



Responding to the Barriers to Community Energy Projects Call for Evidence

CSE Perspective (evolving!) and tips for responding

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the way they think and
act on energy.

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- Themes we'll be covering in our response – 5 mins
- Tips on responding – 5 mins
- Workshopping barriers and overcoming them – 15 mins
- 10 min feedback + discussion
- 5 min video



Themes we'll be covering in our response

– Financial barriers

- The lack of a guaranteed route to market for generation projects and revenue support – 5MW + projects have Contracts for Difference.
- Funding for the risky development phases of community energy projects
- Lack of consistent funding for energy efficiency retrofit – feast or famine
- Block on community energy groups offering flexibility



Non-Financial barriers

- Inability of local generators to sell electricity to their local communities
- Lack of support eco-systems needed to enable community energy activities to come forward
- De-prioritisation of community energy
- Planning – National planning policy neglects the overriding importance of renewables – the basis of our future economy / society
- Community energy proposals – seen as buying planning permission



Non-Financial barriers (cont)

- The continued block on onshore wind
- Grid infrastructure – high connection costs, lack of capacity. Delay.
- Lack of diversity in community energy sector
- Access to data - national dataset of renewable energy capacity - wind, solar, grid capacity. Solar Wizard



Co-benefits of community energy

- Routes to engaging people in climate action – making it locally relevant
- Building carbon and energy literacy and informed consent to expand renewables
- Building local resilience + self sufficiency
- Delivering renewables where the market could / would not



Tips for responding

- Tell your truth, and the barriers you've faced succinctly. Provide a snappy summary if needed
- No need to respond to all the questions
- Provide solutions, not just problems - what do we want a possible labour government to be thinking about re: support structures + changes?
- Back up with evidence where possible
- Don't just concentrate on renewables, also energy efficiency retrofitting, and energy flexibility



Tips

- Recognise that the Feed in Tariff won't be returning, but that a route to market is needed
- How can the community energy sector be more representative of wider society?
- Mindset – in a time of austerity, how to convince the treasury (even a labour treasury) that community energy is worth investing in



Workshop

3. What are the barriers, financial and non-financial, preventing the establishment, development, and scaling of community energy projects?



6. Do you have any proposals for how barriers might be reduced or removed, and why do you think the actions you propose would be effective and appropriate?



7. Which existing or past government support mechanisms and policies have been most helpful in implementing community energy projects and why?



8. How are community energy projects supporting the delivery of the UK's national net zero targets and providing additional benefits (e.g., reducing fuel poverty and improving community well-being)?

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Thank you

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