Report of the *Third* Great Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Green Energy Summit, Sunday 13th Sept 2026 11:00am - 4:30pm
Chacewater Village Hall, TR4 8PZ
Meur Menydh Nerth Gwyrdh Kernow ha Enesek Syllan *Tressa*
Dy Sul 13 mis Gwynngala 2026
Organised by the Chacewater Community Energy Group "CCEG" with the support of the SW Net Zero Hub, and Community Energy Plus
All slides can be downloaded from Chacewater Community website (scan QR)
https://chacewater.community/document-category/chacewater-community-energy-group/



Well what a busy day! Over 120 attendees at the summit, most staying for the whole event. Loads of excellent speakers in a packed timetable. We started off with a message from Michael Shanks MP the Minister of State for Energy (scan the QR to view). Mr Shanks offered to come to a future event, so a chance to take a couple of days and show him all of the key energy offerings that we have in Cornwall, including Geothermal energy, off shore wind, Cornish Lithium, HVO, tidal power, vertical solar to mention just a few. First session was "Progress on Cornwall's Climate and Energy Action Plan, links to the Local Area Energy Plan", from Cllr Loic Rich (Environment Portfolio holder) and Nick Hayden who reminded us about the consultation on the Local Plan, due to open in October. We were urged to engage, to make views known about new build energy standards, hydro-power etc. Nick also reported on the three areas of work Mitigation, Adaption, and Nature Recovery, which together will speed Cornwall's progress towards real sustainability. Nick announced that in the year (24/25 to 25/26) Cornwall Council had achieved a 14.2% reduction in carbon emissions measured in tonnes of CO_2e, down to 8554 tonnes. Cornwall as a whole achieved on a 3% reduction in 2023 the most recent year where we have figures.

Michael Shanks



Our second session given by Bella Peatfield from the SW Net Zero Hub, was about the Great British Energy mission: advancing a fair energy future for and by communities through local, clean power. 1,000+ local projects by 2030, £1 billion investment, lower bills, and widening access. Bullet Points: Scale & pace, Fairness, Innovation, prioritising community and public ownership. Commissioner Bella Hawkes from Cornwall & IoS Climate Commission, and Cornwall Climate Action Coalition gave an update on the Community Conversations about the Local Area Energy Plan that have been held across the county with more planned. The full report will be published on our website and Cornwall Council's website, after it has been presented to the Commission, the Leadership Board, and the LAEP Stakeholder Group. *[well-earned Coffee Break!!]* We then had an excellent joint presentation from Jayne Kirkham MP, and Perran Moon MP underlining the government's commitment to achieve a 100% clean energy grid with no fossil generation. Also about the support from GB Energy for local energy groups to own and operate community electricity generation and distribution. Very much in line with the goals of the day, as was explored by Tim Jones in his presentation







launching Community Energy Corwall & Isles of Scilly "CECS". A practical road map for local groups to achieve a fairer, cheaper, local sustainable electricity supply for their communities. Scan the QR code on the left to go to the CECS website. *[LUNCH! Huge thanks to Lyn, Sandy, Rebecca, Natalie, Isla, Ruby, Rachel, Steve, Helen and all others in the wonderful hard-working refreshments team who laid on a wonderful spread. Thanks to Chacewater Bakery, Lynher Valler, Peber, Goonown for supplies]* After lunch we had an update on Cornwall's electricity grid from David Witherspoon, and Vaughan Pyne who laid out the plan for a significant level of investment to accommodate a much higher electricity demand as heating and vehicle use move to electricity, coupled with greatly increased amounts of local generation. They assured the summit of NGED's continued commitment to supporting Community Energy, and invited us to attend a NGED event in Exeter: 28th October for those that are interested.

CECS



National Grid Electricity Distribution's Community Energy Forum - South West of England Geothermal Engineering Limited's Jane Charman gave us an insight of how the technology works, levels of employment, and news on the progress of the exciting new power station at United Downs with its 24/7 generation and very low carbon foot-print. Two more plants are in the pipeline from GEL with the possibility of more to follow given enough public understanding and support. Surely a point to raise in the Local Plan consultation next month. Celtic SeaPower's Neil Farrington gave us an update on the progress of floating off-shore wind "FLOW" and the need to use deep water to store then build the turbine platforms at Falmouth. Questions were asked about what level of dredging would be needed, and we were advised to use the consultation process with the marine management organisation. FLOW is a tremendous opportunity for safe and relatively benign electricity generation at huge GW scale. News on Bio-methane from Chris Mann. A significant though hopefully temporary change of direction for Bennamann from sealed slurry lagoons which currently have to be vented! This allows the very potent greenhouse gases to leak to atmosphere. We think common sense has returned and sealed lagoons will be back to allow the capture of the very valuable fuel for energy generation and fuelling vehicles including tractors. Bennamann's gas currently comes from AD plants but can be used in a variety of exciting ways, delivered to site in a one tonne cage of cylinders. Finally we had a quick high energy presentation from Vertical PV's Fin McCormick, Shiney Electrical's Lee Shine about Vertical PV and Sodium Batteries. Loads of potential there. We ended a bit late but were done by about 5pm. Thanks to all of our sponsors, speakers, and exhibitors including 99p films, Greenpeace, Octopus Energy, Cornish Lithium, Wave Power, Cornwall National Landscape Trust.

Bennaman



We hope all attendees found the day useful, and will want to come to our next events, both in the village hall: The Annual Nature Recovery, E-Bike, Green Energy, & Local Food show Sat May 15th 27 11–4:00pm. Scan QRs to book your FREE place https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GMOX

Nature Show 05/27

The Fourth Great Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Green Energy Summit Sunday 12th Sept 2027 10:45 to 4:30pm https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GWEC

4th Summit

Come and join CCEG: tel John Carley 07966 750515, organic@carleys.co.uk

(CCEG is a member of the Cornwall Climate Action Network)