

energise

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Tackling the threat of climate change and ending the misery of cold homes

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Green Deal incubator: making the retro-fit programme work for local councils, communities and businesses

Establishing the infrastructure to cultivate local low-carbon housing refurbishment

The Centre for Sustainable Energy and Severn Wye Energy Agency are exploring the potential for a new social enterprise that we're calling the **Green Deal Local Incubator**.

This proposed initiative would seek to make the forthcoming Green Deal (a) better for local economies by involving local businesses and (b) more focused on community engagement.

"The idea is still on the drawing board," says CSE's Phillip Morris, "and we don't yet know if it is viable. But what we're looking at is supporting local community groups, builders and councils to participate successfully in the Green Deal through a shared facility that looks after the finance, accreditation, procurement, quality control and back-office functions."

Refurbishing the UK's housing stock to meet low-carbon standards is a major challenge, particularly for homes with solid walls and very low thermal performance. The Green Deal is designed to meet this challenge by creating a quality-controlled framework for mass-market low-carbon housing refurbishment which meets the costs out of future fuel bill savings.

"What worries us is that this Government scheme, with its heavy regulatory framework, extensive accreditation systems and innovative financing mechanism, is designed to suit the big players: the energy

utilities, major retailers and large insulation and property service companies.

"In so doing it ignores the contribution of small local building and heating companies which deliver most of the housing refurbishment activity in the UK," added Phillip.

It also risks overlooking the fact that the take-up of the Green Deal is likely to depend on how far householders identify low-carbon refurbishment as 'what we do round here' (i.e. having friends and neighbours doing similar works). This will require neighbourhood-based initiatives involving trusted organisations which share experience, reinforce low-carbon behaviours and create new social norms. The 'big company' set-up of the Green Deal is likely to conflict with the social goals and make such community-oriented initiatives less successful than they could be.

We are exploring the Green Deal Local Incubator and testing its viability to see that it works for smaller local companies, for local councils, and for community-driven neighbourhood schemes.

For more on the **Green Deal Local Incubator** contact phillip.morris@cse.org.uk

Green Deal: what it means for you

Conference
Thursday 13 October, Bristol

CSE is pleased to be co-hosting this event with Severn Wye Energy Agency that will explore local provision of the Green Deal

See cse.org.uk/greendeal

Supported by
 Scottish and Southern Energy

PHOTOS: CHELCO/AMANDA ROHDE/ISTOCK.COM | (MANTLEPIECE) PAUL BOVY/REPORTDIGITAL.CO.UK





OBE for CSE's Simon Roberts

"Well, I certainly wasn't expecting that" says CSE's Chief Executive

Simon Roberts, Chief Executive since 2002 of the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE), has been awarded an OBE for services to the renewable energy industry in the Queen's Birthday Honours for June 2011.

Simon has been helping people, organisations and policy-makers to tackle the threat of climate change and end the misery of cold homes for more than 25 years. He played a leading role in the Government's Renewables Advisory Board for eight years (2002-10) and has a long track-record in promoting the importance of community engagement with renewable energy.

Simon commented on the award: "It's a great surprise to

be honoured like this when you're simply working on things you believe in and care about, and when you rely so much on colleagues and partners to achieve what you achieve. I'm very proud of the work we do at CSE and it's a real thrill to get this recognition."

Peter Lipman, Chair of Trustees at CSE, said: "We're absolutely delighted that Simon has been recognised for his work, particularly in promoting the importance of engaging communities in the planning, development and ownership of renewable energy projects.

"Simon has been involved with CSE in various ways for more than half his career so it is very fitting that he receives this award as he enters his tenth year as our Chief Executive."

Warmer Bath an example of 'shared green and conservation agenda'

Guidance from joint project with Bath Preservation Trust set to become official policy in Bath

The Royal Crescent was the venue for the launch of a new 76-page book, 'Warmer Bath' – a guide to making Bath's historic buildings more energy efficient.

The book, which was produced jointly by CSE and the Bath Preservation Trust, was presented to over 50 people crammed into the atmospheric kitchen of No 1, Royal Crescent, Bath, the magnificently restored Georgian townhouse which serves both as a museum and the headquarters of the trust.



Will Anderson, one of the co-authors, speaks about the book at the launch.

The guidance provides a range of energy conservation measures appropriate for Bath's traditional buildings. It's been so well-received that Bath & North East Somerset Council are now developing a Supplementary Planning Document based on the process and the guidance, for which they could not have secured cross-party support had CSE's project not paved the way.

