

energise



MAKING SENSE OF THE ENERGY REVIEW

Less than three years ago we were told that the UK was on a path towards massive reductions in carbon emissions, an end to fuel poverty, and a safe, secure and competitively organised energy system. Now, we are led to believe, the UK has an 'energy gap', doubts about renewables, and a need for new nuclear power stations to tackle climate change.

And, with this new found uncertainty, the notion has been promoted that anyone who doesn't think nuclear power is part of the answer has an 'irrationally closed mind', drawing their conclusions before the latest Energy Review has run its transparent and consultative course. Their arguments therefore can be dismissed as unbalanced prejudice.

Yet there are well-tested and deeply rational reasons why nuclear power shouldn't be given any more of a chance than it already has. (There is, after all, no ban on building new nuclear plant at the moment.) And those reasons are not just the cost and the liabilities, the unresolved problem of nuclear waste, the terrorist risk, and the limited contribution it could make to cutting carbon emissions.

Nuclear power relies on a finite resource – uranium – which needs significant energy inputs to refine. As the world's high grade ores run out over the next few decades and the lower grade ores become the norm, nuclear's low carbon status will wither.

Nuclear power is a large-scale, centralised technology which needs a society and energy system which is centralised, inflexible and controlling. These characteristics run counter to the open society based on individual responsibility and the

flexible, active energy system which are needed to sustain the more significant potential contributors to a low-carbon future: energy conservation and renewable energy.

These opposites cannot, we believe, sustainably co-exist. The extensive resources and political effort required to revive nuclear power will undermine broader efforts to deliver a low-carbon society.

Climate change isn't simply an energy problem or an environmental problem that can be solved with technocratic fixes. Climate change is a 'way of life' problem. To tackle climate change we need to change our way of life – with real cuts in our energy demand, less private car and air travel, and personal responsibility for our carbon emissions.

The so called energy gap is in fact a gap in political will and imagination. It is a lack of will to drive life-changing energy saving and 'micro' renewables programmes which transcend the half-hearted attempts of the past and present.

The real focus of future political effort and resources should be closing this gap, not trying to 'spin' the case for a technology that doesn't fit with a truly sustainable energy future.

Simon Roberts Chief Executive
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Fuel poverty and nuclear power

Fifteen years ago, CSE (then as 'Bristol Energy Centre') showed the Hinkley Point C Public Inquiry that it would cost half as much as the then proposed nuclear station to insulate all the homes of the electrically-heated fuel poor households in the South West – saving more electricity than twice Hinkley C's anticipated output!



FILL 'EM IN ...

Hundreds of home-energy checks were filled in on a single day during Energy Saving Week (see p4)



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Side-stepping the rhino

CSE conference hears how a regional low-carbon strategy can avert collision with climate change

Urgent action – at local, regional, national and international level – is needed if we are to avoid the catastrophe of unstoppable climate change. That was the message taken away by over 200 delegates from the fully booked West of England Energy Conference in Taunton on 23 November organised by CSE.

Using a metaphor based on a true story of a rhino in Zimbabwe who charged headlong into an express train and derailed it, keynote speaker Aubrey Meyer of the Global Commons Institute presented the stark realities of failing to achieve an equitable global agreement to cut carbon emissions.

Carbon-emission producing rich countries like the UK must cut emissions drastically, he argued, while poor countries find a low-carbon route to development. This 'contraction and convergence' approach (*explained in detail at www.gci.org.uk*) provides a benchmark for assessing the fairness and effectiveness of international agreements.

The presentations and discussions

that followed Aubrey Meyer explored ways in which the 'rhino-train' collision can be averted – in particular how the South West can, through better policy and practice, achieve big reductions in carbon emissions and gain the potential economic benefits of doing so.

The speakers – including Andrew Cooper (Energy Policy Manager at the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly), Stephen Ward (Head of CSE Technical Services), Tim Simmons of the Genesis Project and Adrian Hewitt (Principal Environment Officer at the London Borough of Merton) – showed how energy efficiency, renewable energy and carbon saving could become an integral part of all new housing



developments in the region.

Conference-organiser Mark Letcher of CSE said, "We hear a lot of concern about climate change, but less on what action needs to be taken to combat the threat. This extremely successful conference laid out the components of a coherent strategy for addressing this challenge."

■ ■ ■ The conference was organised by CSE as part of the Local Energy Support Programme supported by the Energy Saving Trust and generously sponsored by Millfold Group Ltd and the Eaga Partnership.



Above, from left: conference speakers Aubrey Meyer, Adrian Hewitt and Andrew Cooper.

