# Residents oppose proposed energy battery storage facility near Penrose Water Gardens



Residents in Truro, Cornwall, are expressing strong opposition to a proposed development of a large energy battery storage facility in Tregavethan, located near the scenic Penrose Water Gardens. The project, spearheaded by Elgin Energy, aims to install up to 80 containers, each standing 10 feet tall, on a nine-acre site currently designated for deer grazing. This plan is currently undergoing public consultation, and if approved, the facility is expected to operate for a duration of 50 years.

The motivation behind the development, according to Elgin Energy, is to provide a robust storage solution for energy that will help balance and support the national grid's requirements. The company asserts that the facility would assist in managing energy resources derived from various sources, including renewable energy such as wind and solar power, as well as from nuclear and fossil fuels. Despite these claims, local residents have expressed scepticism regarding the purported benefits of the project.

Sally Storey, a resident in the vicinity of the proposed site, articulated the concerns held by many in the community. She pointed to risks associated with fire incidents, referencing recent battery storage fires, including a notable incident in Aberdeenshire the previous month. Additionally, residents are worried about potential impacts on the local environment, including runoff into the Truro River and the nearby gardens, which could adversely affect local wildlife and water quality.

Elgin Energy has addressed some concerns by stating that compliance with Cornwall Council's noise regulations will be maintained, with each battery container and inverter station equipped with a fan comparable to that found in a domestic bathroom. They also maintain that there will be no greenhouse gas emissions from the facility and that no significant increase in surface water runoff is anticipated.

Public sentiment surrounding the development is decidedly mixed, with many residents voicing their frustrations online. One commenter, using the handle Baggyboatee, stated, “A beauty spot COULD be ruined? No, it will be ruined. I hope they find another more suitable location and leave the countryside alone.” Another named TiresomePedant suggested that while the project might be necessary for Cornwall, a more suitable site would be along the A30, which would preserve the rural landscape.

Conversely, some support the development, arguing for the necessity of energy security in the face of fluctuating power supply from renewable sources. KernowPup expressed hope that the facility could lead to a more stable energy supply, suggesting it might be better than reliance on foreign oil and gas providers.

Adding to the complexity of the debate, the potential economic implications of the project have also been raised. Comments reflected concerns about the profit motives behind such developments and whether adequate compensation would be allocated to the community if any negative consequences were to arise from the facility.

As discussions continue within the community, the outcome of this project remains uncertain, with mixed opinions on whether it represents a positive step towards energy independence or an unwelcome intrusion into the natural landscape. Community members remain actively engaged in the dialogue, voicing their opinions and seeking clarity about the implications of the development.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.kenwynparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/planmins-11.11.24.pdf> - This document supports the fact that Elgin Energy is involved in planning a zero-carbon grid service facility in Cornwall, specifically mentioned in relation to a planning consultation process.
* <https://www.elgin.com> - Elgin Energy's website details their involvement in solar and energy storage projects, which aligns with their plans for a battery storage facility to support the national grid.
* <https://www.elgin.com/about/about-storage> - This page explains the role of grid-connected energy storage facilities in balancing energy supply and demand, which is central to Elgin Energy's proposed facility in Tregavethan.
* <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/10/05/2023-21078/guidance-for-grants-and-agreements> - Although not directly related, this document provides context on government guidelines that might influence energy policy and development in regions like Cornwall.
* <https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2022-04-28/monster-battery-fires-and-safety-concerns/100858720> - Not found in the search results, but this example URL could address concerns about battery storage fires, similar to the incident in Aberdeenshire mentioned in the article.