The project grew from a recognition that there are increasing pressures on the owners and managers of historic property to contribute towards climate change mitigation. The City of Bath World Heritage Site is a historic landscape that is extremely vulnerable to change that could detract from its architectural character, natural landscape and historic interest, so careful management is necessary.

Caroline Kay, Chief Executive of the Bath Preservation Trust, said: "This guidance represents a really important shared agenda for the conservation and environmental lobbies. It's a step forward for Bath householders, and by extension for those in other historic cities."

CSE's Simon Roberts added: "What goes for Bath goes for other places, too. Finding a way to sympathetically adapt our older housing, and move beyond the energy efficiency standards of their Georgian and Victorian builders, lies at the heart of a viable domestic carbon-reduction strategy."

For more information and to order a copy of the book see cse.org.uk/low-carbonbath



CSE scopes Anglesey farms for renewable energy potential ... and runs into a little legal controversy

CSE has presented the Isle of Anglesey County Council with the results of energy audits and renewable energy feasibility studies for five farms and smallholdings on the island.

CSE's Nick Banks and James Mullen travelled to Wales in April and spent half a day at each site, discussing energy use with the tenants, surveying the farm buildings and assessing the potential for renewable energy technologies.

"As anticipated, all the smallholdings are well-suited to wind power," said James Mullen. "This is due to the relatively flat and open landscape, good wind speeds and little cause for opposition. We calculate that, depending on what kinds of agricultural activities the smallholders are undertaking, a small-scale turbine could supply all or most of their annual energy use. Solar is also a good option for each site," he added.

Anaerobic digestion was recommended



Anglesey is already a producer of renewable energy, but could local farmers reap more of the benefits?

for one of the holdings – a pig farm – which has a surplus of potential feedstock, and high electricity and heating requirements. Our assessors also reckoned that one of the smallholdings stands to save hundreds of pounds a year on heating fuel by insulating the property and replacing its ancient oil-fired Aga and electric storage heaters with a ground source heat pump.

The project was funded by the council's 'Energy Island Programme' which aims to make the island a nationally significant low-carbon energy producer, demonstrator and service provider in the next 15 years. The council owns 100-plus scattered farms and smallholdings, and hopes that these can become exemplars of a low-carbon approach and, at the same time, more profitable – protecting jobs and keeping local farming families on the land.

No FITs, no starts

A factor to consider is that from 1 July this year feed-in tariffs cannot be claimed for electricity generated by new installations (i.e. commissioned after 1 October) where the installation has received any grant from public funds. "This is entirely reasonable," said Nick Banks, "because a cash income from a public grant is a double-subsidy which would strike most people as unfair."

Public authorities seeking to use their core funding to invest in renewable energy generation on their own estate are advised to seek independent legal guidance to establish whether this will forfeit their ability to claim a feed-in tariff. The Ofgem website has more details: www.ofgem.gov.uk.

For more information about our energy auditing contact nick.banks@cse.org.uk

Raising the energy standard in London: what would this cost?

In 2010, the Mayor of London commissioned CSE, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Housing Partnership, to estimate the total cost of delivering an enhanced environmental standard for social rented homes in London. How much, in other words, would we need to spend to bring the best available options for sustainable energy (energy efficiency and low/zero carbon generation), water efficiency and summer overheating to London's social-housing?

The answer is quite a lot. CSE's research estimates that even the most basic measures would cost London a minimum of £4 billion, with up to £10 billion for more ambitious measures. This is obviously a hefty sum, particularly in today's economic climate, but failing to invest in housing stock also comes with a price tag.

You can download the report from cse.org.uk/resources



Energy price rises will force a further 1.2m households into fuel poverty

CSE analysis predicts that more than 10 million people will be struggling to afford to keep warm this coming winter

The announcement in August by fuel supplier Npower that it will raise its

domestic energy prices comes as no surprise. It follows similar announcements by four of the other 'big six' energy suppliers: Scottish and Southern, British Gas, E.On and Scottish Power.

And the scale of the hike (an average of 17% for gas and 11% for electricity across all five suppliers) is enough to tip a further 1 million households into fuel poverty, according to CSE's analysis.

Senior Analyst, Ian Preston, is in no doubt that the impact on the poor will be severe.

