

# energise



## Green Vision

Building a Renewable Energy Future for the South West

**U**p to 20,000 new homes being built in the South West each year could have renewable energy technologies installed as a result of the REvision 2020 project.

The new project, launched at the start of the year, aims to develop targets for the region for renewable electricity for 2020, as well as targets for renewable heat for 2010 and 2020. It is also exploring the potential for a target for all new-build developments in the South West to generate a percentage of their energy needs from renewable sources on-site. The initiative has been commissioned by the Government Office for the South West, in conjunction with Regen SW, the renewable energy agency for the South West, and the South West Regional Assembly. CSE is leading the renewable heat and on-site generation part of the project, as well as being a member of the core team for the electricity targets.

"This important work gives us a detailed view of what a renewable future might look like for the South West," explains Matthew Spencer of Regen SW. "One area it highlights for the first time is the huge opportunity there is to use renewables to reduce the impact of new housing developments."

The resulting targets, supporting evidence and policy recommendations will feed into the new Regional Spatial Strategy which is being developed during 2005. Once finalised, all of the region's individual local planning authorities will need to pay regard to the strategy when developing their own planning policies and it is expected that it will lead to most, if not all, having a target for on-site renewable energy generation in place by 2007–2008.

■ **To find out more, contact Stephen Ward:**  
stephen.ward@cse.org.uk



## Free Resources for Family Learning

You can now download free Energy in the Home Family Learning resources from our website. See p.7 for details.



## Inside ...

- 2 Working with Local Authorities**
  - Climate Change: What Difference Can Local and Regional Action Make?
  - Energy Training for Local Authorities
- 3 Influencing Policy and Driving Research**
  - Time to Answer the Tough Questions
  - Fuel Poverty Doubled in Wales
- 4 Engaging Communities**
  - 80% Take Action with CAFe
  - Building Links for Healthier Homes
- 5 Giving Energy Advice**
  - A Double Blow to Fuel Poverty
  - Hat-trick for the Advice Team
  - SimplySwitch – It's Never Been Easier!
- 6 Working with Businesses**
  - Better Environmental Performance = Bigger Markets
  - Pitching for Solar
  - Renewables to Make a Splash in Victorian Lido
- 7 Educating and Training**
  - Free Resources for Family Learning
  - Essential Training
  - Students Take a Stand at Climate Conference
- 8 Who's Who, News Snippets, Staff News**

## Climate Change: What Difference Can Local and Regional Action Make?

**W**hen it comes to meeting UK targets to cut carbon emissions, the Government has identified a range of national measures, from improving energy standards in building regulations to setting energy-saving targets for energy suppliers.

But there is little information available about what could be achieved by more effective action on carbon emissions at a local and regional level, as well as no clear sense of the best action for local councils and regional agencies to be taking.

As part of the Government's current review of the UK Climate Change Programme, CSE has been commissioned to look at these questions, exploring the potential in England for further action at regional and local level to reduce carbon emissions. CSE is leading a team that includes energy consultants Impetus Consulting and



Could local councils do more to tackle climate change?

transport policy experts Quantock Energy and Environment.

Working with input from regional and local stakeholders as well as national bodies, the study is designed to provide robust and effective policy

options for consideration by the Government's Programme review team in early summer.

■ To find out more, contact Simon Roberts: [simon.roberts@cse.org.uk](mailto:simon.roberts@cse.org.uk)

## Energy Training for Local Authorities

**A** study from the Energy Saving Trust Scotland has highlighted the need for energy awareness training within councils and the lack of any coordinated resources to appeal to the full range of local authority staff.

CSE has been chosen by EST Scotland to develop and pilot new training resources to address this problem. Two pilot Scottish authorities have been recruited and CSE will tailor the training package to their specific policies, strategies and needs. Chief executives, directors, departmental managers and frontline staff will be targeted,

but the project will also 'train the trainers' – the first courses will be delivered by CSE training staff, shadowed by in-house council trainers who will then deliver the remainder. CSE will also provide support for each pilot authority in the trial of an on-line induction training package for staff.

If successful, the resources will then be delivered to a further nine authorities during the next year, with a roll-out across Scotland following that.

■ To find out more, contact Richard Dunning: [richard.dunning@cse.org.uk](mailto:richard.dunning@cse.org.uk)



## Time to Answer the Tough Questions

**W**hy don't people install energy-saving measures in their home or buy the more efficient appliances and light bulbs? And, more importantly, what would make them change?

