

# The Sun Shines on St Ives Park & Ride

St Ives could host the first mini Smart Energy Grid on its Park and Ride site and act as a demonstrator project for the rest of the country. Cambridgeshire County Council is working with St Ives Town Council, Bouygues Energies and Services Ltd, and the Greater Cambridge and Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership and Government to try to make this happen.

## What is a Smart Energy Grid?

A "smart grid" is an electrical grid which includes renewable energy, energy efficiency, battery storage and control of the production and distribution of electricity.

## What is being proposed for St Ives Park and Ride?

For the St Ives Park and Ride the idea is to generate renewable energy from the sun, store some of the energy in batteries and use the energy for street lights, electric vehicle charging and to supply electricity to a local business. There will be state of the art technology to help manage the flow of the energy to all the right places at the right time also the smart grid will reduce carbon emissions, which is good for our environment.

## Why do we need one?

Cambridgeshire is one of the fastest growing economies in the UK. Population and economic growth is expected to increase over the next 20 years. At the same time, the UK is becoming increasingly dependent on imported energy, such as oil and gas, at a time when global demand for energy and prices are increasing and many of our coal and old nuclear power stations are coming to the end of their useful lives. Without action to ensure reliable local supplies to replace

power plants, there could be a shortfall in our energy supplies and risks to our businesses and lifestyles.

A clean, secure and sufficient supply of energy is essential for our economy. Without it, we could not function as an economy or a modern society. Even minor disruptions in supply can cause major problems for communities and businesses. Generating energy locally is part of the solution and can bring economic benefits to our community.

## Why St Ives?

Cambridgeshire has seven park and ride sites, five around Cambridge plus Longstanton and St Ives Park and Ride. St Ives was selected for a number of reasons including an enthusiastic response to the project idea by St Ives Town Council, County Council owns the land, the guided busway attracts people to the park and ride site and there are local businesses next to the site to accept the electricity.

## What will this look like?

PV solar panels will be installed above the car spaces on canopies, high enough for cars to park comfortably underneath and be protected from the weather. The solar panels will sit on the top and generate electricity. The sunnier St Ives remains, the more energy we generate. Energy is generated even during the winter but at reduced levels. Advanced CCTV

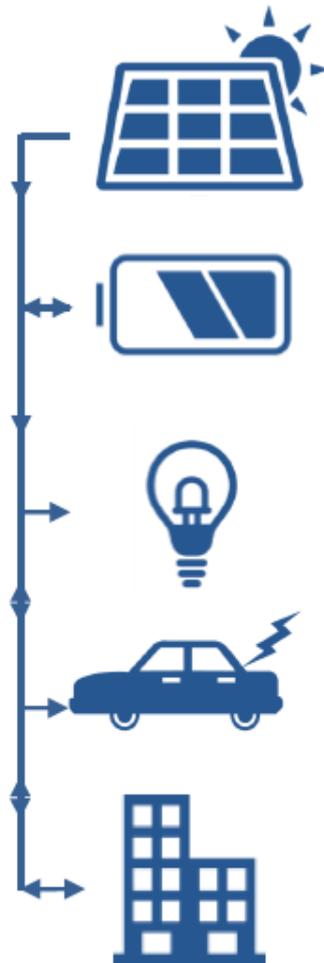


Image courtesy of Sunfixings

technology will be attached to the car canopies to monitor the site and the batteries will be stored inside a small unit along with the control system.

St Ives Park and Ride already has some electric vehicle (EV) charging spaces and more will be added with this project. Government is encouraging electric vehicles and there is good evidence that EV sales are increasing across Cambridgeshire.

### **What has been done so far?**

The business case for the project has been completed by Bouygues Energies and Services Limited. This identified detailed costs and technical designs for the project and was subject to rigorous appraisal. Cambridgeshire County Council's Assets and Investment Committee agreed to loan 50% of the cost of the project with the expectation that the full cost of the loan and interest plus surplus will be returned to the Council and that Central Government funds the other 50% through a grant from the European Regional Development Fund. An application for grant funding was submitted in August and the project is successfully through the first round.



## **European Union**

European Regional Development Fund

A planning application has also been submitted to Huntingdonshire District Council and will be available soon for your comments at: <http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/>

### **When is this taking place?**

If approved for funding and planning, the development will start by Autumn 2017 and take up to 10 months to deliver.

### **Who is involved?**

The Energy Investment Unit at Cambridgeshire County Council is



Cambridgeshire County Council

spearheading this development. It is a small team developing

projects that reduce energy consumption to save money or generate renewable energy for income for the Council to help pay for services. It has invested £17million into energy projects since 2015 supporting thirty schools, seven office buildings and a 12 MW solar park. These project are either saving money on energy bills or generating income from feed in tariff, finance incentives or energy sales. To find out more about this work, please visit: [www.mleicambs.org.uk](http://www.mleicambs.org.uk)

Bouygues Energies & Services is Cambridgeshire County Council's partner for this project procured through the Greater London Authority's Re:fit 2 Framework. Bouygues provide the design and engineering services taking the project from concept through to construction bringing private sector innovation and experience. Bouygues have an excellent track record of delivering energy services in a range of complex environments within both the public and private sectors.



### **Your views are important to us**

If you would like to have a chat about the project or share your ideas or concerns please email or ring [ron.d'souza@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:ron.d'souza@cambridgeshire.gov.uk), tel: 01223 699448.

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