

# **Climate Friendly Parish St Endellion 2010 Action Plan**

This document follows on from the original “Climate Friendly Village” document published in early 2006. Since then a great deal of work has been done in St Endellion as it starts on the road to being a Climate Friendly Parish (CFP).

The process of becoming a CFP was originally broken down into five phases:

1. A local Climate Friendly Village steering group is convened to ensure continued commitment to the initiative
2. Attract media coverage and popular support for the campaign
3. Commitment made by a number of local businesses to reduce carbon emissions by 5% per year
4. Parish council passes a resolution agreeing to reduce carbon emission by 5% (of first year) per year
5. Annual reduction of carbon emissions by 5%

In the following pages we will outline what has happened so far and suggest an action plan to take the process into the next phase, bringing it up to 2010. This will be a working document, and it is at an early stage of development. The suggestions in it will need to be discussed with the groups concerned as some of the plans may already be happening, and some may be impractical.

Some of the following has been influenced by work begun by Rob Hopkins for the community of Kinsale in Ireland and this plan has taken and/or modified extracts from “Kinsale 2021: An Energy Descent Action Plan – Version.1.2005” written by students of Kinsale Further Education College.

## **1. A local Climate Friendly Parish steering group is convened to ensure continued commitment to the initiative**

**The present:** The CFP steering group has been in place for several months. At present the steering group is made up of 5 people. Meetings are also attended by representatives of Cornwall Friends of the Earth, Community Energy Plus, Cornwall College, North Cornwall District Council and The Co-op.

The steering group has established a bank account, and have been successful at raising some funds from various groups.

**The Future:** The Steering needs to grow to as various sub-groups and projects come are established. The growth of the steering group will be closely tied to the work being done on other components of the CFP and don't require action in themselves.

An introductory leaflet will be produced to inform people of progress.

## **2. Attract media coverage and popular support for the campaign**

**The present:** St Endellion have received a great deal of coverage in regional newspapers, radio. There is also a website which is being regularly updated.

As well as regional coverage, the steering committee now has a regular column in 'Trio' the Parish newsletter.

On 16 & 17 December 2006 every household in the Parish was leafleted with information about the project.

**The future:** **Jan-Feb 2007** - There has been interest from ITV West Country to use St Endellion as an example for a program on personal carbon quotas. This would have given a boost to the public awareness, but unfortunately we couldn't find anyone to take part.

**14 April 2007** – St Endellion has been invited to the Grass Roots Conference on Climate Change to be held in Ashton Hayes.

Each stage in the project needs to be promoted with a press release to all local newspapers.

As well as maintaining the Trio column a mail-drop (approximately twice a year) to all households will ensure that all local residents are kept up to date on the project.

## **3. Commitment made by a number of local businesses to reduce carbon emissions by 5% per year**

**The present:** The Co-op is actively involved in the project. The Co-op has helped with the distribution of free energy-saving light bulbs and has a strong commitment to reducing carbon emissions.

**The future:** A Co-op a meeting of local businesses will be convened to discuss their inclusion in the Climate Friendly Project. The meeting will highlight ways that business can reduce carbon emissions. This will be hosted by STEER, the St Endellion Economic Regeneration Forum, who have also contributed funds to the project.

## **4. Parish council passes a resolution agreeing to reduce carbon emission by 5% (of first year) per year**

**The Present:** At their meeting of August 2006 the Parish Council agreed unanimously to support the Climate Friendly Parish Project. At present 3 of the 5 members of the Steering group are from the Parish Council.

**The Future:** A representative of the Parish Council is to be on the steering committee and report back to the Council at regular intervals.

## 5. Annual reduction of carbon emissions by 5%

This is the most crucial part of the process and the remainder of this document will provide a proposed plan of action for achieving our aims of yearly carbon reductions.

As stated above, the Kinsale 2021 document has been used as a model for developing this action plan.

Although the key focus of this project is the reduction carbon emissions, a positive by-product of this process is the re-invigoration of local communities and the re-building of local economies.