"Our modelling shows that this increase will tip tens of thousands of Npower's customers into fuel poverty. Then, when EDF Energy, follows suit which it inevitably will, we will see across-the-board increases of around £150 in domestic energy bills. This will swell the ranks of the fuel poor, currently standing at 5.1 million UK households, to a shocking 6.3 million. It means that next winter over 10.5 million people in the UK will be living in households which are struggling to afford to keep warm."

A report published in June by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) showed that the

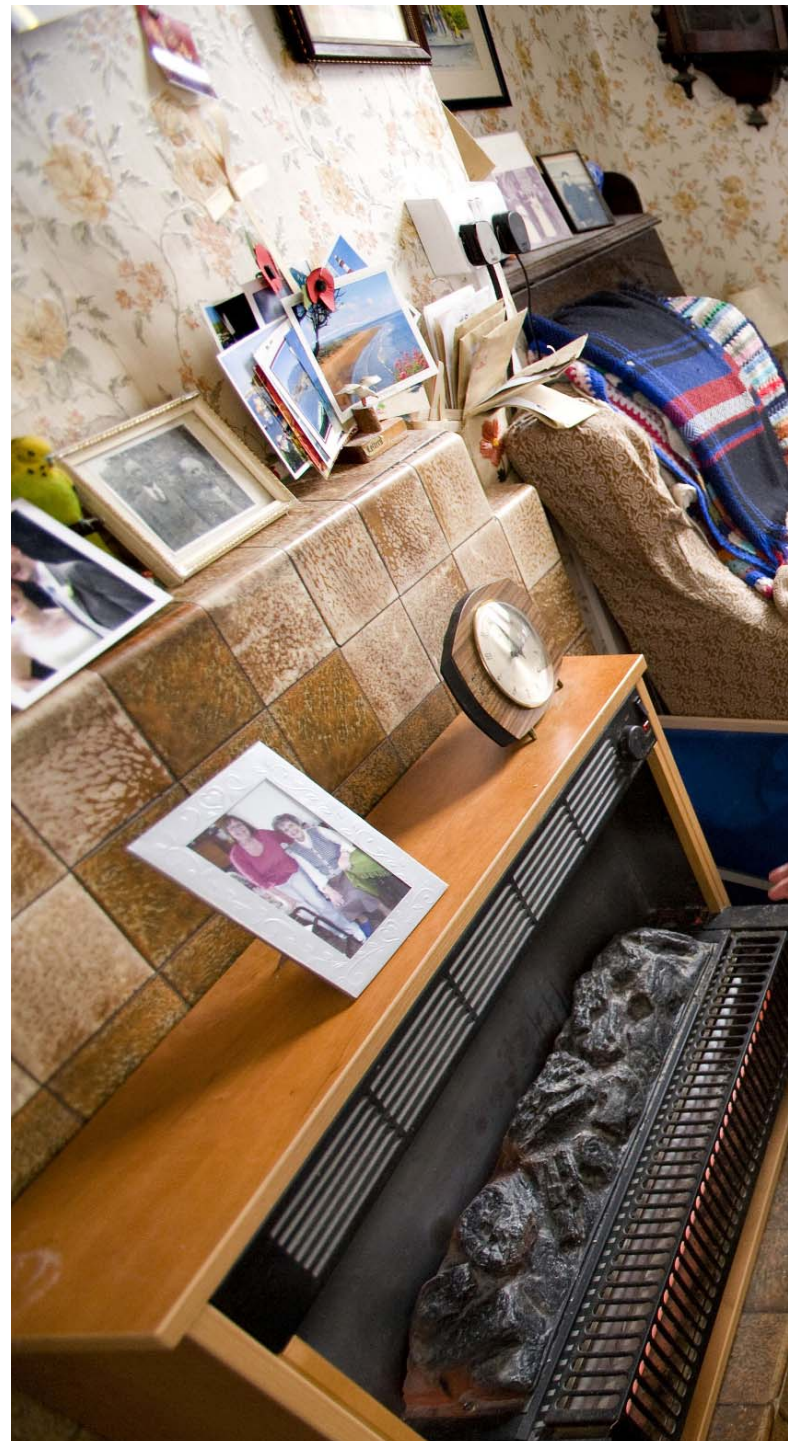
country's poorest pensioners face a 'heat or eat' dilemma during cold weather.

CSE's Chief Executive Simon Roberts commented: "The IFS is right to point out that too many elderly people go hungry at the coldest times of the winter, simply to be able to afford to keep some heat on at home. But our research shows that the same goes for other low-income groups, such as disabled people, single parents and the single unemployed.

