

Press Release 7.11.16

Local social enterprise, Fal Energy Partnership (FEP) has been awarded nearly £20,000 from the Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) to do a feasibility study into generating 2MW of solar-powered electricity from business, farm and public sector roofs in the Falmouth and Penryn area.

Cornwall is fortunate that it receives a lot of sunshine, particularly during the summer months when there are many additional residents and visitors. This makes our area especially suited to solar power which could provide cheaper electricity to the roof owners and generate an income for the community. If the installations go ahead, it is hoped that FEP will be able to employ a dedicated Energy Manager who will work on issues around fuel poverty, energy saving and renewable energies.

“We are very pleased to be able to do this study” said Charmian Larke, Chair of FEP. “There are many very large roofs in Falmouth and Penryn that would be suitable and it would be great to benefit not only the farms, businesses and organisations by selling them cheaper electricity but ultimately our whole community by helping alleviate fuel poverty and by providing greater energy security.

The project runs for the next six months. If you think you have a suitable large roof, or want more information about FEP, please contact them on info@falenergy.org.uk for look for Fal Energy Partnership Ltd on Facebook.

The Rural Community Energy Fund is a £15 million programme, delivered by WRAP and jointly funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). It supports rural communities in England to develop renewable energy projects which provide economic and social benefits to the community. For more information on RCEF, visit www.wrap.org.uk/renewables



L to R: Charmian Larke, Lorely Lloyd, Caroline Robinson, Louise Allen

Notes for editors:***WRAP- Waste Resources Action Programme***

First established in 2000, WRAP is a not for profit organisation whose vision is a world where resources are used sustainably. WRAP works with governments, businesses and communities to deliver practical solutions to improve resource efficiency, and has the government contract to operate the RCEF.

Fal Energy Partnership

FEP is responding to local concerns about rising energy prices and the risky future of energy supply. FEP is a Registered Society launched in 2012 which connects many different groups interested in developing and implementing an integrated sustainable action plan for our community. As a Social Enterprise, FEP are committed to return any profits (after investor returns) to the community, which would be invested in local sustainable energy projects.

FEP covers the area of Falmouth, Penryn and the surrounding seven parishes.

FEP produced a major report in 2012 showing the large potential local economic benefits to be gained from using local renewable energy sources and reducing energy needs at home and work. This report also showed the unexpectedly high incidence of fuel poverty in parts of the area, where fuel costs are over 10% of household incomes.