At present, with support from Cornwall College, the parish is in the midst of measuring carbon emissions in the parish. This work is due to be completed by the end of May 2007. Students from the college will report back to the community on 21 May 2007.

The work of reducing the parish's carbon emissions needs to be broken down into various areas of our lives. The areas we will be focusing on are:

- Food
- Housing
- Transport
- Energy

### 5.1 Food & Local Economy

“The emergence of a transport-based global economy has undermined local and regional economies to the extent that local regions and localities are no longer wholly or even partially self-sufficient in energy, food supplies, building materials, clothing, crafts, etc. The economic ties that once underpinned communities are largely gone. Centralised funding structures have supplanted local economic autonomy.”<sup>i</sup>

Much of the food and other products we consume come from overseas and need to be shipped into the local area. Agriculture and Food account for nearly 30 percent of goods transported on our roads<sup>ii</sup>. The reduction of food miles is a vital component of the CFP project.

Without the widespread existence of local businesses, money is drained from local economies. Studies show that 50% of turnover from local retailers is returned to the local economy. Large retailers may return as little as 5% to the local economy.<sup>iii</sup>

As well as helping to reduce the carbon footprint for the area, buying local food has many other positive impacts for the community. FARMA (National Farmers' Retail & Markets Association) highlight the following benefits of buying local produce (amongst others)<sup>iv</sup>:

1. Supporting the local economy: Money spent on locally produced foods stays in the community, as the farmers employ local people and buy local products.
2. Reduce Packaging
3. Reduce Waste: A proportion of food grown for the supermarkets is rejected because it's the 'wrong' size or shape for example, or may simply not have the right colour. It's perfectly good food! Farmers selling local foods offer nothing but the best and will include large and small and irregular shapes because that's how nature does things.
4. You get the freshest foods

### Action Plan

2007

- Steering committee to organise an event bringing together all those involved in food in the parish to discuss the Climate Friendly Parish project.
- A Local Food working group is established from this meeting. The main role of the working group will be to design a local food network and publicise the issues surrounding local food.
- Development of a local food action plan and directory of local foods listing all local producers and growers in St Endellion and surrounds.
- Development of a Freecycle-St Endellion. The Freecycle Network is a grassroots, nonprofit movement of people who are giving (& getting) things for free in their own towns. Membership is free.<sup>v</sup>
- Development of a 'freecycle' network for people that do not have access to the internet, possibly via a classified section in Trio or another forum.

2008

- The working group works with the local school to change procurement policies with the aim of 100% local food within 2 years.
- The working group will work with local restaurants, hotels and B&B's to encourage an emphasis on the use of local and organic produce. This could be launched with 'local food' banquet in the town hall.
- Development of a St Endellion Farmer's market
- Identify a number of sites for orchards around St Endellion and plant them with the help of local school children.
- The working group will work with students at the school to develop a kitchen garden in the school.

2009

- Development of a community food garden in the town.
- Move towards all local farmers working organically to reduce the reliance on oil-based pesticides.

2010

- Development of a local food growers co-operative, working together to provide local food to the community.

## **5.2 Housing**

Research from the Energy Saving Trust shows that, on average, each household in the UK creates around 6 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year. That's more than the average car!<sup>vi</sup>

There are many simple, and often cost saving, ways that we can reduce the energy we consume in our homes.

### **Action Plan**

2006

- Questionnaire on energy usage devised by students from Cornwall College. This will be delivered to every home in the Parish.

2007

- Students from Cornwall College will assess the findings of the survey and provide recommendations to the Steering Group.
- A Working Group will be established to look at Cornwall College recommendations and devise an implementation strategy.
- Cornwall Energy Plus will provide energy advice under the Home Health (from North Cornwall District Council) scheme offering free insulation to all eligible residents.

2008

- The housing working group will hold an open meeting, inviting the community and relevant agencies to discuss environmental issues concerning housing and development in the parish.
- >From this meeting, the working group will develop a climate friendly parish policy for new buildings in the Parish to be adopted by the Parish Council.
- Offer workshops to show people how to install and use geothermal/solar/passive solar.
- Show how oil fired central heating can be easily replaced with wood pellet boilers or other renewable sources. Families could be given a financial breakdown, shown a working model and other information.

