



Hello! Dydh da!

Welcome to our Low Carbon Community Newsletter, keeping you up-to-date with retrofit news and goings-on in our community. ♥

As summer draws to a close and the seasons begin to shift, we're taking stock of the changes ahead.

In this issue, we're looking back at key developments from over the summer, including important Government updates to Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) regulations - particularly around grey water recycling and rainwater harvesting. With recent dry spells and resulting water shortages, now is the time to ask: could we all be doing more to manage and make the most of our water resources?

And as always, we're highlighting the great work in our communities - helping to make our built environment a better place to be; Your Future Home Champions sharing their retrofit journeys; and what's coming next...

Meet our Cornwall Low Carbon Energy Advice Network team

Have you started your retrofit journey?

From a fabric-first approach with insulation, to solar PV and heat pumps - if you've taken steps to improve your home's energy efficiency, we'd love to hear from you! Sharing your experience could help encourage others to start their own retrofit journey.
Call us on **0800 954 1956** or email lowcarbon@cep.org.uk

Got a heat pump?

You can help demystify the technology by taking part in [Visit a Heat Pump](#) - a brilliant initiative where people can see working heat pumps in real homes. Find out more at [Visit a heat pump](#)

News

National standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

The UK Government has updated its guidance on managing rainwater in new developments - good news for people, wildlife, and green spaces. These standards also offer helpful advice for retrofitting existing homes, streets, and public spaces to be more climate-resilient by using rainwater as a resource.

[Read more](#)

The **Great British Energy Community Fund** is now live!

Whether you're just exploring an idea or already have a more developed plan, the **Great British Energy Community Fund** can help local energy project get off the ground.

You can apply for funding to:

- Look into whether your idea is technically and financially feasible
- Cover planning and development costs to get your project ready for construction and investment

If your community has a project (or even just the seed of an idea) that you'd like to explore, please get in touch with our **Technical Officer, James Miller** on **Freephone 0800 954 1956** or lowcarbon@cep.org.uk

[Find out more about the Great British Energy Community Fund](#)

What's happening in our community?

Community Roots Project's New Building

Community Roots is a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project based in Porthallowan.

They have turned an acre of bare land into a beautiful, productive, nature-friendly market garden producing delicious food for the local community. Offering **veg boxes, volunteer opportunities and a variety of courses**

To enable their growth, Community Roots now have a brand new building. The modern eco-constructed building project was funded through the **Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Good Growth and Shared Prosperity Fund**, built by local builders **Warvena Construction** and designed by **Kast Architects**. Find out more about the eco-conscious design here:

Warvena Construction - Building Community with Purpose

Kast Architects - The Big Shed

[For more information on the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Growth and Shared Prosperity Fund, click here](#)

Does your community need support taking action on their path to decarbonisation? Could you be a Retrofit Champion?

Call us on **0800 954 1956** or email lowcarbon@cep.org.uk

Cornwall Climate Action Network (CCAN) has recently joined the Transition Network and has become the hub for promoting Transition activities in Cornwall.

[Climate Cafe Listening Circles](#)

Transition is an international movement of communities coming together to reimagine and rebuild our world by building resilient communities for a sustainable future. Since 2005, thousands of groups have emerged in villages, cities, universities and schools in more than 50 countries across the world. In England and Wales there are over 300 groups, so we are part of a thriving and growing network; each local group of volunteers will develop their own projects - everything from growing food, rewilding & nature recovery, community renewable energy, to repair & recycling, and active travel.

In Cornwall, we have a number of well-established Transition Initiatives from Penzance to Bude, and more are emerging. The aim of the Hub is to connect us to the wider network for learning and encouragement, and together work for change locally, regionally and internationally.

More information about the international network can be found at [Transition Network](#)

If your local group would like to connect into the wider network, please contact CCAN: secretary@ccan.earth

Community Renewable Energy

Does your community have a renewable energy or energy saving project you want to develop? Or do you want to investigate the potential for renewable energy in local area?

We love working with local communities to develop renewable energy and energy-saving projects, empowering them to make changes towards a more sustainable future.

We're looking for:

Community Building Resilience:

- Community buildings with small energy use (e.g. village halls, doctors surgeries) looking to reduce their carbon footprint, lower energy bills and futureproof their buildings.