Much of CSE's work is about trying to find practical answers to these challenging questions and now the organisation has been asked to try to help the Government answer these questions too.

CSE has provided analysis for the Energy Efficiency Innovation Review currently being undertaken by DEFRA, HM Treasury, the Carbon Trust and the Energy Saving Trust. The input drew on the lessons CSE has learnt over the last 25 years of delivering advice, education and grant programmes, documented recently in the publication *Shaping a Sustainable Energy Future* (see back page).

■ To find out more, contact Simon Roberts: [simon.roberts@cse.org.uk](mailto:simon.roberts@cse.org.uk)



## Fuel Poverty Doubled in Wales

**R**ecent research managed by CSE has shown that fuel poverty in Wales in 1997/98 was around twice the level originally estimated by the Welsh Assembly Government.

The finding follows work commissioned by the Assembly and undertaken with Warwick and Bristol universities to provide a more accurate picture of fuel poverty in the country. Because of gaps in its house condition data, the Assembly previously used the number of households eligible for its Home Energy Efficiency Scheme as a proxy for fuel poverty numbers. The research involved analysis of data from the Welsh House Condition Survey, with gaps filled by imputing data from the 1996 English House Condition



Survey and the 1997–99 Family Expenditure and Family Resources Surveys. Key findings were that:

- around 360,000 (31%) of households in Wales lived in fuel poverty in 1997/98 (on the Government's definition of fuel poverty)

- 72,000 households (6%) lived in severe fuel poverty (defined as those needing to spend more than 20% of income on fuel).

The comparable figures for England at the time were 22% and 3% respectively. Higher figures were attributed to a combination of lower incomes, poorer energy efficiency, higher fuel prices and a higher number of larger homes (in the sense that there are few flats in Wales).

Copies of the research summary and full report are available from [www.housing.wales.gov.uk/index.asp?task=rreports](http://www.housing.wales.gov.uk/index.asp?task=rreports).

■ To find out more, contact William Baker: [william.baker@cse.org.uk](mailto:william.baker@cse.org.uk)

## 80% Take Action with CAfE

A recent evaluation of the Community Action for Energy programme (CAfE) has shown that more than 80% of members have taken action around sustainable energy as a result of their involvement in the CAfE network.

The programme, run by CSE on behalf of the Energy Saving Trust, aims to promote local sustainable energy initiatives, ranging from the smallest awareness-raising campaign to large-scale community-owned renewable energy schemes, and offers a wide range of resources, training and support.

The evaluation also showed that the carbon savings achieved by CAfE had increased in 2004–2005 and that, in terms of carbon savings, CAfE was one of the Energy Saving Trust's most cost-effective programmes.

CAfE continues to show that, with the right support, community groups can achieve substantial results. Now

CAfE conference 2005: delegates take part in the lunchtime energy 'pub quiz'



entering its fourth year, the CAfE team plans to keep improving support to the network and will be offering an extended programme of training and events.

■ To find out more about CAfE and to get details of the training, contact [cafe@est.org.uk](mailto:cafe@est.org.uk), visit [www.est.org.uk/cafe](http://www.est.org.uk/cafe) or call the CAfE helpline on 08701 261 444

## Building Links for Healthier Homes

■ Finding common ground with non-energy organisations can be the key to effectively promoting energy efficiency, a project from CSE has shown.

The Healthy Homes, Healthy Communities initiative, concluded this spring, built links between providers of energy efficiency services and the health, community and social services sectors in the Somerset Coast area.

Focusing on helping these sectors meet one of their own objectives – to reduce the incidents of falls among elderly householders – the project made the connection between cold homes and the

risk of falls, establishing a multi-agency network to promote grants for improved insulation and heating measures to vulnerable elderly people.

While it is too early to gauge the project's impact on reducing falls, over 2700 people have received advice on grants through mailouts and joint events and 64 frontline staff from a variety of organisations have taken part in energy efficiency training.

It is hoped that further funding can be secured to continue the project's outreach activities. The final report can be



A Healthy Homes energy advice event

downloaded from the CSE website at [www.cse.org.uk/csepublications](http://www.cse.org.uk/csepublications).

■ To find out more, contact Clare Mitchell: [clare.mitchell@cse.org.uk](mailto:clare.mitchell@cse.org.uk)

## A Double Blow to Fuel Poverty

**O**lder householders in rural Bath and North East Somerset will get twice the help to beat fuel poverty, thanks to a new project being delivered by CSE in partnership with the North East Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau.