Left: The fully booked conference was attended by local councillors and council officials, architects, planners, developers, environmentalists, and community activists. Right: Aubrey Meyer's sketch of the rhino on the railway.



Developing greener homes

A feasibility report, published by CSE in mid-2005 and produced in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council, has looked at the role local authorities can play in persuading developers to cut energy demand in new housing beyond levels set by building and planning regulations.

Traditionally, the influ-

ence of planners has been confined to 'fenestration and orientation'. However, a number of authorities are now taking advantage of changes in the planning system to set targets for renewable energy generation for new housing within Local Development Frameworks (LDFs).

One of the impacts of such targets is to reduce overall energy demand, it being cheaper to insulate properties and use more efficient appliances than to install larger renewable energy capacity to meet a

given target. The study, *Towards Low-carbon Housing Developments*, has recommended the setting of such a target within the LDF.



Targets for renewable energy generation for new housing can reduce overall energy demand

■ ■ ■ Download from www.cse.org.uk/csepublications. To find out more, contact mark.letcher@cse.org.uk.

UK wind power developments

Improving public engagement and stimulating community benefits

CSE has been appointed to follow through two important recommendations from the recent study for the DTI and the Renewables Advisory Board on community benefits from wind power.

With focused stakeholder consultation in each of the four nations of the UK, CSE will be leading a team to develop:

- A protocol and best practice guidelines for developers, local planners and community groups on how to engage openly and effectively with the process of developing a wind power project
- A new simple-to-use toolkit to help developers, planning authorities and community groups to understand the nature, scale and potential approaches to securing local benefits from a wind power development.

The projects emerge from recommendations made in the report 'Community Benefits from Wind Power' by CSE and Garrad Hassan, published in summer 2005 (www.cse.org.uk/pdf/pub1049.pdf). That study reviewed UK and European experience on wind power development. It concluded that meaningful benefits to host commu-

nities must become more routine in UK wind power developments if the current high levels of public support for wind power in the UK are to be sustained.

Funded by DTI, the protocol and guidelines will build on the success of the South West Public Engagement Protocol and Guidance for Wind Energy, developed earlier in

2005 by a consortium including CSE (see www.regensw.co.uk).

Due to be completed and published by the end of March 2006, the projects will be undertaken by CSE with input from BDOR Ltd, Garrad Hassan, Peter Capener and Bond Pearce.

■ ■ ■ To find out more, contact simon.roberts@cse.org.uk

Raising a turbine in the north of England. CSE will be developing a 'toolkit' to help make community benefits part of the process of wind power development.

PHOTO: AMEC

Making mortgages energy efficient?

Buying a home provides an ideal opportunity to make energy efficiency improvements. The new owner is likely to be planning changes, borrowing money at relatively low cost, and expecting to stay put for a while. How to realise this ideal

opportunity in more of the 1.4 million home purchases in the UK each year was the subject of a study by CSE for the Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes.

The study's particular focus was whether financial products, particularly mortgages, could help to stimulate energy efficiency improvements. It also took into account the forthcoming introduction of the home energy performance report as a mandatory element of the Home Condition Report (HCR).

Simon Roberts, CSE Chief Executive and lead author of the report, said "We found that there's a lot of work to

do to make energy saving a feature of the home-buying process. Home-buyers aren't that interested in energy saving and, apart from three existing products, the mortgage market is largely unconvinced by the potential for getting involved."

The study exposed a lack of interest in developing energy-related features for mortgages amongst major mortgage providers. It also questioned the likely impact of the new energy report – which will be only one of eight elements of the HCR which is itself just one of eight documents in the new Home Information Pack.

The study outlines a 6-point plan, designed to create conditions in which making energy efficiency improvements becomes an integral part of the home-buying process.

■ ■ ■ To find out more, contact simon.roberts@cse.org.uk



That was the (energy saving) week that was

CSE's energy advice team helped hundreds of people fill in home-energy checks

Whew – seven days of focused outreach and spreading the energy-saving message! CSE's advice team expended a great deal of energy helping to make **Energy Saving Week** (24–30 October 2005) a great success in Bristol and Somerset.

The aim of the campaign – a nationwide initiative of the Energy Saving Trust – is to raise awareness of climate change and encourage people to cut down on home energy use, drive cleaner vehicles and install renewable energy. And in Bristol and Somerset we certainly did our bit.

The highlight of the week was meeting the hundreds of members of the public who came to our information stand in the Galleries – Central Bristol's main shopping mall. We handed out free low-energy lightbulbs (donated by the city council), gave energy advice and invited people to fill in a home-energy efficiency questionnaire. An amazing 300 forms were completed in a few hours, and, such was the volume of interest that our staff were worked off their feet.

