



Network Meeting (Online)

The Local Power Plan for Community Energy

Tuesday 17th March 2026

Agenda

- 12:00** **Welcome** – Lucy Rothwell, Coordinator, Wessex Community Energy Network
Pete West, Secretary, Wessex Community Energy Network
- 12:05** **The GB Energy Local Power Plan** – Sam Naylor, GB Energy
- 12:20** **Community Energy Perspective** – Duncan Law, Community Energy England
- 12:35** **Q&A**
- 13:30** **Meeting Close**

Please put your questions in the chat and we will answer them in the Q&A session

A bit about Wessex CE Network

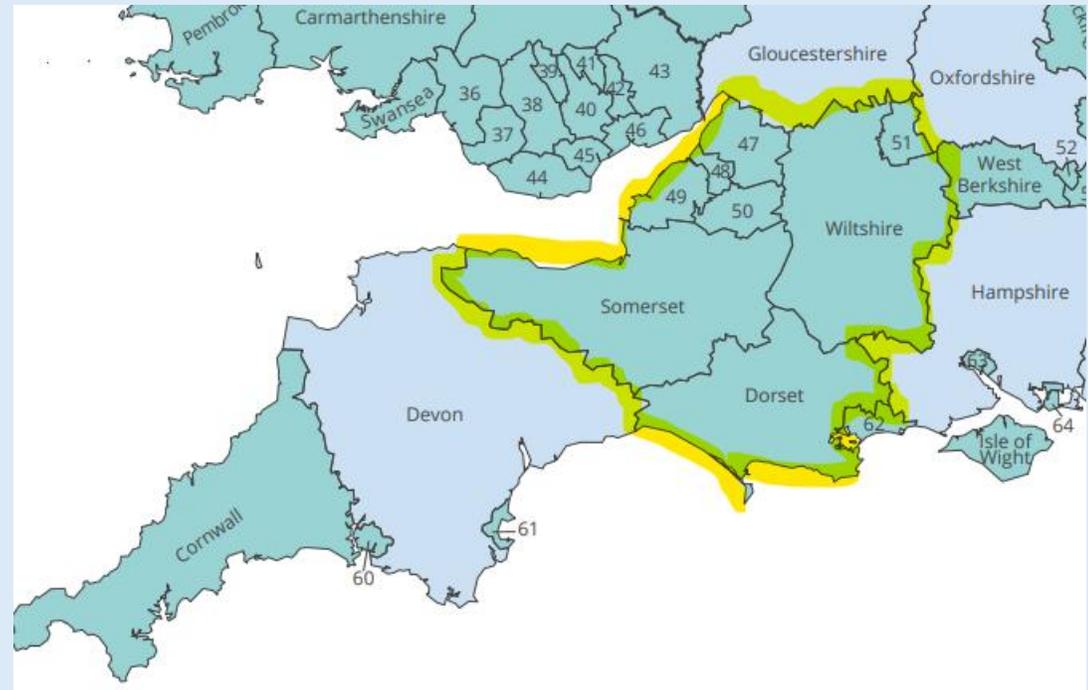
Established in 2018 by

Pete West, Dorset Community Energy and Lesley Bennett, Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy

Aim – to bring together community energy groups for information sharing and networking

Areas covered by WCEN:

- Dorset
- Wiltshire
- Somerset
- BANES
- Bristol
- South Gloucestershire



Where we are now

Unincorporated Association

Established **Bank Account** and **Steering Group**

Network co-ordination and ongoing **support** from  Centre for Sustainable Energy

Membership grown from 90 to 160 

Support from Local Authorities – BANES, Somerset & Wiltshire Councils have all hosted meetings

Funding & support from 

Member of **Community Energy England**

Website <https://wessexce.net/>

GBE – Local Power Plan

March 2025

Accelerating community and local energy

GBE – Local Power Plan

Our vision is:

By 2030, every community in the UK will have the opportunity to benefit from, and own, a local energy project.

1. Power communities: support over 1,000 local and community energy projects, boosting shared ownership
2. Catalyse the development of scalable, self-sustaining business models for community energy organisations
3. Act as a sector leader, market maker, and strategic investor, drive innovation to deliver benefits to communities
4. Help more communities access the benefits of local and community energy, by developing tools to help new communities get involved with community energy

Local Power Plan

February 2026



Local Power Plan – Our Offer

GBE is dedicating **up to £1bn** throughout the rest of the Spending Review period for local and community energy.

