

SOUTH WEST ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP

September 2022



1. SWEEG is a long-standing partnership, set up in 1977 as a collaboration between the University of Exeter and public sector organisations on energy and sustainability matters. It links the needs of public sector organisations working to become more sustainable and tackle climate change with the scientific, research and technical expertise of the University, and provides a forum for collaboration and innovation.
2. Particular areas of expertise provided through the partnership include:
 - a. Sustainable and energy efficient buildings
 - b. Performance monitoring of buildings
 - c. Energy and climate change policy development
 - d. Renewable energy studies
 - e. Sustainable and low carbon transport.
3. Current full and associate members of the partnership include:
 - a. University of Exeter
 - b. Devon Council Council
 - c. Devon and Cornwall Police Authority
 - d. Exeter City Council
 - e. East Devon District Council
 - f. East Devon District Council
 - g. Mid Devon District Council
 - h. Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust
 - i. South Hams District Council
 - j. Teignbridge District Council
 - k. West Devon District Council
4. Until 2010, Plymouth City Council was also member of SWEEG.
5. There are two types of membership:
 - a. Full membership
 - b. Associate membership
6. For full members:
 - a. They are invited to be represented on a Steering Committee, which meets twice a year.
 - b. Their financial contribution to the partnership is made as a percentage of the overall costs of the partnership. A contribution in the order of 10% is encouraged.
 - c. Between 10 and 15% of the partner financial contribution meets the Exeter University's costs in running SWEEG – this percentage reduces the more partners join. If – as currently being considered - Plymouth and Exeter City Councils both join as full members, it is anticipated that the figure will be closer to 10%.
 - d. The rest of the contribution is ring fenced to work that is sought by the partner organisation itself.
 - e. Any unused contribution gets carried forward to the next financial year, so that it is still available for the partner organisation's work.

7. For associate members:
 - a. They are not formally represented on the Steering Committee, but can attend the meetings.
 - b. They pay a set fee of £5,650, but then also have to pay extra for any work they need to commission.

8. The role of the Steering Committee includes:
 - a. Agreeing the SWEEG budget.
 - b. Adoption SWEEG policies.
 - c. Selection of areas of research and operation for the partnership.
 - d. Agreeing new members.

9. Local authority full members are invited to nominate two elected members to be on the Steering Committee.

10. The bi-annual meetings of the Steering Committee focus mainly on information sharing and identifying collaboration opportunities and new research needs to help support public sector bodies in tackling the climate emergency.