"It was a brilliant day" said Sarah Finnigan, manager of the Bristol & Somerset Energy Efficiency Advice Centre, which CSE runs on behalf of the Energy Saving Trust. "People were very keen to know how they can beat rising fuel prices and cut their home's energy use in order to reduce carbon emissions."

In addition to this event, CSE was kept busy during Energy-Saving Week spreading the message at several council offices in South Gloucestershire and Bristol, at the farmers' market in Wells, Somerset, on local BBC TV and at branches of DIY superstores in Bristol and Somerset.



CSE's advice team was busy all day, meeting the public and giving energy efficiency advice.



■ ■ ■ To find out more about our energy advice services, contact sarah.finnigan@cse.org.uk

For free and independent advice on saving energy at home, and information about grants available to help pay for measures, call your local Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on **0800 512 012**

Towards zero-carbon developments

Paving the way for a low-carbon London

January will see the completion of an important study that CSE is undertaking for the London Energy Partnership. The project, 'Towards zero-carbon development', is funded by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Mayor of London.

We are working in partnership with the planning department of the Borough of Merton, which helped pioneer some of the policies that are now central to low-carbon development planning.

The work springs from the Mayor of London's Energy Strategy – 'Green light to clean power' – which aims to reduce London's contribution to global climate change, tackle the problem of fuel poverty and at the same time promote London's economic development through renewable and energy efficient technologies.

The Mayor's Energy Strategy includes a target of at least one zero-carbon development in each of the capital's 33 boroughs by 2010. It expects boroughs to identify site(s) suitable for such development and include these in their local development documents, and to subsequently use their powers as landowners or partners to bring the projects forward.

There is currently a lack of guidance available to boroughs on how to do this, and CSE's task is to produce supportive information for the boroughs and other London bodies that will address such issues as:

- What constitutes a zero-carbon or low-carbon development?
- What sort of planning policies might be appropriate and enforceable?
- How should suitable sites be identified?
- What other mechanisms, processes and arguments can be used to bring about development of such sites?

Martin Holley, Senior Project Manager at CSE, is confident that CSE has a strong contribution to make. "That we have won this tender from such a significant client as the Greater London Authority, which commissioned the work on behalf of the London Energy Partnership, is testament to our recognised expertise in the area of low-carbon developments. It is a chance for CSE to help prepare the way for some – hopefully – high-profile building projects in the capital which will support the Mayor's Energy Strategy and deliver vital carbon reductions."

■ ■ ■ For details, contact martin.holley@cse.org.uk



The distinctive roof-line of BedZED in Croydon.

It's official: CSE is a UK 'Energy Champion'

CSE is a winner in the 'UK Energy Champions' category of the Ashden Awards, known by some as the 'green Oscars'.

The Ashden Awards recognise outstanding, inspirational and innovative local sustainable energy schemes in the UK and in developing countries. This is the first year in which a UK Energy Champion Award has been offered, and CSE has won a £10,000 prize for 'expansion, replication or dissemination' of its work.

Simon Roberts, CSE Chief Executive, said "Being an Energy Champion is what CSE is all about – using our own direct experience of community-based energy initiatives to support the work of others and influence national policy. It's great that CSE's contribution to the fight to curb climate change and cut fuel poverty has been recognised with this award."

■ ■ ■ For further information on the Ashden Awards for 2006 go to www.ashdenawards.org



In harmony with renewables?

Bristol City Council recently invited CSE to comment on the potential for introducing sustainable energy into the proposed make-over of the Colston Hall, the city-centre concert venue owned by the council. One of the largest live music venues in the South West, it plays host to everyone from Status Quo to acclaimed Portuguese fado singer, Mariza.

Among the options being considered to warm and illuminate future concert-goers are a woodchip heating plant, photovoltaics and natural ventilation systems.

■ ■ ■ For details, contact martin.holley@cse.org.uk



Training for community energy projects

One of CSE's largest projects is Community Action for Energy or CAfE – designed to stimulate the development of community-based energy projects. Thousands of projects up and down the country are members of the CAfE network, and are involved in anything from eradicating fuel poverty to putting up a wind turbine in a school.

CAfE is just finishing a successful programme of free training for members of the network, with 12

one-day courses were held in locations across the UK.

Anna Stobbs, CSE's lead trainer, says "the great thing about our training is that it brought together people with different experiences, skills and perspectives to create a dynamic mix on the day. We have workers from the community and voluntary sector linking up with those whose job it is to promote sustainable energy, for example in local government, energy agencies and other organisations".