2009-10

- Continue general awareness raising regarding reduction of energy usage in the home.

### 5.3 Transport

As new roads have been built and others duelled across Cornwall, the much talked-up rewards have proved illusory; the low wage economy is still prevalent, it is more difficult for those without a car to travel around and congestion continues to worsen.

Transport policies have contributed to:

- Higher car use and car dependency;
- A deterioration in public transport;
- A reduction in cycling;
- The closure of local facilities such as shops and hospitals; and
- A centralization of services in the name of 'efficiency';
- Children's loss of freedom to safely explore their environment and to play outside their homes;
- Dangerous levels of pollutant emissions and consequences for human health and wildlife;
- A massive loss of countryside, tranquil places and rurality; and
- Travel as the fastest growing source of climate change emissions of carbon dioxide.<sup>vii</sup>

### Action Plan

2007

- The Steering group will work with Cornwall County Council to promote Car-sharing in the parish. This will involve promoting the [www.carsharecornwall.com](http://www.carsharecornwall.com) website to all residents of the Parish through TRIO.
- The steering group will develop a carshare network for people that do not have access to the internet, possibly creating a classified section in TRIO.
- and will utilise St Endellion website which will include a car-sharing section

2008

- Work with Kernow Biofuels to develop a Biofuel delivery service in the Parish.
- Provide lockers, racks and secure parking for bicycles.
- Provide maps of all cycling routes in the area
- Promote, educate and raise awareness of the benefits of cycling

## 5.4 General Energy Action Plan

2007

- Provide every household and business with information on practical steps to save energy. These steps include such things as using long-life light bulbs, switching off all electrical appliances instead of leaving them on stand-by, only boiling the required amount of water instead of always filling the kettle, having properly insulated immersion tanks. Cornwall Friends of the Earth and others have already produced this information and it can be simply modified for St Endellion.
- Work with Cornwall Switch to encourage people to switch to sustainable energy suppliers.

2008

- Fit small solar panels to public lampposts, so as to make them energy ‘neutral’, their high visibility will also act as a good public awareness exercise.
- Setup of a group to locate a suitable site for a wind farm, and to develop a wind farm co-op. Places
- The group will organize meetings aiming to increase people’s awareness of wind farms and also discuss the possibility of their becoming shareholders in the co-op (the Baywind Energy Co-op in the UK is an excellent example of this)
- Investigate possibility of Combined Heat and Power scheme to heat School.

2009

- The wind farm co-op applies for planning and work begins on the construction of the wind farm.
- Solar panels and photo-voltaics begin to be installed in B&Bs and restaurants. Solar Clubs are set up in order to make solar water heating systems more affordable. Groups of 10 or more householders undertake to buy systems, resulting in their being in a very strong position for negotiating the price down.
- Continue work on public awareness of energy reduction measures.

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<sup>i</sup> Kinsale 2021: An Energy Descent Action Plan, Version.1.2005. p23

<sup>ii</sup> BBC Food [www.bbc.co.uk/food/food\\_matters/foodmiles.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/food/food_matters/foodmiles.shtml)

<sup>iii</sup> Local Works: Campaign for the Sustainable Communities Bill, Spring 2006. p. 2

<sup>iv</sup> FARMA – [www.farma.org.uk](http://www.farma.org.uk)

<sup>v</sup> For more information on Freecycle Network visit [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)

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<sup>vi</sup> Energy Saving Trust - [www.est.org.uk/myhome/climatechange/stats/homeenvironment/](http://www.est.org.uk/myhome/climatechange/stats/homeenvironment/)

<sup>vii</sup> Cornwall Friends of the Earth Transport group: [www.foecornwall.org/TRANSPORT/INTRODUCTION/](http://www.foecornwall.org/TRANSPORT/INTRODUCTION/)