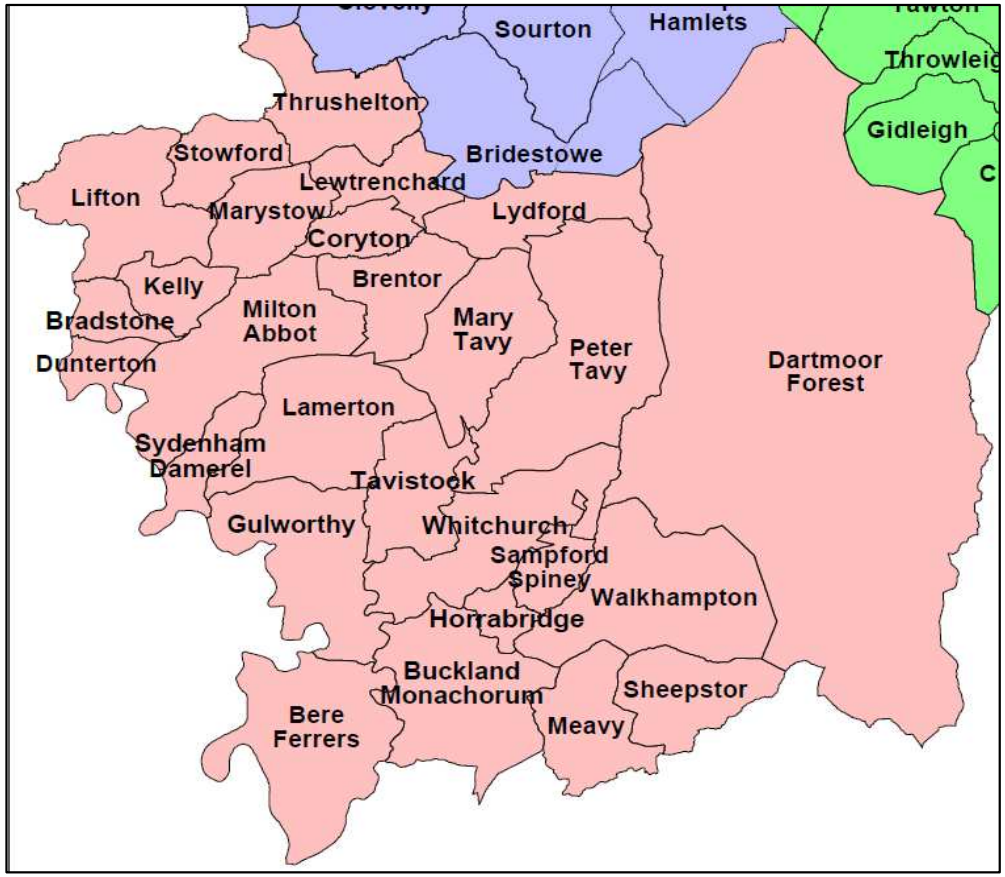
# Tavistock and District Local Economic Blueprint

Developed by Transition Tavistock

# Executive Summary - Introduction

- Our patterns of spending on food and energy have a significant impact on our local economy. The **Tavistock and District Local Economic Blueprint** evaluates how much is spent in these sectors, how much benefit this brings to the local economy, and what steps might be needed in order to achieve increasing proportions of our needs through local supply chains. The project was led by Transition Tavistock, www.transitiontavistock.org.uk with support from local public, business and community stakeholders.
- Spending on food and energy are essential to meet our everyday needs. Across Tavistock and District (TAD) this adds up to over £120m pa. Much of this is spent with large organisations based elsewhere.
- The question we're asking … Do we understand what benefits this brings to our local economy and communities, and what opportunities there are for these sectors to deliver more for our future health, wellbeing, resilience and prosperity?




## Geographical scope

- Tavistock and District, for the purposes of this study, includes all West Devon Borough Council Southern Link Parishes
- Population: 32,200 (PPSA estimates, West Devon 2012)
- Households: 13,481 (2011 Census Data)

# Executive Summary – Food and Drink 1

## Our vision

**A growing proportion of food and drink bought and served in the Tavistock area is produced locally, with the area known for attractive, affordable local produce.**

## Why it Matters

*"…over the past decades, there has been steady erosion in our food culture. However from field to fork, the food system remains* ***one of the biggest employment sectors*** *in the South West. It is also one of the* ***greatest single contributors to long term public health outcomes****, as well as to carbon emissions, biodiversity and waste; and to* ***skills development, community cohesion and resilience****."*
("The Future of Food in Plymouth")

## Recommendations for getting there

# Executive Summary - Food and Drink 2

## Headline findings

- Food choices affect our health, environment and economy. Despite our heritage as a food producing area we now get most of our food from large companies with national and international rather than regional or local supply chains.
- Food remains a significant part of our economy, with 2/3 of our land used for agriculture – mainly livestock – and hundreds of food businesses, from farms to restaurants, providing around 3000 local jobs.
- Over £80m a year is spent on food and drink by people living in or visiting the area. There is no direct measure of how much of this (is in any sense) locally produced. It seems likely that only a small amount is even from Devon or Cornwall. A marginal shift in the overall pattern could therefore retain significant funds in the local economy.
- £47m is spent on shopping for home consumption, mainly through a few supermarkets. Shoppers take some interest in the origin of food, but prioritise price and convenience. “Local origin” is attractive but undefined, with interpretation varying by person and product.
- Eating and drinking outside the home is a significant aspect of the local food economy. We estimate that it accounts for a further £35m of resident and tourist spend, spanning a wide range of outlets. Local sourcing often an explicit part of the cultural or quality offer.
- A number of independent businesses and public bodies source food locally as a matter of policy when they can get reliable supply and consistent quality. Supermarkets do not appear to source from local food producers to any significant extent.