Benefiting from Warmth is a unique advice and outreach initiative to increase the uptake of Pensions Credit (and other benefits) while also encouraging householders to apply for energy efficiency grants. The idea is to deliver a double blow to fuel poverty by increasing householders' incomes and at the same time

warming their homes and lowering their fuel bills.

Funded by the Department for Work and Pensions' Partnership Fund, the project will operate through a series of outreach events and via telephone and face-to-face advice. Teams from both organisations are currently being trained to identify householders who are missing out on the benefits and grants they can claim and the scheme is set to officially launch in the autumn.

■ To find out more, contact Verity Hyldon: [verity.hyldon@cse.org.uk](mailto:verity.hyldon@cse.org.uk)

Giving home energy advice



## Hat-trick for the Advice Team

**F**or the third year in a row, the Bristol & Somerset Energy Efficiency Advice Centre has beaten its own record for the number of householders helped.

Nearly 15,000 households in Bristol and Somerset received a free energy advice report for their home, 3000 received advice by phone, while over 1500 were referred directly for a grant or discount to help them install energy-saving measures.

Particularly successful were home energy questionnaire mailouts carried out in conjunction with the area's local authorities. This included one with West Somerset District Council which had a staggering 42% response rate, resulting in 849 householders receiving tailored energy-saving recommendations.

The team isn't resting on the laurels of its success though.



Plans are already in place to make 2005–2006 an even more successful year, with more mailouts already agreed, as well as other exciting events and partnership working.

■ To find out more, contact Cleo Wilson: [cleo.wilson@cse.org.uk](mailto:cleo.wilson@cse.org.uk)

## SIMPLYSWITCH – IT'S NEVER BEEN EASIER!

■ A new affinity partnership between CSE and SimplySwitch is helping householders to cut their fuel bills by switching to cheaper gas and electricity tariffs.

SimplySwitch, which is accredited by the independent watchdog Energywatch, will switch fuel supplier for free and also advises on the cheapest 'green' tariffs available. When combined with energy efficiency measures, many householders can expect to save hundreds of pounds on their fuel bills.

But householders aren't the only ones to benefit from the partnership; for every customer that successfully switches fuel supplier, CSE will receive £10. So why not call today on 0800 0111 065 and find out how much you could save?

■ To find out more, contact Cleo Wilson: [cleo.wilson@cse.org.uk](mailto:cleo.wilson@cse.org.uk)



■ The 12 camp sites that received solar hot water systems under CSE's Pitching for Solar project have now been given information boards to tell campers all about the installations. The boards, erected at nine camp site shower blocks and three camp site swimming pools, explain how solar heating works and the benefits of using renewable energy.

Pitching for Solar has recently been shortlisted for a prestigious Ashden Award for Sustainable Energy, offered to schemes which demonstrate excellence in renewable electricity and heat generation and in energy efficiency.



Alastair McMahon (left), manager of the Pitching for Solar project, with Richard and Ann England, owners of Thorney Lakes Camp Site, near Langport in Somerset

## Better Environmental Performance = Bigger Markets

If the Energy White Paper's aim – a 60% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050 – is going to be met, new housing needs to become much more efficient and must make much more extensive use of renewable energy.

For developers, this poses a challenge that is partly technical (about how to design homes to do this), partly behavioural (in that customers need to be persuaded of the benefits of low-carbon housing) and partly financial (in a highly competitive housing market).

CSE has considered these issues in a recent study for South Gloucestershire Council, concluded this spring. Towards Low-carbon Housing Developments focused on a new 1800-house, mixed-use development proposed for the northern fringe of Bristol

and examined how its carbon impact could be reduced.

It is clear from this study that many of the larger volume developers do not yet believe that better environmental performance, as defined in standards such as EcoHomes, offers competitive advantage. However, what the study also found is that, where developers seize the initiative and focus on the benefits of lower running costs, healthier internal environment and lower impact on the external environment, purchasers are not only interested, but are potentially willing to pay a premium.

A report on this project is available on the CSE website at [www.cse.org.uk/csepublications](http://www.cse.org.uk/csepublications).

