

## **RENEWABLES SW – December 2006**

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### **1. REGEN SW CALLS FOR CRANBROOK TO MEET HIGH ENERGY STANDARDS**

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In the light of a recent Government announcement of measures to make dramatic improvements in energy standards for new buildings, Regen SW has called for the Cranbrook new town development in East Devon to be refused planning permission, because of its low energy standards. The new measures announced by Ruth Kelly, Communities Secretary include a requirement for all new building development to generate a minimum of 10% of its future energy requirements from renewable energy generation on site. The developers of Cranbrook are offering only a small renewable energy contribution (1000 solar panels to cover 3-6% of the sites total energy use), which will not meet the new national minimum of 10% renewables contribution, let alone the ambition of East Devon District Council to generate 30% of the



development's energy use from renewable technologies. The Regional Assembly has also questioned whether the Cranbrook proposal meets the renewable energy requirements of the draft RSS. The council will decide whether the planning application should be granted on 19<sup>th</sup> December. For more information on Zero Carbon Homes go to: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1505140>

## **2. SOUTH WEST RECEIVES LARGE SHARE OF NPOWER JUICE FUND INVESTMENT**

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The npower juice fund has announced £1 million funding for seven new marine energy projects, three of which are South West projects or companies. Regen SW has secured £200,000 for the Wave Buoy which collects wave energy data at the site of the Wave Hub in Cornwall. A replacement buoy funded by the first grant received from Npower Juice has just been launched to collect data over the winter period. Embley Energy, based near Bristol has received funding for the structural design, Storm survivability and associated infrastructure support for its SPERBOY Wave Energy Convertor, and Garrad Hassan in Bristol has received funding for its Marine Measurement System for Tidal Stream and Wave Energy Devices. For more information on the projects go to [www.npowermediacentre.co.uk](http://www.npowermediacentre.co.uk)

## **3. WORLDS LARGEST WIND FARM GETS CONSENT**

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The consortium planning to build the world's largest wind farm off the Kent coast has welcomed the Government's decision to grant consent for its offshore planning applications. Farm Energy, a small North Devon company in the consortium, was behind the original idea for the scheme. The consent gives the go ahead for the offshore sections of the 1,000MW wind farm which, if built, will displace nearly 2 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year. The wind farm would also generate enough electricity to power 750,000 homes, equivalent to a quarter of Greater London's households or every home in Kent and East Sussex. The consent for the onshore substation, necessary to connect London Array into the national grid, remains outstanding and will now be subject to a Public Inquiry. For more information on the project go to: [www.londonarray.com](http://www.londonarray.com)

## **4. WIND UPDATE**

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A two-turbine community wind farm at Lamerton in Devon has lost its appeal against West Devon Council's rejection after the inspector cited impacts on the nearby Dartmoor National Park and a local listed building. This is the second scheme in a month rejected near the Dartmoor National Park boundary. The public inquiry for Den Brook, also on the boundary of Dartmoor has closed, and a decision is expected shortly. Meanwhile, in Avonmouth, Ecotricity has begun preliminary digging work for the foundations of its three turbine 6 MW scheme. Ecotricity has also formally lodged an appeal against Sedgemoor District Council's refusal to grant planning permission for a five turbine 10MW scheme at Inner Farm, Brent Knoll. To follow the progress of the construction of the Avonmouth scheme go to [www.ecotricity.co.uk](http://www.ecotricity.co.uk)

## **5. EXETER ENERGY FROM WASTE PLANT GETS GO-AHEAD**

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Devon County Council has agreed to build a modern energy from waste combined heat and power plant for Exeter to reduce the amount of waste buried in its landfill sites. The Council has decided to go ahead with plans to construct an Energy from Waste plant on the site of the old waste transfer station at Marsh Barton. The plant will use a process which burns the rubbish to provide combined heat and power in the form of electricity and steam. The electricity can be sold back into the national grid, whilst the steam could be used to heat local schools and businesses. The Council has been investigating different waste management options as part of a response to a new EU directive. The directive limits the amount of waste local authorities can send to landfill and will impose fines if the levels are exceeded. As waste is increasing by an average of 1% each year, this could be as much as £7.8m by 2012. The scheme could produce 3 MW of heat and steam which could be used to heat up to 8,000 households. For further information go to:

[www.devon.gov.uk/energyfromwaste](http://www.devon.gov.uk/energyfromwaste)

## **6. NEW CONSULTATION ON PLANNING POLICY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

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A new consultation has opened on draft Planning Policy Statement 'Planning and Climate Change.' The PPS sets out how planning in providing for new homes, jobs and infrastructure needed by communities should help shape places with lower carbon emissions and ensure they are resilient to the climate change now accepted as inevitable. Some of the key questions that the Government are consulting on include whether government should implement a 10% standard on-site renewable energy generation policy and whether there should be regional trajectories for the expected carbon performance of new residential and commercial development

The closing date for comments is 8<sup>th</sup> March 2007. The Consultation can be found online at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1505140>

## **7. CSE PERSONAL CARBON ALLOWANCES REPORT**

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A new report from CSE, 'A Rough Guide to Individual Carbon Trading', has been published by Defra. The report suggests that at a theoretical level, individual carbon trading is an attractively simple idea. By giving everyone a limited allowance to cause carbon dioxide emissions, total emissions from the population can be limited. Those who need or want to emit more than their allowance have to buy allowances from those who can emit less than their allowance. However, as the report points out, this theoretical simplicity and apparent attractiveness should not be mistaken for technical feasibility or for public and political acceptability. Simon Roberts, Chief Executive of CSE said: "People seem very ready to take up positions for or against individual carbon trading. But our assessment of the evidence and analysis done to date concludes that it is far too early to either embrace or reject the idea – the right



questions have not yet been asked.” The Rough Guide report outlines a detailed road map for answering the outstanding questions. To see the report go to: <http://www.cse.org.uk/pdf/news1270.pdf>

## **8. UPDATE ON BIOMASS HEAT CAPITAL GRANT SCHEME (IN ENGLAND)**

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A new biomass heat capital grant scheme for England is expected to be launched at the end of December. The biomass heat scheme was announced in the Climate Change Review Programme (CCPR) and in the Government response to the Biomass Task Force report. The Government announced that it would introduce a support scheme for biomass heat in the industrial, commercial and community sectors. The scheme will run for five years and will be worth some £10m in England over the two financial years to 31 March 2008. The scheme will set the minimum limit for awards at £25,000 and the maximum single award at £1m. The scheme is expected to launch by the end of December 2006, subject to EU approval. Look out for details on Defra’s website [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

## **9. REGEN SW INVESTMENT READINESS WORKSHOP**

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Regen SW is holding its first Investment Readiness Workshop on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007, in support of the growing number of renewable energy related companies in the South West who are looking for private sector investment. This free event will provide a small number of businesses with investment readiness input from a range of experts – including accountants, lawyers, Business Angels, Venture Capitalists and industry professionals with a track record in securing funding at various scales. The workshop is designed to support those looking for funding in the next few months or years. The event is designed to provide mentoring and feedback whilst allowing for relationships to be established for further activity beyond this framework, in preparation for future investment activities. Places are very limited so please respond as soon as possible if you are interested to Steve Schofield, Business Support Manager [sschofield@regensw.co.uk](mailto:sschofield@regensw.co.uk)

**\*\*\* WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY 2007 – FROM ALL THE REGEN SW TEAM \*\*\***

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