# Executive Summary – Energy 1

## Our vision

We have a resilient network of locally owned and generated heat and power providing affordable energy. Our housing, new and old, is high quality and local energy generation and efficiency is an important source of employment.

## Why it Matters

*"… Community-owned projects keep money in the Devon economy and reinvigorate communities by bringing people together with a common purpose. Schemes are already operating in Plymouth, South Brent and Totnes."*
'Community Energy' from Devon County Council [E9)

## Recommendations for getting there

- Collaborate for a better local energy economy
- Encourage demand for retrofitting homes
- Support energy efficient new housing development
- Enable an adequate level of home comfort for all
- Develop opportunities for local supply networks
- Grow local energy generation capacity
- Develop the local biomass industry
- Strengthen local skills, businesses and supply chain

# Executive Summary – Energy 2

## Headline findings ...

- Energy is essential to our daily lives, health and wellbeing and accounts for about 5% of household expenditure. Domestic and non-domestic spend is approx. £40m per annum, much of which is spent with large national and international companies, leaving the local economy.
- We could cut this in half by reducing our usage, making our properties more energy efficient and ensuring new properties are built to meet high energy efficiency standards.
- To improve our existing housing we need to invest around £20m for basic improvement, £100m to achieve a high standard. £7m should be invested as a priority to support those in fuel poverty to improve inadequate levels of home comfort. These improvements could generate 50 to 950 jobs.
- Our natural resources could support more local energy generation. Whilst wind and large scale solar may not be feasible in the short term, small scale solar and hydro have potential. Community owned schemes retain local benefit; and short to medium term grid constraints are leading to innovation in local supply networks and storage which can increase local benefit further.
- Locally generated heat has promise. An extensive programme of biomass, heat pump and solar hot water installations could provide 40% of local need.
- A biomass supply and distribution network could be developed. W. Devon's hedges alone, if farmed for fuel, could heat up to 800 farmhouses, producing wood chip to a value in excess of £1.2m pa, and generating lots of livelihoods. This network could supply clusters of homes/businesses, or large organisations such as colleges, sharing heat infrastructure (district heating). Such schemes could be developed and managed by the community.
- Whilst there are many excellent tradespeople across the area, there is a need to attract more skilled people versed in newer techniques and technologies, or provide support for those keen to develop.

# A note about food recommendations

This report presents recommendations and suggests agents who could take them forward. The agreed actions, with more detail, will be in a separate, dynamic, action plan.

We are grateful to the organisations who have contributed case studies. These are included to illustrate successful initiatives already being taken that are relevant to our headline recommendations. They do not imply that the organisation endorses this report in full. Case studies should not be reproduced in another context without agreement of the organisation featured.

The "Inspiration and Resources" page that follows lists some of the many resources which can provide guidance, training or case studies from further afield. Those highlighted under each recommendation are just indicative.

| Key | "Agent" involved |
|---|---|
| CG | Community groups eg gardening clubs, faith groups, youth organisations. |
| DCC | Devon County Council |
| FHE | Further and higher education providers with relevant local catchment |
| LFB | Local food & drink businesses (facilitated by eg Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses) |
| MED | Local media |
| NDCCG | New Devon Clinical Commissioning Group |
| PC | Parish Councils |
| SCH | Schools |
| SE | Social entrepreneurs |
| ToB | Tourism businesses |
| TrT | Transition Tavistock |
| TTC | Tavistock Town Council |
| TTT | Tavistock Town Team |
| WDBC | West Devon Borough Council |

# R1: Collaborate for a better local food economy

## Explanation

This supports the other recommendations, as no stakeholder can achieve them alone. It also enables a more holistic approach, e.g. encouraging healthy food choices and reducing waste.

## Potential actions

a) Ensure that food & drink are considered within the work of existing partnerships covering Tavistock, e.g. for health, children or tourism.

b) Support and promote to Tavistock wider Devon or sub-regional food policy networks.

c) Keep in touch with relevant developments elsewhere.

d) Identify a lead contact to champion the food recommendations of this blueprint.