■ To find out more, contact Mark Letcher: [mark.letcher@cse.org.uk](mailto:mark.letcher@cse.org.uk)

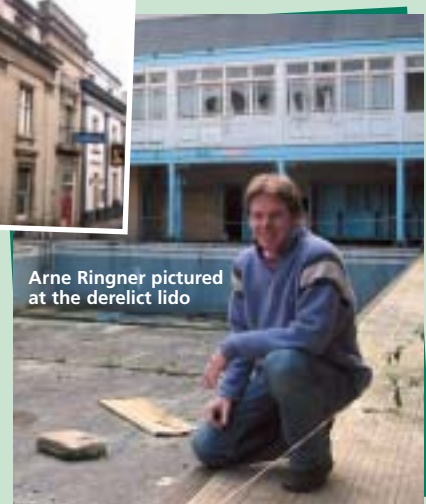
### RENEWABLES TO MAKE A SPLASH IN VICTORIAN LIDO

■ CSE has recently been asked to advise on suitable renewable energy options to heat the oldest lido pool in the country.

Built in 1849 and located in the heart of Bristol, Clifton Lido is a Grade II listed monument and has over the years proved to be a popular leisure facility for Bristolians. Although the pool has fallen into disrepair since its closure in 1990, current plans for restoration include a restaurant overlooking the pool and spa facilities such as a sauna and treatment rooms.

New owner Arne Ringner of the Glass Boat Company (which runs the Glass Boat and Spyglass restaurants in Bristol), elaborates: "We're looking into options for a heat pump and solar water heating for the pool. My aim is to set an example by incorporating low-carbon technology into what will become a unique leisure facility for the people of Bristol."

■ To find out more, contact Martin Holley: [martin.holley@cse.org.uk](mailto:martin.holley@cse.org.uk)



Arne Ringner pictured at the derelict lido

## Free Resources for Family Learning

**F**amilies around the country can now benefit from CSE's new energy education resources, Energy in the Home.

Family Learning tutors, or anyone interested in teaching sustainable energy issues, can download the new Family Learning materials for free from CSE's website. Three units are available, supporting the school curriculum from nursery to Key Stage 3:

- Unit 1: Energy Use and the Environment
- Unit 2: Save Money and Reduce Pollution
- Unit 3: Renewable Energy.

Each unit covers ten sessions and includes tutor notes providing background energy information, suggested session outlines and activity sheets. The activities encourage adults and children to develop together their knowledge of energy use in their own homes and its



link to environmental issues.

The resources support the delivery of the Open College Network module, Energy in the Home, and adults can work towards an accredited qualification at level 1 or 2.

Energy in the Home resources can be downloaded from [www.cse.org.uk/familylearningresources](http://www.cse.org.uk/familylearningresources).

■ **To find out more, contact Cheryl Gilbert: [cheryl.gilbert@cse.org.uk](mailto:cheryl.gilbert@cse.org.uk)**



Learning about solar power

### STUDENTS TAKE A STAND AT CLIMATE CONFERENCE

■ How can Avon's four local unitary authorities best meet their renewable electricity targets? That's the question that students have set about answering as part of CSE's Climate Change Challenge project.

Four South West secondary schools are taking part in the initiative to involve young people in sustainable energy strategies for their area. The project will culminate in a conference on 1 July at the University of the West of England, where students will present their findings and recommendations to local and regional decision-makers, who will be invited to respond. Outcomes of the conference will be published on CSE's website this summer.

■ **To find out more, visit [www.cse.org.uk/climatechangechallenge](http://www.cse.org.uk/climatechangechallenge) or contact Cheryl Gilbert: [cheryl.gilbert@cse.org.uk](mailto:cheryl.gilbert@cse.org.uk)**

## Essential Training

■ Renewable Energy Essentials, CSE's popular one-day introduction to household and community-scale renewable energy systems, is back, with six new dates confirmed for 2005–2006. They are:

- Plymouth, 28 June 2005
- Cardiff, 30 June 2005
- Edinburgh, 13 September 2005
- Cambridge, 25 October 2005
- Liverpool, 8 November 2005
- Birmingham, 7 February 2006

The course covers solar photovoltaics, solar water heating, biomass heating, small-scale wind and ground source heat pumps and is suitable for a wide range of people, including local authority officers, architects and community groups. The course costs £199.

CSE has also just launched a brand new one-day Transport Essentials course, providing an introduction to the issues around local transport and community-scale transport solutions.

