



Supporting Parish Councils across South Cambridgeshire to take the lead in helping their communities and residents to really understand their energy use and the options they have to manage it better. In order to ...

Reduce energy bills

Tackle climate change

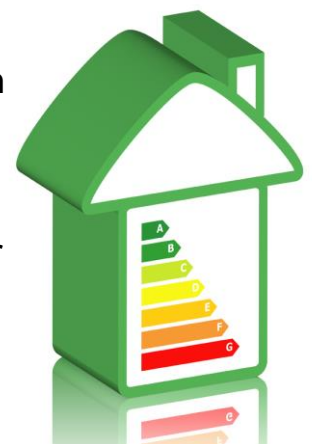
Build a more sustainable future



Introducing the South Cambridgeshire Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership

- With home energy costs at worryingly high levels and growing concerns about climate change, South Cambridgeshire District Council has secured funding for a three year programme to directly support parish councils and their communities in taking steps to tackle both of these very important issues.
- The objective is to develop a partnership of commitment, experience and confidence that can really help to deliver what parishes feel will work locally to cut fuel bills and reduce the carbon emissions that are increasingly contributing to anxiety over climate change.
- The District Council is able to offer a comprehensive programme of assistance to approximately 10 parish councils for each of the three years of the programme. This support takes the form of a 'menu' of support measures from which parishes can select according to their local circumstances and capacity.
- The Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership is open to all parish councils who...
 - ...are concerned about the implications of local energy issues and climate change, and
 - ...feel that there is sufficient community interest to work-up and co-ordinate local activities and projects that will directly contribute to reducing energy bills and tackling climate change.
- There are no direct costs to the parish councils taking part. Likewise there are no application forms, contracts or binding targets. What is required however is a formal commitment (via Parish Council meeting minutes) to work closely with the District Council, and recognised related interests within the parish, on bringing forward and delivering energy conservation and efficiency measures.

It is anticipated that this would probably work best through the use of an existing, or newly established, sub-committee which would report directly to the parish council and could readily look to co-opt appropriate members from the local community. In the case of smaller parishes a direct support link could be made between the full council and a committed environmental group within the parish.







Sustainable energy is energy that we consume with the confidence that it is...

- ☑ ...not being used unnecessarily
- ☑ ...not unnecessarily expensive
- ☑ ...not being wasted
- ☑ ...tackling climate change

Why do we need it?

- Parish councils across the district are always working towards improving their community well-being and providing better services at a local level.
- How we manage our energy needs and energy use is a well-being issue of tremendous local relevance. The Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act of 2006 specifically gave parish councils room to manoeuvre in creating more sustainable energy futures for their residents and local communities. A 'sustainable energy' future where we benefit from...
 - ...being more in control of our energy demands and use;
 - ...making sure energy is not unnecessarily wasted;
 - ...moving away from fossil fuels to renewable and low-carbon supplies;
- Across the district's parishes there are already environmental groups and committed residents who are taking, or are keen to take, action locally to cut energy costs and tackle climate change. The Energy Partnership is able, via respective parish councils, to offer invaluable and funded direct support.

What exactly is on offer?

- By joining the South Cambs Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership your community will have direct access to a 'menu' of funded support measures that can be shaped to deliver the above benefits whilst fitting in with other local parish circumstances and objectives. The types of measures are outlined below under the categories of information and advice , communication , kit and equipment , and low-carbon thinking .

Specialist energy advice

- starting points, queries, signposting
- reference, information

Training

- visits, workshops, seminars

Grant support

- Government/supplier funds
- grant-finder, form-filling
- match-funding



Energy saving

- Low energy lightbulbs
- Computer powerdowns

Energy awareness

- Energy monitors
- Thermal imaging

Bulk purchase options

- Insulation, draught-proofing
- Renewables

Parish Energy Leaflet

- Community template – village tailoring

Home energy questionnaires

- Residential survey
- Mapping property types

Village events/showcases

- Carbon foot-printing
- Do-it-yourself
- Meet the installers



Community carbon counter

- Parish energy/carbon spreadsheet

Carbon Conversations

- Cambridge Carbon Footprint

On-line network

- Information bank
- Project publicity
- Experience sharing



Who does what?

- **South Cambridgeshire District Council** will...
 - ...allocate a support officer as the main co-ordinating point of contact between participating Parish Councils and the District Council;
 - ...appoint a specialist consultant to offer expert advice on local sustainable energy matters and to assist in running workshops and seminars as required (where requirements are shared such training may take the form of joint sessions involving representatives from more than one parish).
 - ...procure services and equipment as and when necessary to deliver the parish support options as outlined in the boxes on the previous page. Parishes can bring forward other locally appropriate support options that have not been initially included: these will be considered for approval by the District Council subject to available funds and priorities.
- **Parish Councils** wishing to join the partnership will need to...
 - 1...formally agree to participate in the South Cambridgeshire Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership (council minute).
 - 2...agree a 'sustainable energy' (or similar) parish councillor 'champion' to take sustainable energy issues forward on behalf of the parish council.
 - 3...establish or identify a sub-committee or working group (to include the parish councillor champion) that can develop, co-ordinate and mobilise members of the local community, local interest groups and residents. This co-ordinating body may wish to seek to co-opt enthusiastic residents from existing organisations and bodies within the parish (e.g. schools, businesses, church, library, surgery, W.I., social clubs etc.) as well as any especially committed individuals.
- Participating Parish Councils (with District Council assistance as requested) will then be in a position to develop, draft and deliver a sustainable energy action plan from the support options outlined on the previous page.
- Some parishes have already begun to plan a way forward and will be clear about the sort of support required. For others, this may be a newer agenda and the District Council can offer advice and discussion on the best first steps – tailored to suit local circumstances and capacities.

How does a Parish Council sign-up to participate?

- Enthusiastic parish councillors or local residents should request to have "*consideration of signing-up to the South Cambs Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership*" put on the agenda of the next Parish Council meeting.
- The content of this leaflet can be used as the basis for consideration and/or a representative of the District Council can be requested to attend to answer any questions or offer additional information.

If you have any queries or would like any further information on any of the matters raised within this leaflet then please contact Richard Hales at the District Council on 01954-713135 or e-mail at richard.hales@scambs.gov.uk