

Welcome to our Spring 2018 edition of Link to Energy news! The newsletter which offers you an update on the Severn Wye projects, services and opportunities that you can get involved with, contribute to and benefit from.

In this edition, we take a look at **grant funded opportunities** as part of Target 2020; future developments with **Build to Low Carbon**; innovative plaster from Link to Energy member **Adaptavate**; and a new, ethical way to **switch utilities** with **WyeSwitch**.

If you have any comments, suggestions for future articles, or would like to feature as a member in our 'installer focus' section please get in touch.

With grants for energy saving measures covering 35% of the installation cost, the business energy team are providing advice to children's nurseries, funeral providers and everything in-between!

The Dumbleton village club at the northern edge of Gloucestershire have recently employed Link to Energy installers **TKR Refrigeration** and **MyPower UK** to make improvements following their Target 2020 survey.

Challenged with a poorly insulated 1960's building that has been extended over the years, they also had a 40 year old oil boiler and high cellar refrigeration costs.

The improvements made to the premises included:

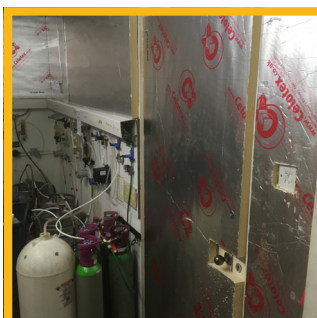
- Replacement of the old cellar cooling unit with an **ambient cellar cooling system**
- **Air to air heat pumps** fitted to replace the oil boiler
- **Insulation** added to the loft and beer cellar walls
- Energy saving **controls added** to the python drinks cooler and drinks fridges



Ambient cooling for the beer cellar



Air to air heat pumps to replace old oil system



Loft insulation, insulation and draft proofing of the beer cellar



Simple controls on the drinks coolers

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These improvements have resulted in a 30% reduction on their annual energy spend, carbon emissions have dropped by over 11 tonnes a year whilst they have also benefitted from close to £6,000 of Target 2020 grant funding.

As Ben Harrison, Vice Chairman of the club reflects:



£1,618 saved per year



£5,820 awarded



11.35 tonnes saved



The club was about to embark on a cheaper (but much more expensive to run) installation of electric panel heaters. This opportunity for grants on low energy technology has resulted in a larger initial investment, but one which will actually pay back rather than cost more over time. We have a much warmer club now and are forging ahead with further improvements.



If you are quoting SMEs in Gloucestershire or Worcestershire for improvements that will increase the energy efficiency of their premises, **you could be offering your clients a 35% saving on the cost of the work.**

A Target 2020 grant makes your quote stand out, offers the client better payback times, and frees up client's funds for larger or further work. Check out the Target 2020 website - target2020.co.uk - or get in touch with the business team on 01452 835060, or email neilt@severnwyte.org.uk to see how you could offer your customers additional support and funding.



Target 2020 is a business energy efficiency programme funded by the European Regional Development fund and will support up to 500 businesses in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire.



EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

Build2LC develops action plan



The Build to Low Carbon (Build2LC) countywide action plan has been drafted by a wide range of stakeholders, including members of Link to Energy, and covers a wide range of issues related to domestic energy retrofit including health, finance, education and supporting installers. The key elements of the plan relevant to the Link to Energy network are:

- Creating installer advice cards to support installers in quality assurance, risks of thermal upgrades and technical support regarding construction technology, building pathology, and building type.
- Developing a module to support Level 2 Maintenance students at SGS College to have a holistic approach to building maintenance including and understanding of fuel poverty and referral mechanisms.
- Providing support to installers regarding procurement procedures and bid writing.
- Promoting approved accreditations and insurance to installers and residents and provide support about the new Each Home Counts 'Trust Mark' requirements.
- Developing a quality assurance process for Link to Energy.

The action plan will be finalised over the next few months and will be launched in September 2018. Please contact **Neil Towler** (neilt@severnwyte.org.uk) or **Karen Robinson** (karenr@severnwyte.org.uk) for further discussion or to provide feedback on the plan.

Are you registered as a Link to Energy member? If not and you would like to be included in tenders and opportunities, visit: <http://www.linktoenergy.org.uk/register>

Installer focus: Adaptavate



Adaptavate is an award-winning company and is one of the most exciting in the construction materials sector. They also just so happen to be based in Stroud, Gloucestershire. We caught up with founder and former builder, Tom Robinson, to find out more about their materials, how they help with condensation and mould and what the company is up to next.