## Agents

DCC (a,b,c), FHE(a,b,c), LFB(a,b,c), PC(a,b), SCH(a,c), ToB(a,b), TrT(c) TTC (a,b), TTT(a,b,c), WDBC (a,b,d)

## Inspiration

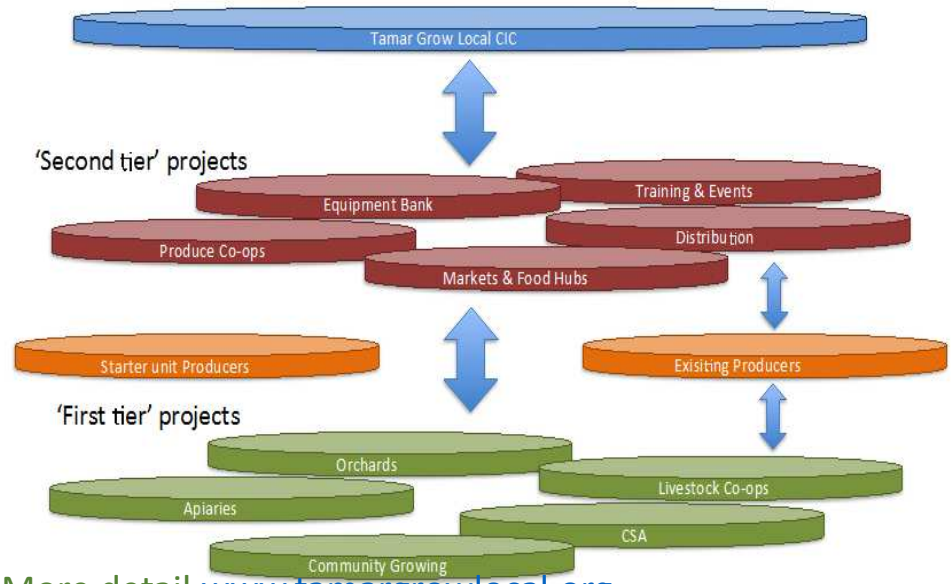
Food Plymouth, Transition Network

### Case study: Tamar Grow Local

TGL is a co-operative Community Interest Company established 2007, as an umbrella organisation promoting local food and produce in the Tamar river catchment. Core activities are focused around community, commercial and educational agendas, although these are frequently combined and self-supporting. Partners include Plymouth Community Homes.

TGL has established and supported over 20 different local food initiatives in the Tamar Valley to re-invigorate production and engagement in food growing. Communities participate in a network that connects food with wider landscape management, health and wellbeing benefits. Projects are also 'nested' within each other to maximise mutual support and economies of scale.

TGL runs a successful retail food hub and is piloting a wholesale food hub, which would encourage small producers to scale up.




More detail [www.tamargrowlocal.org](http://www.tamargrowlocal.org)

# R2: Enable growth through public policy

## Explanation

Public bodies can use their decision making and spending power either to enable or discourage development of the local food economy. This is not only through policies such as spatial planning and economic development, but also through the procurement policies they apply themselves or require of contractors.

## Potential actions

a) Ensure that planning and economic policies enable the survival and growth of a range of viable food shops in the town centre, neighbourhoods and village, with the independence to be able to source from local suppliers.

b) Ensure new housing developments include food shops and space for growing and allotments.

c) Protect and promote access to land for growing food, including community growing projects.

d) In procurement for public services, ensure selection criteria value healthy and sustainable food from local producers and suppliers, and that it is easy for small suppliers to know about and apply for opportunities.

## Agents

DCC (c,d,e), NDCCG (c), PC(a,b,c), SCH(d), TTC(d), WDBC(a,b,c,d)

## Inspiration

Devon Food Strategy, Food for Life

## Case study: DevonNorse

Joint venture company involving Norse Commercial Services and Devon CC, with base in Exeter and over 1300 staff. Facilities management and contract services across much of the South West. Supplies the majority of school meals in Devon

Aims to support local growers, producers and business services. Although a number of elements of procurement are carried out at a national level , decisions are weighted favourably to local production wherever possible. Local sourcing is a criterion in the tendering process for suppliers. Local is interpreted as Devon or neighbouring counties.

### Achievements / benefits

- Substantial use of locally sourced fresh vegetables and salads in season, eggs and fresh meat. All beef currently from Devon.
- Sponsoring a 2015 Taste of the West award for a school or college committed to sourcing local produce and to educating its pupils about healthy, locally-sourced food and drink.
- National environmental policy eg with mileage reduction targets.

### Challenges

- The scale of operation in the south west means that suppliers have to be able to provide their produce over a large geographical area, eg Cornwall, Devon and Somerset.
- Unable to obtain sufficient supply of pork from Devon.

More detail www.devonnorse.co.uk.

# R3: Encourage demand for local food

## Explanation

Retailers respond to clear and growing demand from customers. Without this they have no incentive to overcome the barriers to local sourcing of what they sell, and so local producers remain unable to access the local market, reducing consumer choice.

## Potential actions

a) Include celebration of local food, particularly seasonal produce, in festivals and events.

b) Support community groups which own kitchens to maintain good facilities suitable for locally prepared shared meals.

c) Promote local supply as allowing portions to be chosen by the consumer, avoiding the waste from multi-buy deals.

d) Display source information clearly and attractively in shops and restaurants.

e) Encourage take up of Food for Life or a similar programme in schools and care facilities.

f) Publicise inspiration for growing and using local food, eg recipes, seasonal tips, lifestyle advice, producer stories.

g) Feature local foods and food businesses within tourism promotion for the Tavistock area.

h) Promote local provenance as a quality / prestige choice for significant individual events, eg wedding catering.

