



## PRESS RELEASE

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> April 2008

For Immediate Release

### IT PAYS TO BE GREEN

**A retired salvage diver from Port Isaac has won a year's council tax simply by replying to an energy efficiency survey.**

Seventy four year old Bob Monk was presented with a cheque for £1015 from local charity Community Energy Plus (CEP).

CEP's director, Ian Smith, said the prize had helped to boost the response rate for the survey, which was delivered to 50,000 homes across Cornwall: Poorly insulated homes damage the environment and are expensive to run. This survey has shown us which homes cause the biggest problems; helping us to achieve our goals of tackling climate change and fighting fuel poverty.

Solid granite walls are difficult to insulate, whilst mains gas is unavailable in many rural areas. Combined with low incomes, this leaves a third of Cornwall's households in fuel poverty. Cold homes are also a major cause of illness, according to North Cornwall District Council's Environmental Health Officer, Gilly Hooper:

We have been working closely with CEP to encourage home-owners and landlords to improve energy efficiency. Grants and interest free loans are available, many without means-testing.

Mr Monk's cottage in Port Isaac is a typical hard to treat property. Despite fitting energy efficient light bulbs, double glazing and insulation wherever possible, the cost of bottled gas to heat the property keeps on rising:

We've worked hard over the years to make every economy I can, says Mr Monk, we even gather driftwood to burn during the winter. Protecting the planet is part of it, but like most people my biggest reason for saving energy is to save money.

Free, impartial information and advice is available from CEP's Energy Efficiency Advice Centre by calling 0800 512012.

-ENDS

#### Notes to editors

Attached photo: CEP director Ian Smith meets Bob Monk in Wadebridge to pay his council tax bill.



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CEP is a registered charity (Number 1068990) and profit-  
less company limited by guarantee, established in 1998 with financial support from Carrick District  
Council, the Cornwall Council, the Cornwall Council of Scilly Health Authority and the Energy Saving Trust.  
CEP manages the international award-winning\* Home Health project which was  
developed by the 72 members of the Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership.

- CEP is the lead partner of the **Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership** (founded in 2001), which is a consortium of 72 organisations from the public, private and health sectors. The Partnership is committed to a multi sector approach to a sustainable energy future for Cornwall. It is the first partnership of its kind in the UK and is providing a model for other parts of the UK. [www.csep.co.uk](http://www.csep.co.uk)
- CEP manages the **Cornwall Energy Efficiency Advice Centre** supported by the Energy Saving Trust (EST) and the County and District Authorities of Cornwall. It is one of 52 independent centres across the UK, providing free, impartial and locally relevant advice to households. Please call free on **0800 512012**.
- \* On the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2005, Community Energy Plus was recognised by the prestigious international **Ashden Awards** in the UK Energy Efficiency category for its Home Health project, which has installed nearly three and a half thousand energy efficient measures into Cornish homes.

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