Community Renewable Generation:

- Buildings with significant electricity demand and a roof suitable for solar PV.
- Sites suitable for ground-mounted solar farms or wind turbines.
- Commercial projects in development of feasibility.

[Find out more](#)

Start your journey towards community renewable energy generation

Does your community want to develop its own wind and solar projects, but you just don't know where to start?

We can carry out a **local wind and solar feasibility assessment** to identify the most suitable areas in your locality for renewable energy technologies to be developed, in terms of energy resource and planning constraints.

This can help you understand **your community's potential to generate electricity** and which landowners to get in contact with to get the ball rolling.

In anticipation of the Government's Local Power Plan (LPP) - currently under consultation and aimed at making community renewable energy generation viable once again - **it is important to identify potential generation sites at an early stage.**

Projects can take a long time to develop, so getting things moving early means that your community can take advantage of opportunities as soon as they come up, instead of letting commercial developers sweep up the local sites and send the profits up country.

[Contact us for more information](#)

At Community Energy Plus, we know that managing costs and improving efficiency are top priorities for community organisations and businesses. That's why our tailored energy audits focus on uncovering practical solutions to maximise energy efficiency, reduce expenses, and achieve your sustainability goals - helping your organisation thrive, while operating smarter.

Our dedicated **Business Energy Adviser, Abigail Clark**, is here to help. Abi can deliver energy audits; training and workshops; and has information on grants and funding.

[How we can help your community or business](#)

Events

Mad About Heat Pumps?!

A free interactive workshop for supporters and sceptics.

Supporting **Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network (WREN)** to run a free, interactive workshop about Heat Pumps.

Come join us at Wadebridge Town Hall for a fun and informative event all about heat pumps. Whether you've been using one for some time - or just plain curious about this low carbon technology - this event is for you!

[Register for FREE tickets here](#)

Cheaper & Greener Day - discover sustainable living

Organised in partnership with **Climate Action St Austell (CASA)**, the event brings together a wide range of local groups and organisations - from wildlife and community initiatives to solar and heat pump installers, electric vehicles and bikes, and organic food suppliers.

Whether you're looking to cut energy costs, reduce your environmental impact, or simply find out more, there's something for everyone.

Come along and discover small steps that can make a big difference. We'd love to see you there!

EVOLT Taking Charge Together - Cornwall event

We talked to lots of you at the EVOLT Taking Charge Together - Cornwall event. If you still have questions, please [chat with our Low Carbon Team](#) or check out our [Electric Cars](#) energy advice guide.

We reach every part of Cornwall, so check our **Events** page and search **'low carbon'** in the search box or follow us on our social media to see if we're coming to a location near you soon.

[Upcoming Events](#)

Hope to see you there! ♥

Useful Links

Seeking funding for your community project?

Whether you're launching a new initiative or developing an existing one, there is a range of funding opportunities available to support your work.

From local schemes to national programmes, grants and funding can be a huge support for community groups and businesses, especially when you're starting out or planning to grow.

To boost your chances of success, it's important to carefully check the eligibility requirements and have a clear plan that shows how the funding will benefit your organisation.

[Click here for funding support](#)

Careers

The **Future is Green: Sustainable Skills Training at Cornwall College**

Cornwall College's Future is Green project is helping individuals and businesses develop the skills needed to thrive in the green economy.

Offering training in clean energy, agriculture, construction, and transport, the initiative provides opportunities for reskilling and upskilling in key sustainable industries.

With a focus on building a skilled workforce, this project supports the transition to a more sustainable future and helps prepare for the demands of sustainable industries.

[Learn more about the opportunities available](#)

What's Coming Next

In each newsletter, we'll feature a Retrofit Champion - if you or someone you know has started or completed their retrofit journey, we'd love to hear from you, so we can share your insights with our readers.

 Email us lowcarbon@cep.org.uk or Leave us a voicemail on **0800 954 1956**

Interested in energy efficiency and practical tips?

We've got more to share - subscribe to our Low Carbon and Energy Advice newsletters!

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Thanks for reading - we'll be back with more updates in our Winter edition

♥

Warm regards

Cornwall Low Carbon Energy Advice Network team