## Agents

DCC(a,b,e,g), ToB(a,g), TTC(a,b,g,h), TTT(a,c,d,g), LFB(a,d,f), ToB(a,f,g,h), SCH(a,e), CG(a), MED(f,h), WDBC(a,b,e,g)

## Inspiration

Fife Diet, Local to Ludlow, Tamar Valley Food Hubs, Taste of the West,

## Case study: Food and Drink Devon

Food & Drink Devon supports its business members to promote quality, provenance, sustainability and trading across the food and drink sector in the county. It has over 250 members, including cookery schools, hotels, speciality retailers and farmers markets.

Achievements / benefits:

- Grown from a South Hams initiative started with public funding in the 1990s to a self-supporting member run company.
- Transparent qualifying criteria for membership aiming to ensure a good quality, truly local product.
- Member networking through events, newsletters and online.
- Publishes and distributes a free annual guidebook “Love the Flavour” – target 60,000 copies in 2015.
- Online promotion through own online directory and partnership with “foodie” and tourism websites.
- Annual awards programme to encourage excellence and raise awareness.

## More detail

www.lovetheflavour.co.uk

# R4: Reduce barriers to buying local food

## Explanation

Barriers to buying local food include real or perceived difficulties in finding it at the price, quality, ease and enjoyment of shopping that makes it an attractive choice. While national chains have access to sophisticated customer research, small businesses traditionally depend on word of mouth reputation and may be unaware of the views of those who do not buy from them.

## Potential actions

a) Undertake research to identify factors that attract or hinder local food sourcing, covering local residents and visitors, and both home consumption and eating out.

b) Facilitate access to information about outlets for local food.

c) Provide examples of locally sourced meal deals or basket comparisons to reassure consumers on value for money.

d) Recognise excellent customer service by independent retailers and encourage them to identify and address any customer concerns about quality of product or service – eg through shared customer feedback schemes.

e) Investigate the feasibility of town centre shops collaborating in a store & delivery scheme so that customers are not limited by what they can carry.

## Agents

LFB(a,b,c,d,e), MED(b,c,d), SCH/FHE(a,c,d), ToB(a,b,d), TTC (a,b,d,e), TTT(a,b,c,d,e), SE(e), WDBC(a,b)

## Inspiration

Hubbub, Independent Retail, Tamar Grow Local

## Case study:

## Tavistock Farmers' Market

The idea of a farmers market came out of a sustainable food project by WestDEN. It is run by a volunteer Market Association with a philosophy based around local food as well as contributing to the vitality of Tavistock as a market town.

Achievements / Benefits:

- Successfully trading fortnightly since 2000
- Outlet for 18 independent businesses at various sizes and stages of maturity
- Regularly nominated for awards

Challenges:

- Local and high welfare produce is more readily available from other outlets and the internet. Limited trading times.
- Perception of 'expensive' in comparison to supermarkets.
- Relationships with other town centre outlets are nurtured but fragile – can be seen as an unfair trading advantage by shops as rent not charged for Bedford Square.

More Detail www.tavistockfarmersmarket.com

# R5: Help businesses grow and collaborate

## Explanation

Food businesses are increasingly polarised between very large and micro level, with few mid scale. To grow a vibrant local food economy, small businesses need to grow, and more start. Collaboration gives strength in facing opportunities and challenges, growing workforce skills, and influencing consumers. Major companies in and outside the sector can show responsibility in aiding this.

## Potential actions

a) Review which networks and advice sources for food businesses are active in the area and what they offer.

b) Facilitate informal local networking to help food producers meet potential suppliers and business customers, and to raise awareness of relevant county and regional membership networks.

c) Encourage small businesses to access and use information to help them understand and respond to changing consumer expectations, eg for convenience and online shopping.

d) Raise awareness of accessible sources of training and advice in food production.

e) Include food & drink examples, and the benefits of collaboration, in business case studies at schools.

f) Ensure that training and advice for small businesses covers factors important to growing the local food economy, such as the nature of the local market and the advantages of collaborative working.

g) Enable small and start up food businesses to have mentoring and practical help from large firms as they grow.

## Agents

DCC(b,c,d,e,f), FHE(a,b,c,d,e,f,g), LFB(b,c,d,e), MED(d), SCH(d,e), TTT(a,b), WDBC (a,b,d,e,f).

## Inspiration

Duchy College, Plymouth University, Tamar Grow Local

## Case study: Dartmoor Farmers Ltd.

Co-operative of 50 beef and lamb farmers in Dartmoor National Park. High animal welfare and environmental standards, including use of native breeds of livestock reared using traditional extensive farming methods of husbandry. Selling to butchers and hospitality outlets around Dartmoor and South Hams, and direct online sale of boxes.

Achievements / benefits:

- Animals maintain the landscape for tourism.
- Award winning premium brand adding value to local farm products.
- All aspects of the local supply chain supported eg slaughterhouse, butchery and pie manufacture.
- Use small local business support services as seen to understand the business and share its values.