"And behind all the statistics generated by the IFS report and Npower's price rise, we shouldn't forget that the health, well-being and self-esteem of real people will suffer as they face a triple assault of higher energy prices, a confusing and untrustworthy energy market, and poorly insulated homes.

"These people's household budgets are so tight, they've told us they are unwilling to take the risk of changing energy supplier because they don't trust the energy market to give them a better deal than the one they are on, and they can't afford to pay a penny more."

You can read the testimonies of people struggling with fuel poverty in our report 'You Just Have to Get By'. Download from www.cse.org.uk/have-to-get-by



Home visits: key to supporting most vulnerable householders

CSE delivers a number of advice projects focused on helping householders living in fuel poverty, such as Warming Bristol Communities, Warm Families and Warmer Improved Somerset Homes (WISH).

Home visits are central to this work, and for certain fuel-poor householders, the only way to reach them and give them the help they need is by actually seeing them in their own homes.

Often a householder is not just facing one problem but a multitude of different ones which may include poor housing, a low



PHOTO: PAUL BOXREPERT/DIGITAL.CO.UK

income and disability or infirmity. This is why CSE advisors work closely with partner agencies such as Citizens Advice Bureaus and Home Improvement Agencies to help people access the range of support that they need.

CSE advisors also undertake advocacy work on behalf of the householder, liaising with fuel suppliers to get the the best tariff, accessing services such as the priority services register and setting up repayment plans if there's fuel debt. We also deliver 'trigger training' to other frontline organisations who are working with vulnerable householders.

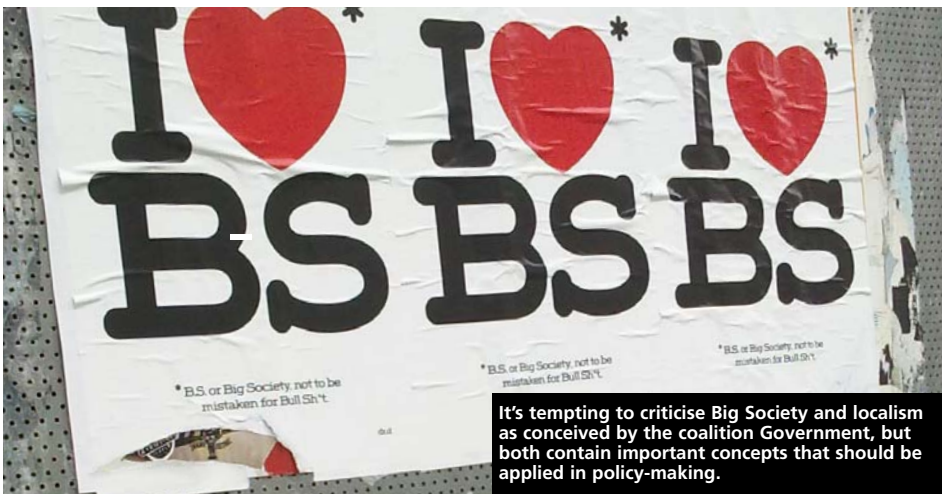
Sarah Jeffrey, Head of Household Energy Services, explained: "It's extremely important that we communicated to other frontline organisations the effect that fuel poverty has on people's health

and wellbeing. A lot of the work we do is about raising awareness of the 'triggers' that another professional may pick up on when they are in a client's home which could indicate that they are living in fuel poverty and would benefit from some energy advice.

"So in this picture you notice the blankets over the chair and how the fire is the focal point of the room. Other triggers may include someone who wants to stay in bed to keep warm, that the house smells of damp or feels cold and draughty and the client has to wear a lot of clothes indoors to stay warm."

For more about CSE's work for vulnerable householders, contact sarah.jeffrey@cse.org.uk. Links to relevant CSE projects can be found at www.cse.org.uk/projects/index/8

ALL PHOTOS AND REPRODUCED UNDER CREATIVE COMMONS (TOP) GORDON JOLY; (MIDDLE) KATY WRATHALL; (BELOW) ANDERS SANDBERG



Are Big Society and localism the basis of a sustainable UK energy policy?

CSE's Chief Executive made the case at Falmouth Energy Week

The Big Society and localism may be amongst the most mocked notions in Britain at the moment, but CSE's Chief Executive Simon Roberts used his presentation at Falmouth Energy Week in May to lay out the reasons why they are vital to successful sustainable energy policy.

