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

Substantial Big Lottery grant means we can help thousands living in cold homes

Thousands of vulnerable people in West of England to benefit over the next four years

SE is celebrating the news of an award of nearly £430,000 from the Big Lottery. Spread over four years, this substantial grant will support 5,500 disabled people across the West of England who live in cold homes, struggle to pay for their fuel bills, or need extra help to stay warm in winter.

"This is one of our biggest grants ever" said lan Preston, CSE's Head of Home Energy Services, "and means that thousands of people who desperately need our help will get it."

Many disabled people and their carers are at risk of fuel poverty through lower-than-average incomes and the additional energy costs they may face as a result of their circumstances, for example the need to maintain a higher room temperature.

"Fuel poverty has serious implications for their health and quality of life of disabled people" added lan, "so we're thrilled that Big Lottery supported our bid to make a real difference in this area."

The grant will pay for in-depth one-toone support through home visits (see opposite) and follow-up help. Our energy advisors will be funded to provide practical support with things like understanding heating controls, switching suppliers and liaising with energy companies where the householder is in fuel debt. And of course, energy efficiency measures like cavity wall or loft insulation, replacing old, inefficient boilers, and draught-proofing will also be carried out where possible.

The project will be managed by Kate Thomas. "We're aware that lots of vulnerable people dread winter, which for them means being cold and uncomfortable and often ill, isolated and in low spirits. With this grant we're really in a position to help."

The grant specifically covers the local authority areas of Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

If you want to speak to CSE about this project, contact Kate Thomas on 0117 934 1429 or kate.thomas@cse.org.uk

This grant was the highest of 100 community projects in the South West, totalling £3.8m, funded by the National Lottery and announced in September.



LOTTERY FUND

The power of a home visit

Mark Tyler is an energy advisor at CSE and often visits people in their own homes as part of our service to clients in Bristol and Somerset.

"If someone is struggling with a cold home or heating bills they can't afford, paying them a visit is often the best way to understand their circumstances and get them the help they need," he says. "We can assess the severity of the problem, see what energy saving improvements can be made, and if necessary show the householder how to use their heating system more effectively. We can also explain where to get additional help and funding. Finally, we can take a look at their energy bills, and if they're paying more than they need to or they're getting into fuel debt, we can take this up with the energy supplier on their behalf."

For the kind of home visit that we'll be able to do lots more of, see the video we made last year: www.bit.ly/1B0fKX2





Inside this issue of Energise ...

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Energise is produced a couple of times a year and distributed free. To request a copy email us at newsletter@cse.org.uk.

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After the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) ...

When it comes to cutting domestic energy use, three new policies are better than one

hree different policies are needed replace the current Energy Company Obligation (ECO), and the next supplier obligation should be nothing like the existing one.

These are the main conclusions of our new briefing paper, entitled *Beyond the ECO – and beyond*. This is a follow up to our much-read *Beyond the ECO* report, released last December, which called for the introduction of policies that would oblige gas and electricity suppliers to proactively seek to cut their customers' energy use.

The short briefing paper outlines how our thinking has developed on what should follow the current ECO when it ends in 2017.

We restate our recommendation that the government should introduce a new type of energy saving obligation on energy suppliers: an 'Average Customer Consumption Reduction Obligation' (ACCRO) that requires them to reduce, year-on-year, the average energy consumption of their domestic customer base. This, we argue, will significantly reduce policy costs and, importantly, align the business interests of suppliers with the other key policy objectives, such as the introduction of smart meters.

The new briefing also recommends policies to address two policy challenges that are addressed (in part) by the ECO, but

which we deliberately excluded from our proposed ACCRO. These are:

- 1) To establish an effective, adequately funded programme to improve the energy performance of the homes of the fuel poor;
- **2)** To stimulate the development of the solid wall insulation market in privatelyowned homes.

Report author and CSE Chief Executive, Simon Roberts, said: "We are confident that our recommended ACCRO approach – or Demand Reduction Obligations (DRO) as others are now calling it – will have a transformative impact on energy suppliers and energy saving activity that will be good for energy consumers. But we were also aware of gaps left by this approach and this briefing seeks to explain how we think these gaps should be addressed.

"There's still plenty of detail to work up, but this briefing represents a start in our thinking that we hope others will find stimulating and useful."