Challenges:

- Brand values limit supply, as not all farmers on Dartmoor use the breeds or husbandry methods required.
- Would like to expand while keeping brand values and consistency. More support education and understanding of the principles of cooperation would help.

More detail www.dartmoorfarmers.co.uk

# R6: Facilitate home and community growing

## Explanation

People growing their own food not only obtain some produce by the shortest possible supply route, but also gain a wider appreciation of the relationship between food, soil and the seasons. Community growing schemes can widen access and bring social benefits, including affordable fresh fruit and vegetables for those on low incomes.

### Potential actions

a) Ensure cooking, growing skills and farm visits are part of every child's education.

b) Encourage all age groups to develop their skills in growing and preparing food.

c) Offer 1-1 coaching in food growing - a potential social enterprise.

d) Raise awareness of models available for new community owned food growing projects, and of opportunities to join local ones.

### Agents

CG(a,b,c,d), FHE(b,d), MED(b,d), SCH(a), SE(c,d)

### Resources / inspiration

Community Supported Agriculture, HOGCO, Open Farm Sunday, Roots to Transition

## Case study: Buckland Food Growers Ltd.

A community group in Buckland Monachorum, set up in 2011 as an Industrial and Provident Society. Aims to grow and nurture food, sharing the work and sharing the produce, with surplus sold locally.

Achievements / benefits:

- Partnership with National Trust to use land productively.
- Six produce groups running: bees, chickens, cider, pigs, sheep and vegetables.
- Around 50 local residents directly involved, and wider interest and recognition

Challenges:

- Learning new skills as scope of project expands
- Regular time commitment involved.

More detail www.bucklandfoodgrowers.co.uk

# Proposed way forward – Energy Recommendations

- Collaborate for a better local energy economy
- Encourage demand for retrofitting homes
- Support energy efficient new housing development
- Enable an adequate level of home comfort for all
- Develop opportunities for local supply networks
- Grow local energy generation capacity
- Develop the local biomass industry
- Strengthen local skills, businesses and supply chain

# R1: Collaborate for a better local energy economy

## Explanation

This supports the other recommendations, as no stakeholder can achieve them alone. It also enables a more holistic approach, e.g. ensuring that the need for local generation is offset by reductions in demand.

## Potential actions

a) Support development of an area wide network of energy related stakeholders and businesses to enable further research, where necessary, build supply chain capacity, and consider an ambitious programme to encourage local energy use reduction and generation.

b) Ensure that local energy resilience (reduction and generation) is considered within the work of existing partnerships covering Tavistock, e.g. for health, families or heritage.

c) Ensure Tavistock is linked to, and learning from, wider Devon and regional energy networks, keeping in touch with relevant developments.

d) Provide clear, accessible and independent information to local residents and businesses about local energy reduction and generation … including local case studies which can be used as best practice. Support with easy wins such as bulk discount schemes.

e) Identify a lead contact to champion the energy recommendations of this blueprint.

### Inspiration

Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network (WREN), Plymouth City Council and Plymouth Energy Community, Transition Tavistock and Tamar Energy Community

### Case study: SW Devon Community Energy Partnership

The SW Devon CEP is a unique network bringing together community groups (incl. Transition Tavistock and Tamar Energy Community) and local authority representatives from across W. Devon, S. Hams, Teignbridge, Torbay, Plymouth and Dartmoor National Park; and is working towards a sustainable future for the area's energy.

The Partnership's purpose includes:

- develop an energy plan for the region.
- facilitating implementation of sustainability measures and inform local authority development plans
- providing a supportive and learning network between partnership members
- developing the capacity and capability of the individual groups and the local authority in energy reduction and generation

### Achievements and benefits

Since its formation in 2012 the SWD CEP has commissioned a strategic energy study for the area; and developed initiatives including tools to provide impartial advice on energy efficiency and renewable energy. These are being used within the Communities on a day to day basis.

The success of the Partnership encouraged Devon County Council, the Energy Saving Trust and others to make funding available to support the groups activities.

The peer to peer support and funding has so far led to the creation of three Community Benefit Societies – community enterprises who plan to return benefit back to their communities from local energy generation and reduction.

**More detail** www.swdcep.org.uk

# R2: Encourage demand for retrofitting homes

## Explanation

Much of our housing stock is energy inefficient and requires a range of measures to reduce power requirements and heat loads. Our area also has a lot of properties which are off gas and/or have a poor Energy Performance Rating (F/G) and are likely to have higher than average energy costs. Householders tend to be reluctant to retrofit for a number of reasons including affordability, uncertainty about what to do, mistrust of tradespeople etc.