■ ■ ■ CAfE is a managed on behalf of the Energy Saving Trust. For details, see www.est.org.uk/cafe

CAfE Conference 2006 "Switching on your community"

Dr Brenda Boardman will be delivering the keynote speech at this year's CAfE conference which will take place on 1 March 2006 at Thinktank, Millennium Point, Birmingham.

Dr Boardman is the Head of Lower Carbon Futures at Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute. She will talk about the ground-breaking '40% home' research showing how UK homes can deliver the cuts in carbon emissions we require to combat climate change.

The CAfE conference aims to build upon the successes of previous years offering the CAfE network the chance to meet other members, exchange experiences and look into inspiring projects to motivate and switch on their own communities.

To book your place on the conference, call CAfE on **08701 261 444**

An elderly couple from Somerset, now has an extra £170 a week to spend, a resolved fuel debt problem, and a cosily insulated home. It's all thanks to the aptly named 'Benefiting from Warmth', a new initiative from CSE working in partnership with the local Citizens Advice Bureau in Midsomer Norton.

Benefiting from Warmth aims to help older people keep warm in their homes while ensuring they receive the benefits and grants to which they are entitled, particularly the underclaimed pension credit.

The project is funded by the Department for Work and Pensions' Partnership Fund, and will have a 'double-benefit' effect on fuel poverty among older people by both raising their income and ensuring their homes are easier and cheaper to keep warm.

At the start of the project, 'reciprocal training' was undertaken between the two organisations in the partnership. This means that CAB workers – who may be approached by elderly clients for a variety of reasons – are now trained to refer

New initiative to help older people 'benefit from warmth'

them, if appropriate, to CSE for energy efficiency advice and help with grants. Likewise, after helping them with energy efficiency advice, CSE staff can refer callers to CAB to ensure that they are receiving the correct benefits.

The project was launched in September at a well-attended event that included local advice agencies, representatives from community groups, councillors and local residents.

Also invited were a number of elderly people from this part of Somerset who have already benefited from the project. They had initially contacted the us with minor queries, only to discover through the quick-and-easy Benefiting from Warmth referral process that they were entitled to grants and benefits

that will help them keep warm and comfortable this winter.

Verity Hyldon, the Benefiting from Warmth project manager, commented that "The launch was a great success. We're sure that the day has informed secondary agencies and organisations about the help the project can offer to older people in the local area. It's a great start to a project that has already made such a difference to people's lives"

■ ■ ■ For more information, contact verity.hyldon@cse.org.uk



The launch included a quiz, plus the unforgettable sight of CSE's Sarah Finnigan in an energy-efficient washing machine costume.

“WOW! It's not using batteries!”

The sun came out just in time for the launching of solar-powered boats made by 60 Year-6 pupils at Hareclive Primary School in South Bristol.

Drawing on their knowledge of electrical circuits, the 10-11 year old children built ingeniously designed craft using plastic drinks bottles bound together with tape and topped by two miniature solar panels. To their delight – and surprise – the solar technology worked perfectly, the propellers began to spin, and the boats set sail across the small pool.

Yachts and catamarans were launched into the water with smiles of satisfaction as each boat successfully converted the sun's renewable energy into motion. “The activity was fun and built on work covered in the science curriculum” commented one satisfied teacher, “an excellent end-of-term activity which really motivated the children”.



Shipbuilding... South Bristol school children make, sail and celebrate their solar boats.

The workshop is part of an education programme taking place in the South Bristol districts of Hartcliffe and Withywood. It not only helps improve children's basic skills, but also

encourages their environmental awareness which they can use in other areas.

For more information, contact gaynor.lewis@cse.org.uk

Training Scottish local authorities

CSE's training team has been spending a lot of time 'north of the border', delivering an energy saving training programme to local authority staff in Scotland.

The programme, which is still a pilot, was designed by CSE with the aim of providing the internal training teams in local authorities with a resource for furthering energy-saving practices. We are running this programme under contract to the Energy Saving Trust in Scotland.

Richard Dunning, CSE's head of education and training, says “Local authorities are major users of energy. With their council offices, housing stock, schools and public facilities like sports halls, the opportunities for energy saving are immense, and this is why we are excited about the chance to improve significantly their energy saving culture.”

The pilot was born of a study that highlighted the need for energy awareness training across all council

departments. CSE has been designing and testing the resource including separate modules targeted at different audiences e.g. chief executives and senior managers; front-line staff in housing, transport, social care, planning, leisure services, waste management and education; and in-house trainers.

The study also concluded that, for energy awareness training to 'stick', an explicit commitment from the highest level in the local authority to reduce energy use is required.