Download 'Beyond the ECO' at www.cse.org.uk/news/view/1926 and 'Beyond the ECO - and Beyond' at www.cse.org.uk/news/view/2020

Confused about night storage heater controls? Help is at hand with our latest video

new video on our YouTube channels is getting around 80 views a day at the time of writing. The 2-minute film about how to use night storage heater controls is the first that we've shot and edited ourselves and is presented by our lead trainer, Anna Watts.

Jamie Walters from our advice centre explained why we chose this subject. "Night storage heater controls are tricky to set without instruction and are something we're asked about a lot. Get it wrong and you can wake up sweltering in the night, or be left freezing by nightfall."



100,000 views

We passed a satisfying milestone in October as our YouTube channel clocked up a grand total of 100,000 views. There are 73 films on the channel, produced for various projects and covering fuel poverty, community renewables, energy efficiency and other subjects. We even have two films in Somali.

www.youtube.com/user/csebristol

National Heat Map gets into hot water:

Now includes rivers, canals and coastal sites

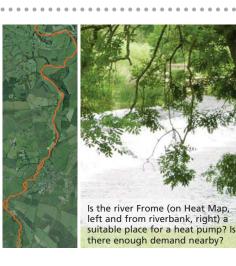
Extra data has been added to the National Heat Map, the interactive heat-demand map which we built for the Department of Energy and Climate Change in 2010.

Users can now turn on layers showing 4,000 English rivers, estuaries, canals and coastal sites that are – or might be – suitable for water source

heat pumps. These can be matched with locations of heat demand, such as residential areas or leisure facilities, to give a useful steer to renewable energy developers.

The colours vary according to how much heat can be extracted from each river or canal. See it yourself at

http://tools.decc.gov.uk/nationalheatmap.



cse.org.uk **HEALTH & COLD HOMES 3**



Tackle cold homes for a healthier Britain

he relationship between cold homes and poor health was under the spotlight at a CSEorganised event in September. The conference looked at how to lift the burden on the health services by reducing hospital admissions for people with illnesses caused or made worse by living in cold or damp houses. Around 100 people attended the event, and both national guidance and local implemention were on the agenda.

For details of speakers presentations, see box below

Our CEO. Simon Roberts. chaired the the conference and said: "It was encouraging how frankly the speakers acknowledged the shortcomings of current action on cold homes

to improve people's health, and to hear their enthusiasm and suggestions for next steps."

Held in partnership with Public Health England (PHE), the event explored the national case for action to improve health outcomes by tackling cold homes. This is part of our efforts to make Bristol a national exemplar for delivering the recommendations of the latest NICE guidance, published last March, which calls for a new strategic approach at the local level.

Read more about this project at www.cse.org.uk/nice-bristol.

Phillip Morris is leading CSE's work to link support organisations with the health service in Bristol. He said: "It was immensely useful to have







Main picture: Simon Roberts introduces the workshop. Clockwise from top left: Dr David Pencheon; Elected mayor of Bristol, George Ferguson; Dr Angie Bone; a question from the floor

representatives from national health organisations, the government, council and local support services in the same room to share insights, advice and examples of successful efforts to prevent cold-related illness, and lower the winter burden on the health service.

Pharmacies reach people at risk of cold-related illness

This November, 94 pharmacies across Bristol are taking part in our pilot campaign to reach people at risk of coldrelated illness. People visiting their pharmacist will be encouraged to consider whether their home is warm enough to maintain good health, and will be given materials promoting the services of CSE, debt-advisors Talking Money and support agency Care & Repair.

"All three organisations will work closely together." said CSE's Phillip Morris, "So. if a visitor to the pharmacy is struggling with fuel debt and underheating their home, they could call the advice number and be connected to someone at Talking Money for advice on how to manage and remove this debt, and at the same time be put in touch with Care & Repair for help fitting draught proofing."

Bristol councillor Daniella Radice said: "Each year in Bristol people are dying unnecessarily from the cold weather ... Living in a cold home can make health conditions worse and puts additional strain on the healthcare system."