## Potential actions

a) Improve householder knowledge, confidence and trust through providing good quality independent advice and tools on options and how to implement them.

b) Develop pilots around different options to help demonstrate feasibility e.g. Bedford Cottage solutions

c) Identify householder barriers e.g. need to clear loft and develop mitigating options e.g. a volunteer loft clearing team

d) Identify financing options e.g. Building Society, Credit Unions, Wessex Loans, other community solutions

e) Investigate, and raise awareness of solutions to incentivise landlords and tenants, and provide support to these groups

f) Support local social housing landlords and encourage local investment in improvements through local supply chains … and exchange of knowledge between them and others sectors

g) Identify ways in which the worst performing properties can be prioritised

h) Develop volunteer programmes such as 'draught busting' which build skills for employment (e.g to local handypeople)

### Inspiration

Transition Streets; Totnes Draughtbusters; Green Open Homes and Energy Fairs; Making Ashburton-style homes Fit For the Future ; Plymouth university eViz project; Plymouth Energy Community; Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network; Tamar Valley Volunteers (Helping Hands programme); Green Doctor programme from Groundwork

## Case study: Plymouth Energy Community – External Wall Insulation

Plymouth Energy Community successfully bid for Green Communities funding from DECC. This has enabled a scheme to be put in place to help private properties in Plymouth receive grants of £4200 towards installing external solid wall insulation.

The scheme has involved working in partnership with Plymouth City Council, British Gas and local installers; and has been supported by an extensive social media campaign.

## Achievements and benefits

The initiative had a slow start, with householders initially reluctant to participate.

Householder satisfaction with installations has been high and this has encouraged participants through 'word of mouth'.

More local and trusted installers have been involved in the project recently and have invested in community engagement. This has led to a steady stream of enquiries and the scheme is now fully subscribed.

A householder: *"For the first time in years my daughter and I have been able to turn the heating down and switch off our small heaters. Before we got the insulation I was constantly painting over black mould and now we don't have any damp or mould issues, even when it rains! Our home is quieter and we've noticed a good improvement on our bills …"*

**More detail:** http://www.plymouthenergycommunity.com/saving/get-external-wall-insulation

# R3: Support energy efficient new housing development

## Explanation

With domestic heat requirements forming a major part of our national emissions, and with rising fuel costs, it is essential that any new developments invest in design and build to minimise or eliminate the need for supplementary heating.

## Potential actions

a) Support neighbourhood planning, parish councils and other related groups with good quality information wrt. importance and value of good quality energy efficient design

b) Encourage development of Community Land Trusts (CLTs)

c) Encourage self build, passive design, co-operative housing and other alternative housing options.

d) Work with developers at an early stage to encourage more energy efficient design

e) Work with local stakeholders to recommend to WDBC that a local design panel to support developments is established

f) Where developers are required to make local community investments, provide local energy-related options

## Inspiration

Atmos development in Totnes; Totnes Community Homes; Broadhempston Community Land Trust;

## Case study: Broadhempston Community Land Trust

A self-build, affordable and ecological Community Land Trust project. The six houses are timber frame, use straw bales as insulation and are heated naturally by the sun throughout most of the year.

The houses are allocated to local people who could not afford a house on the open market in Broadhempston and an ownership arrangement is in place to retain the homes for local people.

## Achievements and benefits

The self builders are a mutually supportive network of people committed to remaining in the local community.

Their young children will enjoy growing up together on a child friendly site and contribute to keeping the local school open.

The group will have acquired useful sustainable building skills which can be used for community benefit or their own business.

Wherever possible local materials and tradespeople have been used, supporting the local economy.

More detail: http://broadhempstonclt.com/

# R4: Enable an adequate level of home comfort for all

## Explanation

There are many members of our community who are not in a position to enjoy adequate levels of home comfort including heat and power. This is detrimental to the health and wellbeing of the entire area. In particular attention is needed to help alleviate fuel poverty, address damp in homes and support the elderly, vulnerable and children.

## Potential actions

a) Provide a local home visit programme

b) Provide local support and advice on how to reduce energy bills and improve home comfort; and signpost to supporting services including the Fuel Debt Service.

c) Drive up participation in Warm Front and other support schemes and work with local agencies, social housing providers and others to ensure information is made available and referrals made for support

d) Promote options for natural materials in homes particularly where problems exist around intolerances and allergies

e) Develop easy wins such as bulk discount e.g. oil clubs

## Inspiration

Plymouth Energy Community, Citizens Advice Service, Advantage SW, Devon and Cornwall Housing, Totnes Caring

## Case study: PEC Energy Team

In Plymouth fuel poverty is rising. An estimated 15,400 households are classed as fuel poor, a percentage markedly higher than the national average. Plymouth City Council has supported Plymouth Energy Community (PEC) to set up the PEC Energy Team to help tackle this.

It aims to:

- Increase community action to tackle cold, damp homes
- Provide one to one support to the vulnerable through home visits
- Sustainably lower ongoing fuel costs and energy use (switching and efficiency)
- Reduce fuel debt

## Achievements and benefits

Since the project's launch:

- 44 local volunteers have been trained in fuel poverty and energy awareness to the point that they are able to change their own circumstances for the better as well as those of friends and family
- 30 local agencies have been introduced to our services, refer clients and accept referrals back – ensuring that the most vulnerable are reached
- Over 2300 residents have been given bespoke energy advice this year
- As a result, an estimated £140k will go back into the local economy through savings made
- 100 households have been helped through ongoing casework and advocacy
- Residents that once reported feeling helpless and anxious at the start of our services are now reporting overall improvement in financial, physical and mental wellbeing

## More detail

http://www.plymouthenergycommunity.com/saving/the-energy-team

# R5: Develop options to distribute and manage our energy locally and smartly!

## Explanation

Local energy generation will be constrained by limited grid capacity unless alternative arrangements can be found. This is an opportunity for local innovation.