■ **For further details about any CSE course, visit [www.cse.org.uk/trainingcourses](http://www.cse.org.uk/trainingcourses) or contact Richard Dunning, [richard.dunning@cse.org.uk](mailto:richard.dunning@cse.org.uk), to discuss your requirements for a bespoke course**

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## WHO'S WHO

<b>WILLIAM BAKER</b>	Senior Project Manager (Policy & Research)
<b>CLAIRE CHAMBERS</b>	Senior Project Worker (Technical Services)
<b>LIZ DAGGER</b>	Community Outreach Worker
<b>RICHARD DUNNING</b>	Head of Education & Training
<b>SIAN EVANS</b>	Student placement (Advice)
<b>SARAH FRANKISH</b>	Head of Finance & Administration
<b>CHERYL GILBERT</b>	Project Manager (Education)
<b>AMY HAMMOND</b>	Project Worker (Technical Services)
<b>MARTIN HOLLEY</b>	Project Manager (Technical Services)
<b>VERITY HYLDON</b>	Project Manager (Education, Training & Community)
<b>PAUL JENKINS</b>	Student placement (Community)
<b>BALJIT KAUR</b>	Student placement (Technical Services)
<b>MARK LETCHER</b>	Head of Advice & Partnerships
<b>GAYNOR LEWIS</b>	Project Officer (Education)
<b>ALASTAIR McMAHON</b>	Project Manager (Technical Services)
<b>JANINE MICHAEL</b>	Head of Development
<b>KIRSTY MILLAR</b>	Office Assistant
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<b>HELEN MOUNSEY</b>	Senior Project Worker (Local Energy Support Programme)
<b>LISA PINCHEN</b>	Project Worker (Advice)
<b>IAN PRESTON</b>	Project Manager (Research and Technical Services)
<b>SIMON ROBERTS</b>	Chief Executive
<b>JULIA STEPHENS-PARR</b>	Financial Administrator
<b>ANNA STOBBS</b>	Lead Trainer
<b>GEMMA TEMPLAR</b>	Community Outreach Worker
<b>JAMIE WALTERS</b>	Senior Energy Adviser
<b>STEPHEN WARD</b>	Head of Technical Services
<b>ALISON WHITE</b>	Development Officer
<b>MIKE WILLCOX</b>	Volunteer Energy Adviser
<b>JANE WILLIAMSON</b>	Communications & Publicity Manager

## STAFF NEWS

Welcome to Liz Dagger and Gemma Templar, who are sharing the role of Community Outreach Worker, promoting energy efficiency in Bristol and further afield in rural Somerset. Helen Mounsey steps in as Senior Project Worker for the Local Energy Support Programme, replacing Laura Bramley who has set off to travel the world. Anna Stobbs joins as Lead Trainer following the departure of Vicki Jellings, one of CSE's longest-serving members of staff. Over the last 12 years, many hundreds of people have received energy training from Vicki and all at CSE wish her well with her new role at Care & Repair. Goodbye and good luck too to Cleo Wilson, manager of the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre, who leaves us to undertake Energy Efficiency Commitment work for Scottish Power. Finally, Jane Williamson, CSE's Publicity Manager, is expecting her first baby in June and Tim Weisselberg will step into the role until she returns next year.

## TRUSTEE NEWS

Following the retirement of Hugh Barton, Trevor Houghton and Jim Sage as trustees at the end of 2004, CSE has appointed two new trustees to join its board: Roger Levett, a specialist in sustainable development policy and management, and Cheryl Cowlin, Planning & Community Advisor at Regen SW.

To find out more about CSE's staff and trustees, go to [www.cse.org.uk/about](http://www.cse.org.uk/about).

## CSE PUBLICATIONS

[www.cse.org.uk/csepublications](http://www.cse.org.uk/csepublications)

■ Did you know CSE aims to make all of its research reports and other publications (including Energise back issues, annual reports and education resources) available to download free from our website? Recent additions include:

- Developing Effective Energy Advice for BME Communities
- Assessing the Value of Aerial Thermographic Surveys
- Consumer Preferences for Improving Energy Consumption Feedback
- Helping Household to Act on Energy Advice
- Park Homes Insulation Project Report
- Symes Avenue Community Building Renewable Energy Feasibility Study

## NEWS SNIPPETS

■ Shaping a Sustainable Energy Future: Lessons from 25 Years of CSE – if you haven't yet read it, you can now download it from [www.cse.org.uk/csepublications](http://www.cse.org.uk/csepublications).

■ The second annual report of the independent evaluation of the Warm Zones pilots has now been published and is available on the CSE website at [www.cse.org.uk/csepublications](http://www.cse.org.uk/csepublications).

■ Energy-Saving Drive in BS5!, CSE's pilot project to develop effective energy advice for black and minority ethnic communities in Bristol, recently came to an end. To view the final report, visit [www.cse.org.uk/csepublications](http://www.cse.org.uk/csepublications).



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