unaffordable.

WREN doesn't really know either, not yet, but we are in a position to do something about that lack of knowledge. That 'something' is NZCom, the purpose of which is to investigate and come up with some answers, to find community-level solutions which will enable us to see and understand what is coming, and actively shape the transition and the end result, all the while ensuring that no one is left behind.



This may seem an ambitious project for a small, volunteer-led community energy group, but WREN has a history of ambition, we are sure we can achieve something new and we are optimistic about what that will mean for our community. We are supported in the project by several partners.

## Who's with us?

The University of Exeter is developing local scenarios to tell a story about plausible energy futures, as a basis for exploring options for new technologies, business models and institutional arrangements. The first results of this work were presented to the NZCom Advisory Panel on Wednesday, 3rd November. The University is also developing a carbon accounting methodology so that we can measure CO2 emissions and thus see and compare what effect our actions are having. If you can't measure them, you don't know whether emissions are going up or down as a result.

Planet A is a social enterprise based in Par, Cornwall, which will identify complementary technologies, systems and approaches to reach net zero carbon in the Wadebridge and Padstow Network Area by 2050 whilst positively supporting vulnerable customers.

Community Energy Plus is an award-winning social enterprise that provides complete energy answers to help householders in Cornwall enjoy warmer, energy efficient homes as part of a more sustainable future. It is based in Truro, Cornwall. CEP will develop community-led business models that have the potential to deliver socioeconomic benefits. It will understand and adapt the Net Zero Communities proposal to accommodate the needs of vulnerable energy customers to ensure that none are left behind in the energy transition.

Your Co-op Energy is an electricity supplier which buys renewable energy from community solar, wind, and hydro farms, partnered with Octopus Energy. Your Co-op Energy will develop a way of showing and reporting the CO2 emissions from energy generation, distribution and supply, so that customers will know not just their energy costs and their kilowatt hours used, but also their CO2 emissions, and can take action accordingly.

The project is funded by Western Power Distribution, the company that makes sure that the wires continue to bring electricity to your house or business, under its Network Innovation Allowance. The Allowance is money that the electricity regulator Ofgem requires to be spent on innovative ideas.

All this will come together in a view of an emissions-free future in which everyone can participate. The alternative, not just for North Cornwall, not just for the UK, but for the whole world, is ever higher temperatures and greater climate disruption. And no one wants that.

## We want you, too

NZCom is looking for community solutions, and it is obvious that we cannot do that without the community. We will not know what your most important issues about net zero are, or your ideas for solutions, unless you tell us and we listen.

We held our first public session at the end of September, and there will be more during the coming months. Plus, you can contact us at any time at [energy@wren.uk.com](mailto:energy@wren.uk.com).

Our next event is this coming Wednesday, 10th November. We are holding a "COP26 Walk-In Surgery" at the John Betjeman Centre. Drop in at any time between 5.30pm and 8pm.



We'll have people from WREN and our project partners available to talk about:

- What do the commitments made in Glasgow this week mean to Wadebridge folk?
- How do they relate to you, your family or business?
- Are your energy bills skyrocketing?
- How can you save money?
- What is Net Zero and how do we get there?
- What would a perfect Net Zero Wadebridge look like to you?
- Have you made changes to reduce your carbon footprint?

... and more

We want to know your views and concerns.

Do you remember the WREN Energy Shop on The Platt? Well, think of this as a nomadic revival of the Energy Shop.

For more information about NZCom, click [here](#).

## Do you have a Smart Meter?

Do you, or someone you know, have a Smart Meter?

If so, you may be able to contribute to a project that could make a real impact to your community and the Net Zero transition.

NZCom is one of three strands of a wider project being run by Western Power Distribution. Our partners in another strand, Frazer-Nash Consultancy, are keen to obtain permission to access a sample set of Smart Meter data for a project that is exploring whether smart meter data can be used to identify energy customers who may require and be eligible for additional support in terms of the services that they receive from their local Distribution Network Operator (WPD in our case).

To take part you would simply need to provide permission to access your Smart Meter data and provide responses to several simple questions about your household. We are particularly interested in receiving data from households with residents who are struggling with bills, or over 65, or living with some form of disability.

If you or your friends and family would be interested in getting involved – please let us know, and our partners at Frazer-Nash will be in touch with next steps. [energy@wren.uk.com](mailto:energy@wren.uk.com).

## In The News

COP26 is all over the media, so we won't bore you with even more. But here are some other stories of relevance.

First, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report from August - a fitting prologue to COP26.

The IPCC report is clear: nothing short of transforming society will avert catastrophe | Patrick Vallance | [The Guardian](#)

There's a change in where UK economic activity is taking place, towards the green. UK's green economy four times larger than manufacturing sector, says report | Green economy | [The Guardian](#)

And here's an example of that: an electric forecourt to charge vehicles, being planned for Plymouth. <https://www.gridserve.com/plymouth/>

But in an example of unjoined-up thinking, here's the government promoting a fossil fuel. Experts condemn plan to install thousands of gas boilers across UK | Energy | [The Guardian](#)

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