

Wessex Community Energy Network meeting

16/05/2024 – Note from Community Energy workshop.

The session was comprised of:

Short presentation to remind people of the SW Hub and it's work, introduce the Future of Community Energy in the SW report, and introduce the activity.

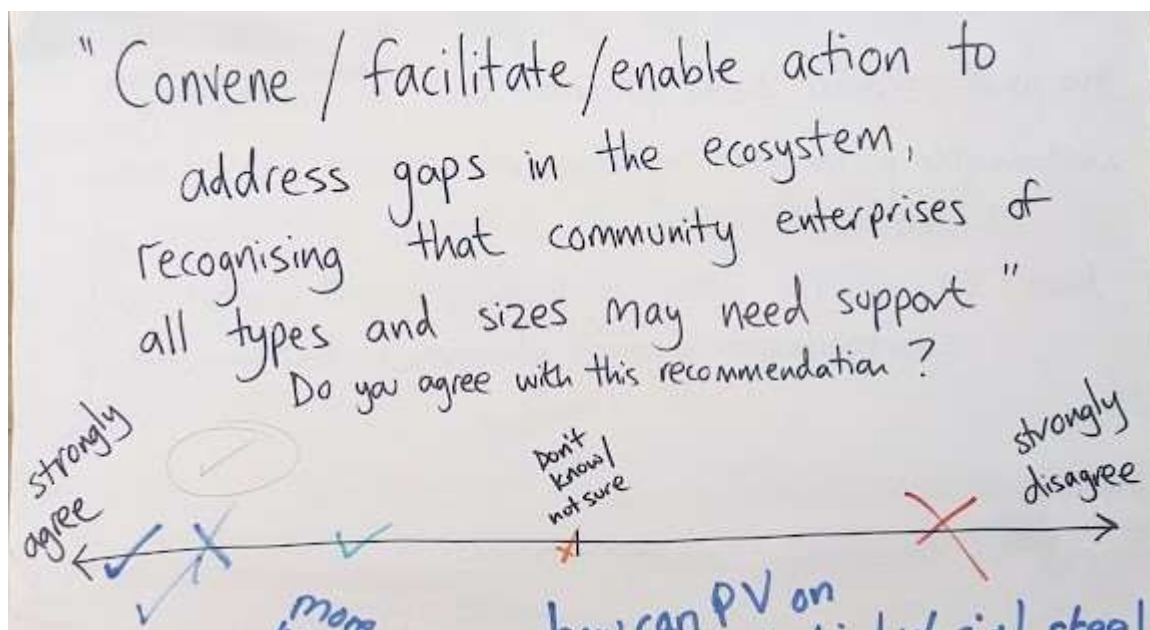
The focus was to share and explore the support that CE groups in the SW might benefit from, so recommendations from the report that focussed on that were discussed in small groups and attendees were encouraged to share their thoughts onto the flip chart sheets.

Below are the workshop outputs. Photographs of each sheet are at the end of this document.

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"Convene / facilitate / enable action to address gaps in the ecosystem, recognising that community enterprises of all types and sizes may need support"

Do you agree with this recommendation?



What are there gaps in the Community Energy 'ecosystem' in your area / the Wessex area?

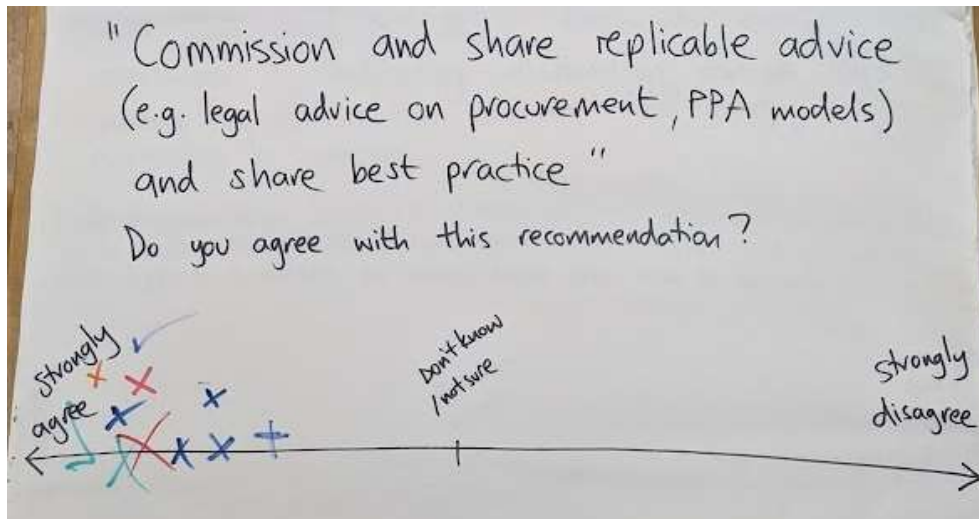
- More workshop style meets – different focuses.
- Wilts Council is not driving PV onto each suitable roof space in it's estate via community funded enterprises. It needs to push hosts from 'the top'.
- How can PV on commercial/industrial sheds fit into the ecosystem?