Eleven 'Healthy Living' pharmacies will take a more active role in the campaign, and if all goes well, the inititive will go city-wide in 2016. See www.cse.org.uk/pitch for details





Dr David Pencheon, Director, Sustainable Development Unit, NHS England: Why cold homes are an issue for the health service

Dr Angie Bone, Head of Extreme Events and Health Protection, PHE: Reducing the health impact of winter: the Cold Weather Plan

Dr David Sloan, Chair of NICE Public Health Advisory Committee: Tackling the health risks associated with cold homes: the new NICE guidance

Phillip Morris, CSE: Preventing Illness by Tackling Cold Homes: lessons from Bristol (so far)

Plus John Kolm-Murray on Islington Council's award-winning SHINE project and Anees Mank on Wigan Council's AWARM initiative.



RESEARCH cse.org.uk

Retrofit in buildings

ow do you make multi-occupancy buildings more energy efficient? This is a pressing issue in Europe, where a significant proportion of the population live in flats and apartments of various ages and build-types.

CSE is part of the EU-funded project, Low Energy Apartment Futures (LEAF), which aims to overcome barriers to retrofitting these types of properties such as poor insulation (many of these buildings were erected hurriedly and at a time when energy was cheap) and the complexities of multiple ownership.

Approaches have been tested in Germany, France, Hungary, Austria, Sweden and the UK, and out of this work two toolkits have been developed to support the technical and stakeholder-engagement aspects of multi-occupancy retrofit. Lessons arising from these are being used to shape policy recommendations. These outputs can be downloaded from the LEAF website at www.lowenergyapartments.eu.

Photos: Two contrasting multioccupancy buildings included in the LEAF project. Left, a 19th century housing association building in historic Visby in Sweden and right, the striking post-war Bartningallee 16 in the Hansaviertal district of Berlin.





How to protect multi-occupancy the vulnerable from energy tariff rip-offs

Two options to help people on low incomes struggling with unaffordable energy (and that would cost the rest of us less than a round of drinks)

ur research for Citizens Advice on energy tariffs for vulnerable consumers was published earlier this year, in anticipation of the Competition and Markets Authority's comprehensive energy market review. The study provides researchers, policy makers and energy market stakeholders with a better understanding of options to ensure that disengaged vulnerable consumers are not penalised by higher

Previous analysis by Ofgem indicates that poorer consumers are losing out more than other disadvantaged

social groups (e.g. disabled people or pensioners on low incomes) by not switching energy supplier. In fact, the proportion of poorer 'sticky' customers (those who rarely or never switch) is 10% higher than other vulnerable groups and they are typically

> losing between £158 and £234 a year (2012-2014) as a result. Dr Toby Bridgeman,

He said: "Our research shows

researcher at CSE, led the study.

that there are two options that could significantly reduce the fuel bills of millions of vulnerable consumers currently disadvantaged by the energy market and paying over the odds for their fuel."

The first is a 'backstop' tariff for vulnerable households that is set at the same rate as the suppliers' cheapest deal, and the second is an extension of the Warm Home Discount (WHD), a £140 rebate on electricity bills).

"The 'backstop tariff' would provide an average discount of £100 for our target group at the cost of £13 to all other domestic consumers," explained Toby. "And if this was refined to exclude those that had previously switched, it would give savings of £131 to the target group at a cost of £11 to other domestic consumers."

The extension of the WHD to a wider group would provide a discount of £135 on annual energy bills for around 1 million more consumers than receive the benefit at present, at a cost of just £5 for all other domestic consumers.

Either of these tariff options could be very effective at significantly reducing fuel bills for vulnerable cosumers currently disadvantaged by the energy market and require only small - and in some cases negligible - increases in the bills of other households.



Opinion polls suggest that most consumers don't mind paying a bit extra for gas and electricity to help pensioners, poorer families and those on disability benefits with their energy bills

Green Open Homes

September and October were bumper months for Green Open Homes with 100s of homes across the UK opening their doors to show visitors a huge range fantastic energy saving features. CSE has been running this national network since 2013.











cse.org.uk RENEWABLE ENERGY 5



We should have shouted louder



n a move that could have devastating impacts on the development of the UK's cheapest renewable energy source, the new Conservative government has put the future of onshore wind in England firmly in the hands of local communities. From 18 June, new planning rules mean wind turbines should only get the go-ahead if they have been clearly backed by local people in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan.¹

It's tempting to say "about time too", given the importance of involving people in meaningful public dialogue about the changes needed in their localities to meet sustainable energy goals.

