Centre for Sustainable Energy
support for local authorities

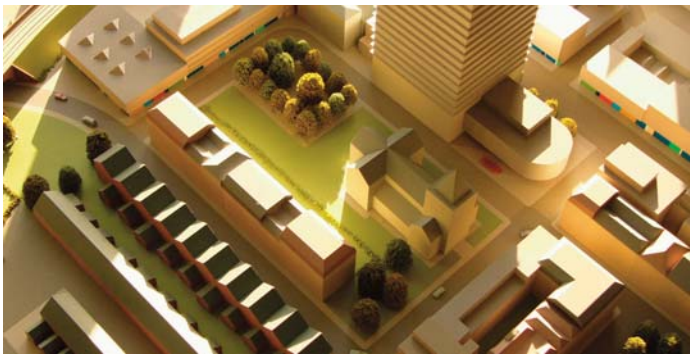
The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) is an independent national charity working since 1979 to tackle the threat of climate change and to end the misery of cold homes.

CSE is the main provider of home energy advice in the West of England and Somerset, helping 20,000 households every year. We also run local authority-backed home insulation schemes providing households with access to grants and discounts.

Our consultancy services include housing stock modelling and analysis, energy audits, technical feasibility assessments, training and strategy support.

CSE also delivers a range of national programmes and research including work for the Dept of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), the Dept for Communities and Local Government (CLG) and the energy regulator Ofgem. CSE sits on DECC's Green Deal Consumer Advisory Panel and other relevant national forums.

CSE offers a range of support to local authorities, including, home energy advice, insulation schemes, technical and strategic support, training and tools, and low carbon planning and communities.



CSE's PlanLoCaL model helps planners, councillors and communities to consider options in their local area.

Quotes from our clients

"I would not hesitate to recommend you for other leadership training."
Planning Advisory Service on CSE's low carbon planning workshop at their event for planning officers

"More than happy with the service received and wouldn't hesitate to commission again."
Isle of Anglesey County Council on our renewable energy assessments

Home energy advice

outreach events | telephone and email advice | home visits | communications campaigns

CSE has nearly thirty years' experience of giving energy advice to homeowners and tenants. Our advisors all hold professional energy advice qualifications (e.g. City and Guilds 6176, NVQ Level 3).

CSE hosts the Bristol hub of the National Energy Advice Service (funded through the Energy Saving Trust), providing free, impartial telephone and email advice to local households (0800 512 012).

We run drop-in advice surgeries and stalls to give people a chance to question and learn about energy.

CSE provides in-depth support to vulnerable and fuel-poor households through home visits and advocacy support (e.g. liaising with energy companies).

We also produce resources such as free downloadable energy advice leaflets: www.cse.org.uk/adviceleaflets.

Sample portfolio:

- Warm Families, lifting families with children out of fuel poverty in North Somerset (started 2011)
- WISH, supporting older people living in rural Somerset with home visits and advice (started 2009)
- Warming Bristol Communities, providing advice and home visits to BME households (started 2009).

Insulation schemes

loft and cavity wall | hard-to-treat measures

CSE manages insulation schemes to help householders access grants and arrange installation. We are also piloting solid wall insulation schemes ahead of the Green Deal.

Sample portfolio:

- Warm Streets (Somerset) and Bristol Energy Efficiency Scheme, prioritising vulnerable and fuel-poor households. Over 13,500 loft and cavity wall installations to date (2008-)
- Freedom from Fuel Poverty, a pilot scheme for solid wall, solar PV and solar thermal for fuel-poor households in hard-to-treat housing (2010-11)
- Somerset West Hard-to-Treat Homes, a grant scheme for solid wall insulation, floor insulation and complex roof insulation (2010-11).

Technical and strategic support

resource assessments | heat maps | housing stock analysis | fuel poverty analysis | affordable warmth and energy strategy | carbon management | energy audits and monitoring | renewable energy feasibility

CSE has been providing technical, research and strategic services for over ten years.

CSE provides expert analysis to DECC, Ofgem and local authorities on fuel poverty, energy efficiency of housing stock and distributional impacts of energy policy. Our research team are skilled in GIS, statistical modelling, evaluation and qualitative research.

We provide technical assessments for energy efficiency and small-medium scale renewable energy, and of local and regional sustainable energy resources to underpin planning policy (including heat maps).

Our senior staff provide strategic support to local authorities and others on sustainable energy issues.

Sample portfolio:

- Sustainable energy resource assessments for numerous local authorities (Bristol, Teignbridge, Plymouth, Devon, Dorset, West Sussex councils)
- Heat opportunity mapping, e.g. South West heat map and new National Heat Map for DECC
- Modelling options for carbon and fuel poverty reduction for whole national housing stock for WWF and eaga CT (2008)
- Creating the English Fuel Poverty Indicator (2003) and subsequently providing local data analysis
- Over 100 site-specific renewable energy and energy efficiency audits over the last 5 years.

Training and tools

sustainable energy training for officer and members | supported behaviour change programmes | tools

CSE provides bespoke training and tools to local authority members and officers on technical, planning and strategic issues relating to sustainable energy. We also provide in-house training for carbon management and behaviour change programmes to engage staff.

Sample portfolio:

- Training related to our other services (advice, technical, planning and community involvement)
- Our Big Energy Challenge, achieving a 10% energy use reduction through technical and behaviour change with Bath & NE Somerset's Local Strategic Partnership (2006-09)
- Local Carbon Management Matrix, a self-assessment tool which has been widely use by local authorities, and its LSP successor (2006).

Low carbon planning and communities

renewable energy training for planners | community engagement in low carbon planning and projects

CSE is a national expert in supporting community-led sustainable energy projects. We also help to engage communities in planning policy for sustainable energy.

CSE has extensive experience in providing in-depth renewable energy training to planners and councillors.

Sample portfolio:

- Web, video and hard copy resources to engage communities in local planning and creating new energy projects (www.planlocal.org.uk)
- PlanLoCaL landscape model to convey messages about mixed energy opportunities (see image on front)
- Low Carbon Bath, exploring sustainable energy in heritage buildings. Led to draft supplementary planning guidance. Shortlisted for the Royal Town Planning Institute's 2011 Planning Awards
- Renewable Energy Action Areas, helping the former mining town of Radstock to reinvent its energy economy in a low carbon context
- Community engagement in low carbon planning for Bath & NE Somerset's Core Strategy review
- Green Communities, a national programme created and managed by CSE under the Energy Saving Trust brand, including providing expert technical support to community groups (2002-10)
- National renewable energy training for planners, delivered for Government and reaching 2,500 councillors, officers and inspectors (2004-10).

For an informal discussion about how CSE can help you, contact Ruth Cole, Senior Development Manager, by phone: **0117 934 1440**
or email: **ruth.cole@cse.org.uk**

We can provide a bespoke quote to meet your request.

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