"If you think of the Big Society as it was originally conceived, it reflected a need to establish a better balance between business and individual consumer interests, the state, and our community and social relationships,"

explained Simon. "Tackling climate change and ending the misery of cold homes requires engagement across society, aligning the efforts of individuals, communities, businesses, the energy market and all levels of government. That's about as 'Big Society' as you can get.

"Yet the need to tackle the big-business-driven consumerist policies inherent in our energy markets doesn't seem to feature in the Government's narrative. So the smart meter roll-out will be based on sales pitches

from energy suppliers to individual householders, rather than on social processes that bring people together through neighbourhood-based installations.

"And the Green Deal seems to be being designed to suit large-scale operators, rather than the local building companies that currently do almost all of the refurbishment work in our homes (though not usually with low carbon in mind)."

Simon also argued that a sophisticated understanding of localism is vital as a mechanism for re-engaging people with their energy supply and use, and embedding collective responsibilities like cutting carbon emissions into the way we live our lives at local level.

"But," he warned, "there's obviously a risk that localism, as currently approached by the Government, will decompose into something closer to parochialism, ignoring the fact that most solutions to the energy challenge have strong local dimensions – whether it's energy efficient building refurbishment, new transport options, siting low-carbon energy generation, or behavioural change programmes. These things have to happen somewhere."

Download Simon's presentation from Falmouth Energy Week here cse.org.uk/news/view/1538. How is CSE responding to these challenges? See www.planlocal.org.uk



Green light for Bristol's sustainable energy policies

Earlier this year the Planning Inspectorate approved Bristol City Council's new Core Strategy, and in doing so gave the nod to a range of policies recommended to the Council by CSE in the 'Bristol Citywide Sustainable Energy Study' published in 2009.

The study was instrumental in helping to shape council policies around sustainable energy provision. It also included a review of Bristol's sustainable energy resources and looked at how these may relate to future targets for carbon reduction.

The Council is now developing detailed guidance on how these policies should be implemented – particularly in relation to new-build.

For more information about our work for local authorities contact janine.michael@cse.org.uk

Policy point: Recommendations by CSE that were subsequently adopted by Bristol City Council:

- 1) An overarching statement on how development should mitigate and adapt to climate change
- 2) A policy to increase the utilisation, distribution and development of sustainable energy, which includes a 20% renewable energy requirement on new development
- 3) A policy to encourage sustainable design and construction within new development



Unicorn on the roof of Bristol City Council's main offices. The Council's Core Strategy includes key recommendations from CSE.

PlanLoCaL the website, films and resource pack

CSE is running a series of workshops to explore how communities can plan low-carbon and renewable energy initiatives, such as wind farms or solar projects.

The workshops are aimed at community groups themselves, as well as the staff of organisations like local authorities, national parks and third sector organisations who work with communities on local planning or sustainable living initiatives.

The training introduces delegates to the PlanLoCaL suite of tools which support communities in shaping their own low-carbon future and a more strategic engagement with the planning system. There are also sessions from the Department of Energy and Climate Change, the UK Climate Impacts Programme, Charity Bank and relevant local community projects.

Events have been held in Ipswich, Kendal and Truro with a further date (Maidstone, 8 October) still to come, and six further dates planned.

Local authorities or other organisations who would be interested in hosting a similar event should contact Rachel Coxcoon on 0117 934 1426 or email rachel.coxcoon@cse.org.uk

A pair of the PlanLoCaL resource packs, and the two DVDs that each pack contains



Addressing public concerns about wind power

New CSE publication provides evidence-based analysis to clear up misconceptions on both sides of the wind debate

We all know that the siting of wind farms has become increasingly contentious. This isn't helped by people on both sides of the divide making unsubstantiated claims and 'cherry picking' facts that suit their case whilst ignoring others.

To address this, CSE has published 'Common concerns about wind power', a research paper that addresses some of the misconceptions surrounding the technology. It draws exclusively on peer-reviewed articles and government-funded analysis and was written in response to requests from community groups for factual information about the subject.

Separate chapters look in detail at a range of issues including: efficiency, energy payback times, subsidies, shadow flicker and epilepsy, noise, bat and bird mortality, and effects on property prices. It also has a section on nuclear power.

Rachel Coxcoon, CSE's Head of Local & Community Empowerment, said, "Of all renewable energy sources, wind power occupies a unique place in the public consciousness and generates strong opinions, both for and against. For the most part the debate is emotive and unhelpful, with both sides selecting convenient facts to support their entrenched position whilst ignoring evidence to the contrary.