And it's tempting to say another "about time too" because for the last 15 years both the commercial wind energy industry and successive governments have largely ignored the need to nourish public understanding

and consent for the energy system transition the country needs. Indeed, in that time, many developers have taken local populations and their consent for granted, eroding any sense of collective responsibility for enabling our energy needs to be met.

We've written about this before,² though we didn't fully appreciate at the time that the absence of 'meaningful public consent' would open the back door to a Conservative Party manifesto pledge, now rapidly enacted.

But there are problems with this new 'local decisions foremost' approach which need to be addressed in full and quickly:

Firstly, the neighbourhood plans and local development plans that now hold complete sway over wind power must be obliged to explain, reasonably and explicitly, how that locality will make its contribution to the low

carbon future that the UK has signed up to. Very few have done this so far.

Secondly, if you accept the logic of the 'local decisions (reflecting national need) foremost' approach then similar conditions should be extended to other energy developments, such as fracking. This would avoid further erosion of public confidence in the planning system and buy-in to energy system transition.

And finally, a significant programme is needed to (a) stimulate wider participation in neighbourhood planning (to make it more representative) and (b) support due consideration of these national issues.

The elevation of neighbourhood planning to this new dominant status has exposed the fact that this issue has received almost no attention from community energy and climate change activists – even though it shapes the future of the places where we live.

This is understandable; after all there are better ways to gain a sense of progress and impact than by sitting through several years of neighbourhood planning meetings with people who have a keener eye on process than on action, and more parochial interests on their agenda. But it now looks like this may have been a miscalculation of how and where our futures are being shaped.

We've been trying to redress this balance in our Low Carbon Localism work. It's clear now that (a) we didn't shout loud enough about the importance of this issue and how it could work in practice, and (b) we need to redouble our efforts to support people to make effective contributions on low carbon goals to their neighbourhood plans.

- 1 See Communities Secretary Greg Clark's written statement to Parliament on planning and onshore wind power (18 June 2015).
- 2 The missing ingredient in UK energy policy governance? It's 'Meaningful public consent' says Simon Roberts | www.cse.org.uk/news/view/1839



Sign up to fortnightly news & views at www.cse.org.uk/enews

www.greenopenhomes.net

From left to right: West Cornwall, Hereford, Church Stretton, Cambridge, Birmingham, Manchester, Monmouthshire, Bristol, Sheffield, Cheltenham. Well done to everyone involved in all these events!













6 NEIGHBOURHOODS cse.org.uk

It's your neighbourhood, so get involved

trong neighbourhoods are ones where the community gets involved, shaping their local area and having meaningful impact on things like housing, transport and energy. And a good way of getting involved is by engaging in local neighbourhood plans, the 'blue-prints' for local development.

To help communities do just this, we've published the Low Carbon Neighbourhood Planning Guidebook that explores what communities can do, through neighbourhood planning, to mitigate and adapt to climate change and tackle fuel poverty.

CSE's Harriet Sansom is one of the authors. "We want local communities to have meaningful conversations about what changes are needed in their patch and how they can be involved. So our guide gives examples from different neighbourhood plans, covering renewable energy, energy efficiency, transport, flooding and green infrastructure.

"It also covers sources of evidence to support neighbourhood plan policies, and non-planning activities or projects that different communities have pursued to address community priorities. We hope people will find it inspiring!"

We've had an excellent response so far, with over 1,200 downloads of the guidance from the website to date. "It's an evolving document," said Harriet, "so we welcome all feedback and ideas for inclusion in the second edition."

You can download the guidebook from www.cse.org.uk/news/view/2012 and email comments to harriet.sansom@cse.org.uk or dan.stone@cse.org.uk.



CSE's 4-meter scale model is ideal for helping neighbourhoods engage with neighbourhood plans

Forget starter homes, we need 'ender homes'

A building programme that meets the needs of older people could be a cornerstone of fuel poverty policy, says Ian Preston

he current government has plenty of issues in its in-tray, but here are three that could be tackled together.

Firstly, we need new homes – up to 200,000 a year by some estimates. Secondly, we have an ageing population. And thirdly, we need to tackle fuel poverty.

And now here's a way to kill all three birds with one stone – homes for life.