So Tom, what exactly do you do at Adaptavate?

"We develop and produce the new generation of healthier, lower-impact construction materials. Our breathable skim plaster, Breathaplasta, helps to reduce the recurring problem of mould and condensation in buildings. Without any need for energy, it absorbs and desorbs the moisture created by people living in buildings and reduces the risk of condensation build up that so often leads to mould. People love it because it doesn't require any knowledge of mechanical ventilation systems from the people in the building, it just sits there on the walls for years and years and helps to reduce energy bills, whilst creating a healthier space to live in."



How easy is Breathaplasta to use?

"Breathaplasta can be skimmed onto many substrates, including existing plaster, plasterboard and brick/block, and acts like a set of air purifying lungs on the walls. I used to be a builder, so it is essential that our materials are easy to use and 'drop-in' solutions for installers and specifiers. The feedback from plasterers is that this is a great material to use on a variety of substrates and has a similar setting and working time to standard gypsum plaster."

The diagram illustrates the mechanism of Breathaplasta. It shows a cross-section of a wall with a substrate (if applicable) and a layer of Breathaplasta. Blue arrows indicate moisture being absorbed into the plaster when humidity is high and then being released back into the room when humidity is low, acting like a set of lungs. A circular inset provides a magnified view of the moisture exchange process.

Breathaplasta is applied and used in exactly the same way as standard plaster, but with one major difference. We designed it to act as a set of lungs, breathing in moisture at times of excess. When the humidity level reduces this stored moisture is released; continuously regulating the indoor humidity, day and night.

30 million
asthmatics in Europe

What are you looking for next?

"We have had some great projects all over the UK, but we are now particularly looking to engage with landlords and organisations in our area that have ongoing challenges with condensation and mould. We are wanting to collaborate to find a low-energy, no-hassle solution and Breathaplasta can be part of that. We are looking for projects to be actively involved in and would welcome the opportunity to share a bit more about Breathaplasta with you."

You can contact Tom on tom@adaptavate.com.

Would you like to speak at a future Link to Energy meeting, or feature in a future newsletter's *Installer Focus*? Perhaps you have some news to share about a new product or service you are offering? If so, please email: neilt@severnwyke.org.uk

Have you updated your online profile recently?
Check you're up-to-date: linktoenergy.org.uk/installers

Why it might be the perfect time to switch your switching service itself



Tariff switching is nothing new, and energy brokers have been around for decades; but now there's an energy switching service that gives your business cheaper energy tariffs, and contributes to charitable sustainability projects at the same time.

The cat is out of the bag - the secret's been spilled. Switching energy tariffs is one of the easiest ways to prevent energy providers from slowly penalising loyalty by letting the price of a kWh gradually creep up without anybody really noticing. More and more of us are switching services on a regular basis - and cute furry meerkats certainly help make comparing published tariffs an easier experience than ever before.

For businesses though, there are other opportunities and better deals to be had - especially for firms that spend significant sums on their energy each year. By using an energy broker, providers can bid for your business and compete against each other, meaning your business will get significantly better deals than the published rates we can access for our homes. The business isn't the only winner here, though. The broker themselves can look forward to a 'referrer's fee' from the energy provider, for matching them up with the company in the first place.

At Severn Wye, we know this model works - after all, the business, the broker and the provider all leave happier and with more in their pocket than when they started. But we saw an opportunity for more people to benefit, and have teamed up with commercial tariff switching service **Utilitrack** to make it happen.

As a charity, we have developed WyeSwitch, our very own energy switching service for businesses, finding clients the best deals available, and using any commission we make from the energy providers to support charitable projects that contribute to developing more sustainable homes, communities, and schools across Wales and the South West. This way, by switching your business energy, you not only spend less on your energy next year than you did last year, but you are also helping to improve wellbeing across the region. So WyeSwitch? Because everybody wins.

To start your commercial energy tariff switch with WyeSwitch, visit wyeswitch.co.uk

Contact Link to Energy:

 **01452 835 086**

Email: linktoenergy@severnwyenergy.org.uk

Follow us:  @linktoenergy

Visit: www.linktoenergy.org.uk

Link to Energy and Warm and Well are managed on behalf of the local authorities in Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire by the charity Severn Wye Energy Agency (No 1083812)



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