What action might there be to help address these gaps?

- Wessex Community Energy Network has similar aims and would be pleased to support this proposal.
- Role for social enterprise funding.

"Commission and share replicable advice (e.g legal advice on procurement, PPZ models) and share best practice"

Do you agree with this recommendation?

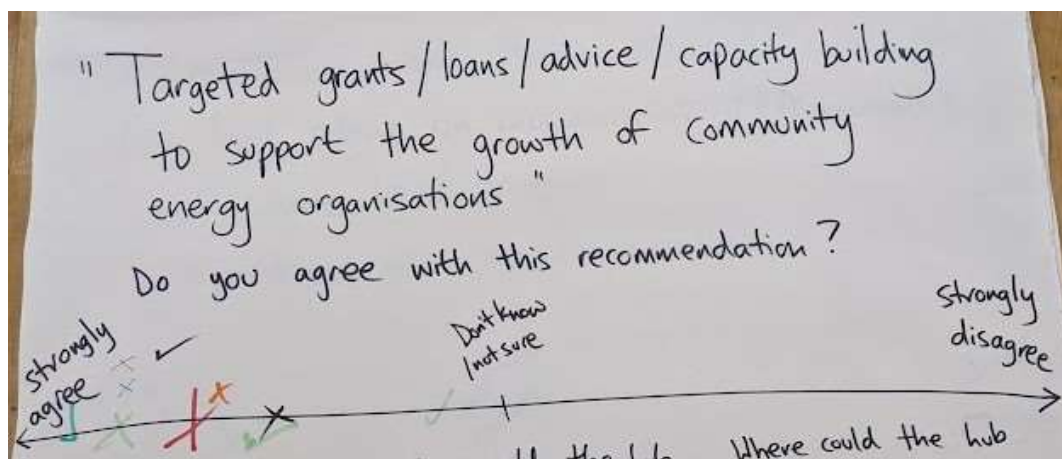


Is there any specific replicable advice or replicable / sharable information that you would benefit from?

- In addition – create a vehicle for community energy to sell direct to community end users.
- Yes, and webinars for new entrants to the sector.
- Signposting to existing resources though. Don't re-invent the wheel!
- Yes, fully support this thrust; the wider and the greater the number for dramatic improvements!
- Could create a buddy scheme where established groups provide a xx of support to new entrants. But make sure limit is in place so not a huge commitment to CE group.
- Signpost to map resources showing Grid constraints (& availability) from the street level to the LA level.

"Targeted grants / loans / advice capacity building to support growth of community energy organisations"

Do you agree with this recommendation?



Where could the Hub target loans?

- Capital delivery of projects

Where could the Hub target grants?