Eight or nine years ago I attended a meeting of the South West Housing Partnership and heard a representative of a social housing group talk about his vision of "Homes for life". What he described was a programme to build decent new

We need more homes that appeal to our ageing population: more live-able one-storey homes for downsizing retired people³³

housing for our ageing population – retirement properties offering a good quality of life and independence, and an alternative to a care home.

A good – and obvious – idea, surely? More housing that provides supported living and reduces the costs of social care – what's not to like?

And the proposal also goes a long way to addressing the needs of one typical fuel poverty sufferer: the 'asset-rich' elderly person living alone in a large, poorly insulated home and facing the low-income, high-energy-costs double whammy.

The current fuel poverty strategy says little about the ageing population or the shortage of housing, even though the UK currently has 10 million people over 65 who between them occupy nearly a third of all homes. Among these are 110,000 low income single, elderly persons living in homes with high fuel costs.

Many such people simply don't want to leave their home when they get older, but for others a key issue is the availability of an attractive alternative such as a bungalow (cited by 29% of people as their ideal home). However, bungalows aren't cheap and there is a limited supply. So we need more homes that appeal to our ageing population: more live-able one-storey homes for downsizing retired people.

Right now, there are nearly 4.2 million pensioner households living in homes with three or more spare rooms, and this figure is rising by 85,000 (2%) each year. This means, as Lord Best, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Housing and Care for Older People, observed, that we need to build 85,000 'downsizer' homes every 12 months just to leave the total number of under-occupiers unchanged. The freeing up of under-occupied properties would benefit the many families currently unable to find an affordable home and whose plight has been widely reported.

And as retirees moved into new and well insulated homes built with their needs in mind, we would also be tackling the high-cost aspect of fuel poverty. And the benefits go wider than just energy: residents of these homes have reported spending less time in hospital since moving, so we'd also be reducing the costs to the health service of treating cold related illnesses.

But we have a way to go. The fact is that the number of homes built specifically for older people has decreased from 30,000 a year in the 1980s to around 8,000 a year today. The last Government stated its commitment to helping older people live independently in 'lifetime neighbourhoods' in a policy paper. But we need something a bit more tangible. If we need to build 200,000 new homes every year, then at least half of these should be homes for life that improve health and tackle fuel poverty.



lan Preston is CSE's Head of Household Energy Services. For more information about 'lifetime homes' see www.lifetimehomes.org.uk For references, see www.cse.org.uk/ender-homes cse.org.uk



Art of the energy audit

s well as being a hotbed of creative energy, Spike Island – Bristol's internationally recognised contemporary art centre – has a problem with energy bills. They're a little on the high side.

As a result, the centre's management asked CSE to identify ways to improve the environmental performance of the building, cut utility bills and make this unique working environment more comfortable.

Annette Lamley from CSE's technical team undertook the energy audit." Spike Island is a Bristol institution," said Annette, "so it's great to be helping them take the first step towards cutting their energy use."

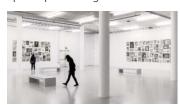
'Spike' is housed in what was originally a 1960s tea-packing plant, and its industrial design and change of use add up to a very interesting space, with many challenges. For example, the large glazed area on the south-facing side (visible in the photo above) can make parts of the building extremely hot in summer and equally cold in winter

Likewise, the multi-functional nature of the building makes temperature control challenging

as the various spaces – gallery, café, studios, offices – require different ambient temperatures.

But there are plenty of opportunities to save energy. "Our recommendations included replacing the boiler, upgrading the lighting system to include daylight sensors where there are high levels of natural daylight, and looking at insulated alternatives to the building's several large and very draughty roller doors," said Annette.

"We also discussed more imaginative ways to improve thermal performance, such as installing a green roof something in keeping with Spike's pioneering side."



Addressing energy use is part of Spike's wider Environmental Action Plan. They've received support from the Arts Council to investigate their options and will use the energy audit as part of an application for Arts Council funding to improve the energy efficiency of the building.



CSE's relationship with Spike Island dates back to 2008 when we purchased a series of artworks from artists based there for our (then) new offices. They include 'Bound, Montgomeryshire' (detail, left) a 'portrait' of a wrapped dead tree by Philippa Lawrence

Energy advice leaflets in Polish, Arabic and easy-read English

ome of our popular energy advice leaflets can now be read by more people, thanks to new versions in Polish, Arabic and easy-read English.