With the rollout of smart metering, storage, continuous development of community energy and other innovations there are growing opportunities to develop local supply networks connecting local people direct to local generators.

This will enable the local community to retain growing amounts of the £30m energy spend across the area.

## Potential actions

a) Research opportunities in storage, local grid management and local decentralised [supply] networks with organisations such as Western Power Distribution, Anahat Energy and RegenSW.

b) Develop local pilots and partnerships to enable the local area to take advantage of the early innovation and investment opportunities

c) Develop case studies of off grid households and businesses and learn lessons

d) Provide clear and accessible information to the community to improve knowledge and understanding of the options.

## Inspiration

Wadebridge Sunshine Tariff, Anahat Energy, Western Power Distribution, Smart Cornwall

## Case study: Smart Cornwall

In order to ensure a successful transition to alternative energy sources, local electricity delivery systems need to be radically modernised. Cornwall is aiming to achieve this through the large scale delivery of a Smart Grid infrastructure.

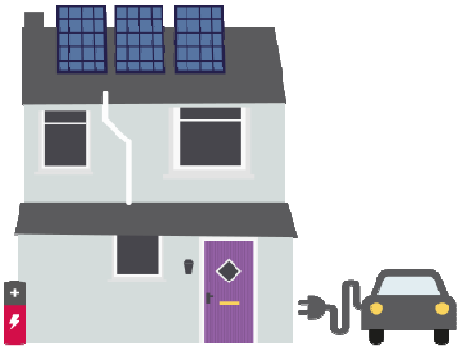
A smart grid network will enable a two way flow of energy and information, which will expose and eliminate waste and inefficiencies from the system – empowering consumers to interact directly with the grid and increase capacity through more efficient power production and delivery.

The SMART Cornwall programme has the potential to drive green growth in the region. Providing opportunities for local and international businesses to develop innovative new products and services, it will support the creation of approximately 3000 new green jobs by 2020.

SMART Cornwall will also support communities by allowing them to retain much of the estimated £1.2bn annual energy spend within the region.

## More detail:

www.smartcornwall.org



# R6: Grow local energy generation capacity

## Explanation

There is significant potential to expand local generation of power (electricity) and heat, utilising local resources, in a sympathetic way. Local generation significantly improves the area's resilience to energy shocks and retains energy spend within the local community.

Local generation also has a positive impact on energy reduction

## Potential actions

a) Put in place a map / database of what's installed already. Understand our current 'network' of heat and power generation across the area and look at opportunities for further appropriate growth to build upon this.

b) Undertake a Tavistock & District wide study of generation potential based on what could be achievable; and identify the significant energy users and generators across the area who could act as anchors

c) Work with stakeholders to undertake an ambitious programme to encourage micro-renewables and storage for heat and power supported by clear and accessible information and advice

d) Prioritise / target off grid and difficult to heat properties plus new developments properties

e) Develop and support community scale and owned generation schemes across the area including solar roofs and hydro.

f) Support development of district heating and development of 1 or 2 district heating pilots.

g) Work with W. Devon BC, DNPA, TV AONB, SW Devon Community Energy Partnership and others to ensure complementary planning and other enabling factors are in place

h) Support through comprehensive community engagement and local case studies

## Inspiration

South Brent Community Energy Society, Plymouth Energy Community, RegenSW and Communities for Renewables, Devon County Council, Tamar Energy Community

## Case study: South Brent Community Energy Society

The Community of S. Brent embarked on an initiative to install a community owned wind turbine to provide locally generated electricity, and return benefit to support community buildings and local fuel poverty.

Led by a small, dedicated, volunteer team, the journey took 10 years from conception to installation working closely with a local landowner. The initiative was supported by extensive consultation and the proposal was able to go through planning with no objections.

South Brent is proud of its achievement. The V27 turbine was funded through a community share offer that raised £430,000 from community investors, from small to large, and the operation and management of the turbine is supported locally. The V27 offsets the electricity consumption of around 80 homes.

The society also installed a 9.88kWp solar array on the South Brent Recreation Association's pavilion building which, together with other energy saving measures, has halved the association's electricity bills.

## Achievements and Benefits:

To 31st October 2015 the wind turbine has generated 655MWh providing a return to local investors and setting aside almost £12,000 for the community benefit fund, which initially will be used to improve the energy efficiency of South Brent's community buildings.

South Brent Community Energy Society is now supporting other community energy groups who have similar ambitions.