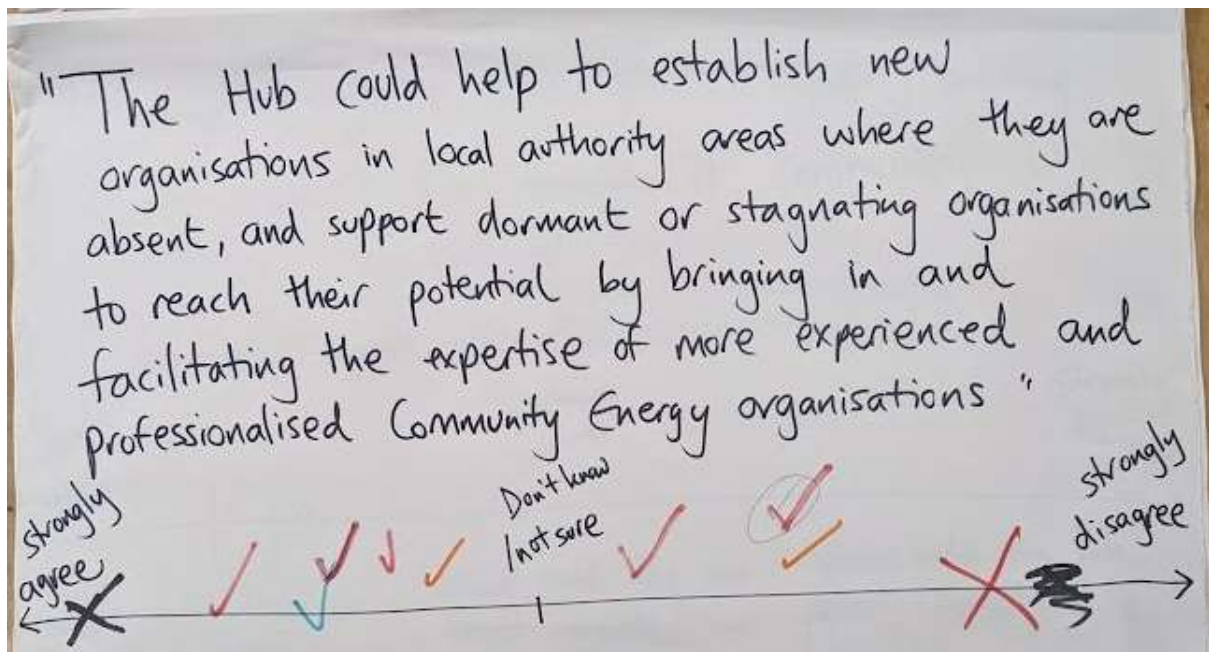
- LA's
- Community Energy groups
- Social enterprise loans add value
- Feasibility of pilot developments
- At risk development phase
- At 'the street level' / To upgrade entire streets with PV, battery, BA GSHT (? Ground source heat?) & community / street EV charging. Do one, set a national example.

Where could the Hub target capacity building support?

- LA's
- Community Energy groups
- Parish councils
- Local civic society

“The SWNZH could help to establish new organisations in local authorities where they are absent, and support dormant or stagnating organisations to reach their potential by bringing in and facilitating the expertise of more experienced and professionalised Community Energy organisations”

Do you agree with this recommendation?



Comments / thoughts:

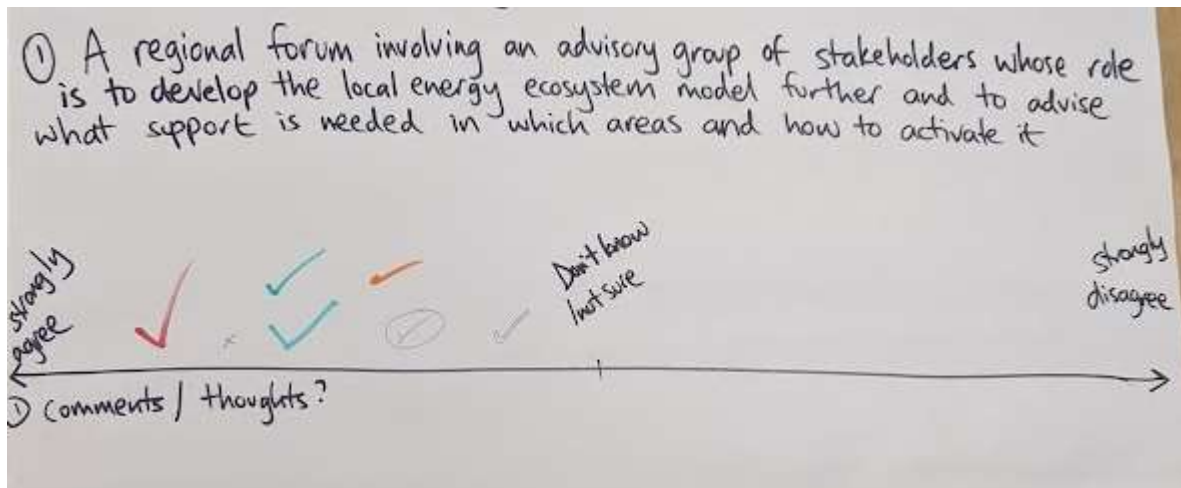
- Why are they dormant / stagnating
 - Resources (people / funding) Time?

