

Energy survey summary

In 2021 Fal Energy Partnership (FEP) produced a wide ranging energy survey for residents of Falmouth and the surrounding area and have now collated the results. As a social enterprise we were asking for suggestions to direct our next actions so offered seven options and requested extra ideas.

The survey proved very instructive with positive support for our suggested initiatives and additional suggestions that appear to underpin them.

What we are doing with the results now

We will be sharing them with local community organisations; local Councils in the Falmouth and Penryn Community Network Area ([click here for map](#)); other Councils e.g. Helston, Truro, Cornwall Council and local businesses.

Please continue to give us your ideas and contacts to help us implement these initiatives and find ways to deal with increasing energy poverty.

Responses: 98% lived/worked in the area and 2% were interested from outside the area.

Results follow in order of support

1st at 22%: Small renewable projects (similar to the Dracaena solar project)

FEP says: The Dracaena Project has proved a very successful practical initiative with significant financial and carbon savings.

FEP has been looking at similar buildings to work in partnership with – either community or business buildings – for these smaller projects there needs to be sufficient sun orientated roof area with a nearby use for the electricity produced.

2nd at 20%: Continue to work with Local Government on Energy and Climate Change

Extra responses and campaigning suggestions

- There was much support for actively encouraging local government to initiate local energy generation – locally or co-operatively owned.
- Residential homeowners/landlords to install more insulation.
- Grants for upgrading older houses.
- Planning issues: Campaign for Passive house new builds and Planning Permission only given for energy efficient and well insulated new houses.
- Campaign encouraged for extra emphasis on larger public buildings; health facilities and university accommodation
- Self sufficiency in agriculture & manufacturing
- Also suggested we expand our membership to include Truro, more public bodies, businesses and MPs.

FEP has been active with Truro in the past on a Green Homes initiative. Since our inception we have been positively engaged with local Councils and Cornwall Council level and are always looking for suggestions and support for more partnerships

3rd at 17%: Continue to work with communities

Extra Responses

- Engage with schools and locals. Educate very young children to respect the earth
- Educate householders about renewable energy.
- Support local initiatives e.g. Solar Panel Community Purchase scheme. (example recommended in Devon).
- Wish for more local engagement with weeding roads and more litter bins.

4th at 14%: Home Surveys to identify heat loss.

Extra responses

- Identify & support homeowners to retrofit

FEP have been exploring purchase of thermal heat detectors to easily identify heat loss from houses. A successful scheme is already running in Ladock. Some Councils across UK also have schemes.

5th at 11%: Large scale solar

Extra Responses

- Support large projects for solar e.g. on every TR11 suitable roof and industrial estates
- Support projects for other renewable forms of energy e.g. Community Wind turbines at Hillhead and more wind generators - small to large.
- Sea projects e.g. Water source Heat pump project for businesses e.g. waterfront
- United Downs links
- Renewable energy and microgrids.
- Learn about industrial energy systems.

FEP has found that medium to large projects can be cost effective but are more challenging to set up. Community projects need committed volunteers at the beginning with integrated long term planning and significant funding.

6th at 11%: Advice surgeries on how to save on energy bills

Extra responses

- Information on energy efficiency & grants & tariffs etc.
- Information for residents with simple effective information for the lay person
- Provide draught excluders,
- Advise on how to select installers with unbiased home energy surveys.
- Collate a database of local businesses to recommend & carry out eco measures
- Information and support for the vulnerable and residents on low incomes.
- Realistic charges for equipment

FEP has always identified Fuel Poverty as an important issue and with the latest massive increases in costs local community engagement can prove pivotal for supporting the vulnerable with information and strategies. Interventions like draft excluders, insulating windows with curtains and door curtains and adequate clothing may seem simplistic but are cheap and effective.

There are several useful organisations e.g. Repair Café for skills and online groups for sourcing materials.

also for your information:

https://www.falenergy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/FEP_Six_CheapCheepful_Leaflet.pdf

https://www.falenergy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/FEP_EasyWays_Cooking_Leaflet.pdf

Community Energy Plus has been established for decades and provides excellent information.

<https://cep.org.uk>

7th at 6%: Virtual Green Homes information videos

Several years ago FEP in partnership with Truro and St Agnes carried out a Green Homes week where locals could visit houses that had implemented both sophisticated and simple energy projects. FEP hope to carry out a "virtual" Green Homes event online in the future.

<https://www.falenergy.co.uk/2015/09/local-events-open-the-door-to-a-sustainable-future-for-truro-and-falmouth/>

<http://truroandfalmouth.greenopenhomes.net/truro-falmouth-green-open-homes-week-192>

Thank you

<https://falenergy.co.uk>