"New UK residents often end up in poor housing, where damp and mould are commonplace and which have unfamiliar heating systems," explained CSE's Kate Thomas. "And the risks of fuel poverty and fuel debt are high for people who come to the UK without a command of English."

The translated leaflets cover subjects such as central heating controls, dealing with damp and mould in the home, and using a night

storage heater.

Somali versions of these were produced last year.

"The Arabic leaflets will help, among others, people and families involuntarily displaced from Syria and Iraq," added Kate. "And while they're learning English, the information we provide will help them live more comfortably and with dignity.

The easy-read versions are designed to be understood by those with low levels of literacy and are available in both English and Polish.

Funding for this work comes from the Big Lottery's Award's for All funding stream.

The Polish leaflets can be downloaded in both standard and easyto-read versions from www.cse.org.uk/advice-in-polish. The Arabic leaflets are at www.cse.org.uk/advice-in-arabic and the English easy-read versions at www.cse.org.uk/easy-read.

Biomass energy

CSE has been an active partner in Rokwood, an EU-funded six-country project that aims to increase the sustainable production of woody energy crops like willow and miscanthus on European farmland.

The project is drawing to a close, but here are two publications, produced by CSE that have been distributed to partners in Germany, Poland, Spain, Ireland, Sweden and the UK.

focussing on woody energy crops grown on short rotation plantations (SRPs) and covering every step in the biomass supply chain from initial business planning to the distribution and use of

the heat and power produced (top). The second is a wrap-up report showing the main achievements of Rokwood.

Download both and read more about the project at www.cse.org.uk/rokwood





Meet the men who did "the impossible" for CSE volunteer, Jan Watterson.

Several firms of insulation installers said the difficult access at Jan's 1930s home meant that cavity wall insulation was no-go.

But Craig and Ben are made of tougher stuff. Read the full story at www.cse.org.uk/impossible

Build it, and they will come ...

One Saturday in October this year someone browsing our website made a little bit of CSE history ...

Little did this person know, but he/she was the millionth unique visitor to the site since May 2009 (that is, during the lifetime of the current website and the version before it).

Whoever this person was, we salute them!

The likelihood is that they were looking at one of the pages on our advice site covering issues like room heaters, the cost of running appliances and

night storage heaters. These are the most popular pages on our site, with up to 12,000 views a month each during winter.

The advice site accounts for around two-thirds of all visits to the cse.org.uk domain. And in recognition of this we recently made it mobile-friendly so that visitors using smart phones or tablets get a better browsing experience. The proportion of visitors using mobile devices is growing, and currently stands at just under half.

And we're working on a new sub-site for our local and community energy work. It'll replace planlocal.org.uk, and hopefully launch in the Spring. Watch this space!

Get to know us better

Printed copies of our 2015 Annual Report available for free: just drop Cat a line on cat.mclaughlin@cse.org.uk.

Includes the popular 'five lessons we learned in the year', and is, of course, also available to read online.



Who's who at CSE

Chief Executive

Simon Roberts OBE

Household Energy Services

| Ian Preston Head of Household Energy Services | Elizabeth Adams Intern | Paola Aldana Intern | Liz Dagger Caseworker | Shareen Elnagy Intern | Lisa Evans Project Officer | Louise Evans Caseworker | Justin Lee-Gammage Project Officer | Kath Lindsay Project Worker | Michael McClelland Scheme Manager | Sonia Pruzinsky Senior Energy Advisor | Yusuf Salah Energy Advisor | Karen Smith Energy Advisor | Kate Thomas Senior Project Manager | Mark Tyler Energy Advisor | Jamie Walters Energy Advice Project Manager | Lorna Wilcox Project Worker | Paul Winney Project Officer

Local & Community Empowerment

Rachel Coxcoon Head of Local & Community Empowerment | Caitlin Ballard Project Worker | Heather Crane Senior Project Worker | Rachel Haycock Project Worker | Dan McGarvie Project Worker | Bridget Newbery Senior Community Projects Manager | Harriet Sansom Project Manager | Dan Stone Project Officer | James Watt Project Manager | Anna Watts Lead Trainer

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energise

Autumn 2015

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



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Download copies from cse.org.uk/energise

We also send out a fortnightly enews. Sign up at cse.org.uk/enews.



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