- Knowledge / information?
- The right skills / people / energy to make it a success?
- Run out of steam?
- Grid connection issues could be a problem
- The admin role needs consistent and regular input and support
- Support needed to help set up processes to stop each group having to start from scratch
- Tech / business element time consuming, and complicated and long

“The SWNZH could act as a ‘community energy accelerator’ by facilitating collaboration for a among organisations that constitute local energy ecosystems by convening:”

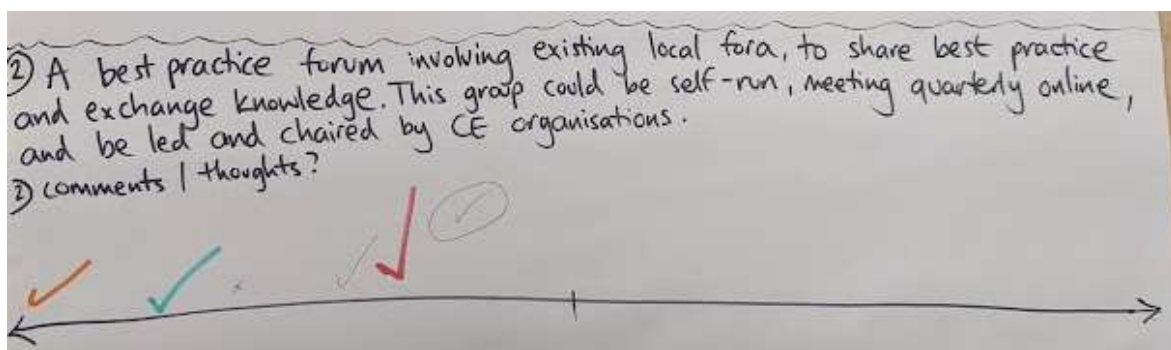
A regional forum involving an advisory group of stakeholders whose role is to develop the local energy ecosystem model further and to advise what support is needed in which areas and how to activate it.

Do you agree with this recommendation?



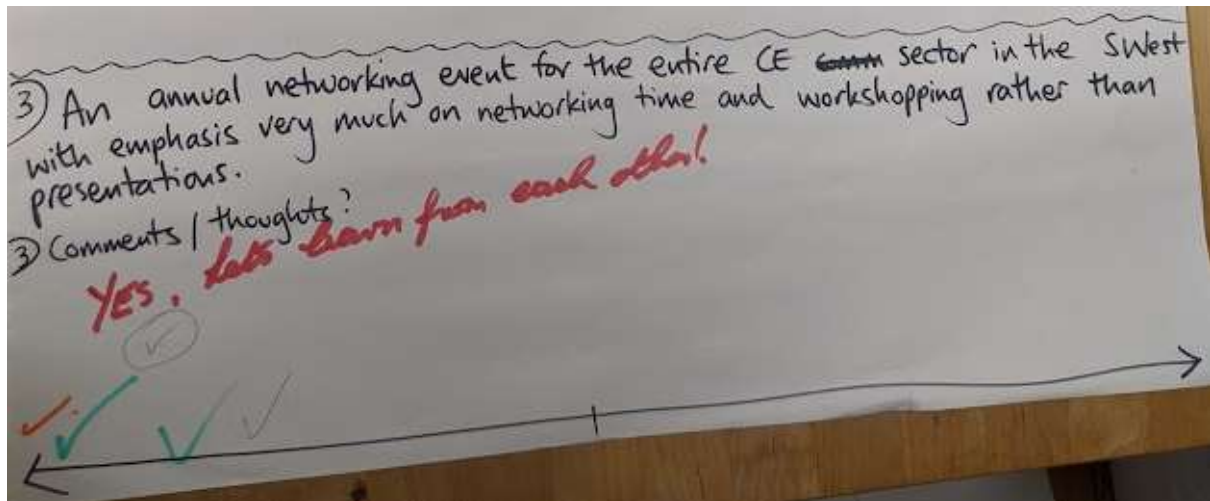
A best practice forum involving existing local fora, to share best practice and exchange knowledge. This group could be self-run, meeting quarterly online, and be led and chaired by community energy organisations.

Do you agree with this recommendation?



An annual networking event for the entire community energy sector in the south west with emphasis very much on networking time and workshopping rather than presentations.

Do you agree with this recommendation?



Comments / thoughts

- Yes, let's learn from each other!

"Convene / facilitate / enable action to address gaps in the ecosystem, recognising that community enterprises of all types and sizes may need support"

Do you agree with this recommendation?

strongly agree ← → strongly disagree

Don't know / not sure

more workshop style to meet.

how can PV on commercial / industrial steel sheds fit into the ecosystem?

What are the gaps in the CE 'ecosystem' in your area / the Wessex area?

What actions might there be to address these gaps?

Wessex Community Energy Network has similar aims and would be pleased to support their power

Role for Social Enterprise funding

Wessex Community Energy Network is not driving PV into our estate very much in its estate. Community funded enterprise. It needs to push itself from the top

"Commission and share replicable advice
(e.g. legal advice on procurement, PPA models)
and share best practice"

Do you agree with this recommendation?