"Our research paper aims to present pertinent research in a more balanced manner. We hope that it will make the debate less polarised and generate informed and constructive discussion.

"CSE's view is that wind power is a necessary part of the energy mix that is required to meet our carbon emission reduction targets and help tackle climate

change. However, wind power is not appropriate everywhere, and we believe it is the duty of local communities themselves to decide where there is a place for it through engaging responsibly with the best available evidence, and through working together to assess their own locality."



PHOTOS (L) BAYWIND, (R) GARETH JONES VIA FLICKR

Some say 'yes', some say 'no'. But all views should be based on facts and not on hearsay. You can download 'Common concerns about wind power' from www.cse.org.uk/commonconcerns.pdf, or email info@cse.org.uk and we'll send you a copy.



energise

Centre for Sustainable Energy

We are an independent national charity that shares our knowledge and experience to help people change the way they think and act on energy. *Switched on since 1979*



Who's who at CSE

Chief Executive

Simon Roberts

Household Energy Services

Sarah Jeffrey Head of Household Energy Services | Danni Barrett Energy Advisor | Liz Dagger Community Outreach Worker | Helen Grimshaw Energy Advisor | Natalie Marino Energy Advisor | Michael McClelland Project Officer | Phillip Morris Senior Scheme Manager | Lisa Pinchen Senior Energy Advisor | Pauline Sandell Fuel Poverty Advisor | Verity Saunders Senior Project Manager | Mark Tyler Energy Advisor | Jamie Walters Energy Advice Project Manager | Paul Winney Senior Energy Advisor

Local & Community Empowerment

Rachel Coxoon Head of Local & Community Empowerment | Heather Crane Energy Advisor | Robbie Edwards (Intern) | Morgan Griffin Senior Energy Advisor | Madeline Gunn (Intern) | Louisa Haines Project Manager | Bridget Newbery Community Projects Manager | James Watt Energy Advisor | Anna Watts Lead Trainer

Research & Analysis

Joshua Thumim Head of Research & Analysis | Dr Toby Bridgeman Senior Research Project Worker | Martin Holley Senior Technical Project Manager | James Mullen Technical Officer | Ian Preston Senior Analyst | Zoe Redgrove Researcher | Vicki White Researcher

Development & Communications

Janine Michael Head of Development & Communications | Dr Nick Banks Senior Development Manager | Ruth Cole Senior Development Manager | Matthew Rees Communications & Publicity Officer | Jonathan Twomey Senior Development Manager | Tim Weisselberg Communications & Publicity Manager |

Finance & Human Resources

Sarah Frankish Head of Finance & Human Resources | Kirsty Mitchell Office Administrator | Julia Stephens-Parr Financial Administrator

Energy use: keeping our own house in order

Our energy use in the office is pretty low. That's because we're good at switching stuff off, and also because our building requires almost no heating, even in winter. But we're still determined to keep track of our energy consumption, so we've invested in new kit and data-collection software. Find out how we're doing at cse.org.uk/our-energy-use

Bristol: Inspiring Change

CSE features prominently in **Bristol: Inspiring Change**, a new and handsomely designed book that makes the case for Bristol – which we're proud to say has been our home since 1979 – to be the UK's first 'European Green Capital City'. The book aims to "celebrate the green achievements of Bristol and Bristolians, those well-known and those whose work has gone unsung" (we're probably somewhere in between). You can get a copy from sawdays.co.uk/bookshop/worldwide/bic



Staff news

Hello and welcome to **Natalie Marino** who brings with her several years of energy advice experience. But it's so-long and farewell to **Louise Rutterford** and **Chloe Lemoult-Wasserman** who are moving on with our best wishes.



We're on YouTube

The 47 short community-energy films that we made for PlanLoCaL are on YouTube (www.youtube.com/csebristol). They cover all aspects of setting up a community renewable energy project including case studies, introductions to different renewable energy technologies, project management, funding, dealing with planning, consulting with the community and heritage.

Twitter: 420 followers and growing

We've been tweeting since December 2010 and have built up a strong following. Join the flock at [@cse_bristol](https://twitter.com/cse_bristol) and receive short and timely messages on our work and other energy-related issues.



Our vision is a world where sustainability is second nature, carbon emissions have been cut to safe levels and fuel poverty has been replaced by energy justice.

Why not join the 3,000 people who receive our monthly enews? Sign up at cse.org.uk/enews

Or follow us on Twitter [@cse_bristol](https://twitter.com/cse_bristol)

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