## More detail:

http://www.sbces.org.uk/

1st South Brent Cub Scouts learning about renewable energy and recycling as part of their Global Challenge Award, July 2015, one of a number of visits to the wind turbine hosted by the society

# R7: Develop the local biomass industry

## Explanation

We have a wealth of natural resources across our area which could be developed to support a vibrant local biomass industry; this could also support improvement in local biodiversity as well as enable new jobs and economic benefit back into the community

## Potential actions

a) Develop local partnership to revisit business case for woodfuel hub(s) and facilitate a oal woodfuel network

b) Facilitate the return of hedges and small woodlands back into management to supply local biomass and market for other wood products.

c) Provide good quality information to consumers (householders, businesses, farmers etc.) about biomass heating and biomass feedstocks (wood and other energy crops)

d) Encourage, where appropriate, biomass for district / community heating for new and existing developments

## Inspiration

Wood for Good, Dartmoor Wood Fuel Co-operative, Liz's Logs, TV AONB and Cordiale

## Case study: Dartmoor Wood Fuel Co-operative

Dartmoor Woodfuel co-operative was set up in 2009 by a group of like minded Dartmoor residents. It's based at Brimpts Farm, near Dartmeet, in the heart of the Dartmoor National Park

Our intention is to unlock the potential of the small woodland resource available locally, reducing the transportation of bio-energy within the region and improving the bio-diversity of these woods.

Our aims:

- To encourage local boiler installations and woodland owners to collaborate which will enable us to take the co-operative forward in promoting bio-mass and the environmental benefit.
- Reduce carbon emissions by using sustainably managed woodlands and improving their bio-diversity
- Develop public awareness of renewable energy and encourage eco-tourism around Dartmoor

Andy Bradfod "The original idea was to meet the needs of the farm but by forming the Cooperative it has been possible to develop the means to develop a more secure fuel supply at stable prices. This has been achieved by forward buying local timber and acquiring a range of equipment to enable the timber to processed and delivered as chip. "

"Prime wood is processed at a local sawmill providing high quality building products whilst the lower value timber is chipped. This realises the 'whole value' - a key part of the co-operative's ethos."

From growth to processing some of our wood has travelled less than 1 mile!

## More detail http://www.dartmoorwoodfuel.co.uk/

# R8: Strengthen local skills, businesses and supply chain

## Explanation

The last 5 to 10 years in particular have seen significant improvements in understanding how properties should be improved for breathability and air tightness; and use of locally generated energy. However, the building trade is not subject to continual professional development (CPD) in the UK and are not always up to date.

There is a need to strengthen the skills and experience of our existing base of businesses with these new techniques and technologies; and there may be opportunities for new entrants to the local market.

This could be facilitated by a local energy and building related business network, providing opportunities for exchanging best practice and developing local supply chain links. There may also be opportunities to develop the market for locally supplied materials etc.

## Potential actions

a) Develop a directory of local tradespeople and signpost support to assist them in meeting local consumer need; and work with FSB and Chamber to facilitate a network supporting business development, upskilling, cross selling and bidding for bigger work e.g. local public contracts.

b) Assess and understand local skills base and capabilities and how these could be developed and improved e.g. through builders breakfasts.

c) Undertake a gap analysis and identify where there is a need for particular expertise e.g. cavity wall insulation to support local supply for each required technology as appropriate.

d) Look at feasibility of stimulating new social enterprises in DIY, building etc. to help fill gaps

e) Work with RegenSW, SW Energy Centre and others to highlight training available and look at options for local provision and funding for this

f) Develop local supply chains for building materials, services etc. and look at opportunities for local building materials.

g) Help spark innovation e.g. in locally produced products – collaborate with others across Devon and Cornwall

## Inspiration

Ready for Retrofit, RegenSW, SW Energy Centre

## Case study: Ready for Retrofit

Together with the Energy Saving Trust and other key regional partners, Regen SW took the lead in providing intensive business support to over 600 south west based businesses in the construction, energy efficiency and micro-renewable sectors via the European funded programme, "Ready for Retrofit."

The vision was to create a sustainable domestic energy efficiency and microgeneration sector in the south west, capable of delivering a massive refurbishment of south west housing stock, and benefiting in full from national finance mechanisms to 2020, such as Feed in Tariffs, Renewable Heat Incentive, Green Deal and the new Energy Company Obligation.

The £10m Ready for Retrofit programme helped local businesses prepare for the refurbishment of tens of thousands of homes by 2020.

**ready for retrofit**
warmer greener homes

- 1400 measures installed
- 177 jobs created (76 safeguarded)
- 25 open homes/energy fairs funded
- Industry turnover of £1.1bn p.a.

energy saving trust regensw delivering sustainable energy

EUROPEAN UNION
Investing in Your Future
European Regional Development Fund 2007-13

More detail: http://www.regensw.co.uk/our-work/micro-renewables-and-energy-efficiency-in-buildings/ready-for-retrofit/

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  - Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Our stakeholder team
- Our sector experts and advisors
- Our volunteers and supporters including our Treasurer and Dart Print

# Next steps

Through co-operation and collaboration we can achieve the vision we've jointly developed … and ensure we live in a flourishing and resilient community.

If you are able to offer help in taking the recommendations forward, do get in touch with the project team via info@transitiontavistock.org.uk via the website (www.transitiontavistock.org.uk) or call 07969-569-444.

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