Is there any specific replicable advice or replicable/sharable information that you would benefit from?

✓ IN ADDITION - CREATE A VEHICLE FOR COMMUNITY ENERGY TO SELL DIRECT TO COMMUNITY END USERS.

- Yes + Webinars For New Entrants to the sector,

- Sign-posting to existing resources tho.
Don't re-invent the wheel!!

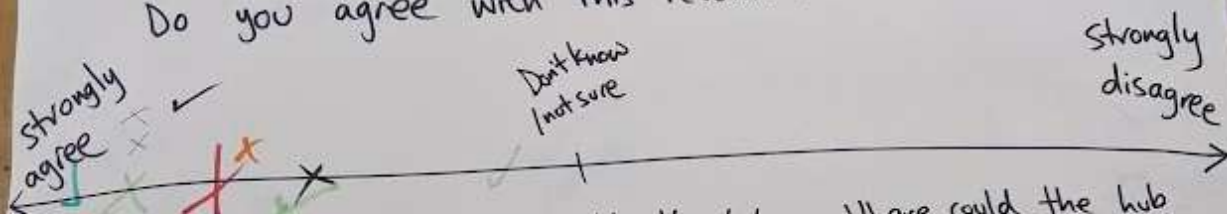
Yes, fully support this thrust; the wider and the greater the number for dramatic improvements!

• could create a buddy scheme where established groups provide a xx of support to new entrants. But make sure limit in place so not a huge commitment to CE group

PTO

"Targeted grants/loans/advice/capacity building to support the growth of community energy organisations"

Do you agree with this recommendation?



Where could the hub target Loans?

• Capital delivery of projects. ✓

Where could the hub target Grants?

LA's

CE's

Social Enterprise Loans add value.

• Feasibility & pilots development

• At risk Development Phase

• At "the Street Level"
To upgrade entire Streets with PV, BATTERY, BAFSHP & COMMUNITY/STREET EV charging. Do ONE, set a National Example.

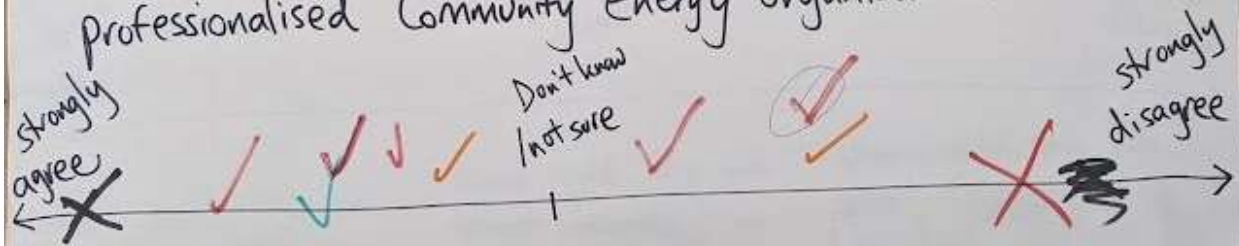
Where could the hub target Capacity building support?

LA's

CE's

PARISH COUNCILS ✓
+ Local Civic Society.

"The Hub could help to establish new organisations in local authority areas where they are absent, and support dormant or stagnating organisations to reach their potential by bringing in and facilitating the expertise of more experienced and professionalised Community Energy organisations"



Comments / thoughts...

Why are they dormant / stagnating

- Resources (People / funding). Time ?
- Knowledge / information ?
- The right skills / people / energies to make it a success ?
- Run out of steam ?
- Grid connection issues could be a Key problem.
- The Admin Role needs consistent + regular input / support.
- Support needed to help set up processes, to stop each group having to start from scratch
- Tech / business element time consuming, + complicated, + long.

"The Hub could act as a 'community energy accelerator' by facilitating collaboration ~~for a~~ ^{for} among organisations that constitute local energy ecosystems by convening:

- ① A regional forum involving an advisory group of stakeholders whose role is to develop the local energy ecosystem model further and to advise what support is needed in which areas and how to activate it

strongly agree ✓ ✓ ✗ Don't know / not sure strongly disagree

① Comments / thoughts?

- ② A best practice forum involving existing local fora, to share best practice and exchange knowledge. This group could be self-run, meeting quarterly online, and be led and chaired by CE organisations.

② Comments / thoughts?

✓ ✓ ✗ ✓ ✓

- ③ An annual networking event for the entire CE ~~comm~~ sector in the SWest with emphasis very much on networking time and workshopping rather than presentations.

③ Comments / thoughts?

YES, let's learn from each other!

✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