From South Dartmoor Community Energy (SDCE).

We're a Community Benefit Society based in the PL21 area, who are entering our 5th year of providing energy saving advice to vulnerable and low-income households across the South Hams under the banner of *South Hams Warm and Well.*

Over the past four years we've helped *over a thousand residents of the South Hams* to reduce their energy usage and cut their energy bills. We are grant funded, and the service is always provided at no cost to the residents.

We can help residents with things like:

- A Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP) Home Energy Advice visit where we take time to get to know the resident's energy worries and needs
- Applying for grant help towards energy saving measures
- Referrals to SHDC schemes such as the new Local Authority Delivery Scheme for the Green Homes Grant
- Installing free simple measures like LED bulbs and draught proofing
- Tips and help with behavior changes that can cut energy bills – like setting central heating systems to work
- Switching to a better energy tariff
- Signposting and onward referrals to partner organisations who can help with income maximization, befriending services, food parcels etc.

2020-21 Update:

As we're all painfully aware, this year is a bit different.

In terms of the one-to-one services we offer: we are prepared to carry out home visits with the necessary precautions in place to protect both householders and ourselves; as long as the local risk level/COVID tier remains at Medium level, residents are not in the vulnerable/shielding category and they are happy to continue. Where the risk increases due to resident concerns or local risk level/COVID tier, we are set up to provide an equivalent service via a telephone advice service.

In terms of reaching those who would benefit from our help: We would usually carry out lots of in person 'drop-in' sessions and provide short talks at coffee mornings and the like to help people learn about what we can help with. This year, as that's not possible/sensible in light of COVID risks, we need new ways to reach out to people who might need our help. One avenue we are using is to reach out to local groups and councils in every parish in the South Hams with invitations to a short Zoom based 'briefing' on:

- The projects we're running,
- What we can help with,

- Who we can help, and
- How to make referrals.

We'd like to include as many potential referring organisations and groups as possible to give all residents the best chance of accessing the service, and while we already have an extensive network, we don't want to miss groups out! As town and parish councils are usually well connected, I've put together a brief form, in the hopes that you might be willing to take 5 minutes to share some of your local knowledge about the kind of groups we'd like to connect with: COVID support groups, caring organisations, climate emergency groups and the like…
The form can be found here: https://tinyurl.com/localgroupsurvey

Once we've got a better picture of local groups I'll be setting up some Zoom sessions and sending out invites.

I'm also in the process of updating our Energy Advice web page to make inward referrals easier to make, and producing materials (like posters and flyers) for referrers to use. Once this is complete the information will be shared via the zoom call and also as a referrer pack via email which I hope you don't mind me keeping you on the list for.

In the meantime, if you are aware of residents who need our help urgently, please use/ask them to use our advice@sdce.org.uk email address or call our freephone number: 0800 112 3044

Regards
Jinni King
Director and LEAP Home Energy Advisor
I am desk based on Mondays, but will also aim to respond to emails between appointments Tuesday-Thursday.
Find us on Facebook

www.sdce.org.uk
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