For details, contact richard.dunning@cse.org.uk

Energy training courses

Interested in finding out more about energy?

CSE is experienced in running courses for energy professionals. Our programme for 2006 will be published in January.

See cse.org.uk/training for details or call 0117 929 9950



MIDDLE PICTURE: GENESIS PROJECT

Annual Review 2004/05

2004/05 was a productive and busy year at CSE – 12 months full of success, progress and achievement. Our Annual Review for 2005 describes our uniquely wide range of activities in sustainable energy as well as our latest financial results. The 16-page publication illustrates how we work across both the social and environmental aspects of energy – in recognition that sustainable energy is as much about meeting today's needs for warmth and light as it is about protecting future generations from the impacts of our energy supply and use. You can download a copy of the annual review from cse.org.uk, or request a 'real' copy from tim.weisselberg@cse.org.uk



CSE website on the up and up...

No one reading this newsletter could be unaware that the issues of energy use and climate change are dominating today's news headlines. And as more and more people seek information on sustainable and efficient energy use, so the traffic to CSE's website soars. October was the busiest month ever with nearly 5000 unique visitors, and the number of subscribers to our monthly e-newsletter is also sky high. We would welcome any feedback on our website or this newsletter to help us improve it in the future. Send an email to tim.weisselberg@cse.org.uk



Staff news

There have been several staff changes at CSE since the last newsletter – reflecting both the natural 'turn-over' of personnel and the growth in many areas of our work. **Sarah Finnigan** is the new manager of our ever-busy energy efficiency advice centre, now taking more calls than ever. **Rachel Cox Coon**, will, as development manager, help ensure that CSE continues to develop new projects and funding. Our Technical Services team is bolstered by the arrival of **Steve Andrews** (Senior Project Worker) and **Sophie Stone** (Project Worker) who will provide technical input and research skills to a range of projects. We also welcome three new student placements; **Charlotte Burt**, **Emma Connor** and **Kate Richardson**. (NB Every year, three 'sandwich year' students join CSE in salaried positions. To register an interest about placements beginning September 2006, please email your details to sarah.frankish@cse.org.uk).

■ ■ ■ There are currently 34 members of staff, of whom 16 were in the office on the day this photo was taken.



The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) is a national charitable company, established in 1979 to advance sustainable energy policy and practice. We seek energy solutions that engage people and communities to meet real needs for both environmentally sound and affordable energy services.

We offer: training in sustainable energy ■ impartial energy advice ■ community-based initiatives ■ educational resources ■ research and consultancy.

energise is produced 3-4 times a year and distributed free on request.

Who's who at CSE

STEPHEN ANDREWS	Senior Project Worker (Technical Services)
WILLIAM BAKER	Senior Project Manager (Policy & Research)
CHARLOTTE BURT	Student Placement Worker (Advice)
EMMA CONNOR	Student Placement Worker (Community)
RACHEL COX COON	Development Manager
LIZ DAGGER	Community Outreach Worker
RICHARD DUNNING	Head of Education & Training
SIAN EVANS	Project Worker (Advice)
SARAH FINNIGAN	Energy Advice Centre Manager
SARAH FRANKISH	Head of Finance & Administration
CHERYL GILBERT	Project Manager (Education)
AMY HAMMOND	Project Officer (Technical Services)
MARTIN HOLLEY	Senior Project Manager (Technical Services)
VERITY HYLDON	Senior Project Manager (Advice & Community)
MARK LETCHER	Head of Advice & Partnerships
GAYNOR LEWIS	Project Manager (Education)
ALASTAIR McMAHON	Project Manager (Technical Services)
JANINE MICHAEL	Head of Development (<i>on maternity leave</i>)
KIRSTY MITCHELL	Office Assistant
HELEN MOUNSEY	Senior Project Worker
LISA PINCHEN	Project Worker (Advice)
IAN PRESTON	Development Manager
KATE RICHARDSON	Student Placement (Education)
SIMON ROBERTS	Chief Executive
JULIA STEPHENS-PARR	Financial Administrator
ANNA STOBBS	Lead Trainer
SOPHIE STONE	Project Worker (Technical Services)
GEMMA TEMPLAR	Community Outreach Worker
JOSHUA THUMIM	Head of Research
JAMIE WALTERS	Senior Energy Advisor
STEPHEN WARD	Head of Technical Services
TIM WEISSELBERG	Communication & Publicity Manager (<i>cover</i>)
ALISON WHITE	Development Officer (<i>on maternity leave</i>)
MIKE WILLCOX	Energy Advisor
JANE WILLIAMSON	Communication & Publicity Manager (<i>on maternity leave</i>)



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