The Plan is for; **members of the public** interested in exploring community energy, **Community Energy organisations** of all sizes and stages, **Local Government**, including councils and combined authorities, **other public sector organisations** who could benefit from renewables.

Together, with trusted partners, we will tackle the barriers and market failures that hold project back by offering:

1. **Direct funding**, to overcome barriers of access to finance and funding certainty. This will include support to help projects become financially robust and ready for investment, with the potential to mobilise private capital.
2. **A team of experts to help communities plan and build their projects.** GBE will also support with capacity-building, helping to upskill and build additional expertise and resource within communities and supporting organisations.
3. **A long-term plan to attract more investment into local and community energy** by developing repeatable business models and exploring new ideas such as aggregation.



Local government & community energy partnerships

GBE Local are interested in supporting and encouraging greater partnership opportunities on projects between local government and community energy organisations in their area.

Energise Barnsley – Solar and Social Housing

Energise Barnsley has been set up with Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council to deliver community owned renewable energy and heating projects across the Borough.

Project aims: Reduce fuel poverty, develop community resilience, educate residents on energy saving, improve community and local authority partnerships, support the most vulnerable in the community

Energise Barnsley supported 321 council owned homes to receive free solar PV assets

Over 75% of the houses are bungalows housing elderly tenants

25% of residents are on pre-payment meters

In first-year tenants saved over £40,000 in reduced electricity bills



Funding and Finance

Emergence and development grants

- Great projects start with strong foundations. That's why GBE is exploring two **grant funds** to support early-stage project development:
- **The Great British Energy Community Fund** for community energy groups.
- The **Partnership Fund**, backing joint local government and community energy group projects.
- These funds are designed to increase project viability and give these groups the confidence to take the first step toward building a greater pipeline of clean investable projects.

Construction and operation loans

We know the challenges don't stop when a project reaches construction and getting loans for a range of community energy projects can be a barrier. That's why GBE is exploring new loan schemes to help projects move onto the next stage:

- **Construction** - giving projects the backing they need to get built and start generating clean power.
- **Shared Ownership** - enabling communities to buy a stake in larger renewable projects in their area, so the benefits stay local.

These loans will work alongside private investment and community share offers.

Local Investment Funding

GBE will launch a **Local Investment Fund** – searching on a project-by-project basis to identify viable investment opportunities and provide direct investment into local projects.



Capacity and Capability

A strong partner network

GBE Local will develop strong relationships with a range of partners - both regionally and nationally - to tackle barriers to growth. This network will include:

- **Strategic partners** - such as Ofgem, Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) and NESO.
- **Project partners**
- **Local Power Plan partners** - Organisations GBE works with to ensure the success of the Local Power Plan, including community energy groups and local authorities. GBE Local will work with these partners to develop a pipeline of projects in the construction and operation stages which we can support.

Expertise in-house and regional support

As GBE establishes itself as a key player in the local energy landscape, we will create an advisory service of specialists so community energy groups and local government can easily access support on a range of topics, such as different technologies or finance. This service will complement existing regional support and ensure every community can access the expertise it needs.

A robust range of templates and guidance documents

GBE will also create a comprehensive “Community Energy in a Box” toolkit for communities, community energy groups and local government. The toolkit will provide clear guidance, standardised documents and resources

to make getting started on, and delivering, projects easier. Currently, we are developing shared ownership templates to be ready in 2026.





Energy Learning Network
Rhwydwaith Addysg Ynni



Community
Energy
England

We're the national voice for
community energy



Community Energy England (CEE)



Community Energy England (CEE) is the national network and representative body for community energy.

- A voice for the sector
- We provide opportunities and mechanisms for active community energy practitioners in all parts of England to connect, learn, share business models and help each other overcome obstacles

330+ members

- Community energy organisations, sector stakeholders and other supportive organisations



The State of the Sector

Community energy in the UK 2023



Sponsored by
 SP Energy Networks

RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION

TOTAL RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY CAPACITY

398 MW capacity

TOTAL RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY GENERATION

617 GWh produced in 2023

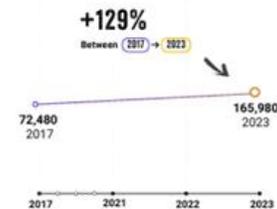
Equivalent to powering **228,530** domestic households



TOTAL TONNES OF CARBON EMISSIONS SAVED

165,980 tCO₂ saved in 2023
 equivalent emissions to 209,570 passenger round trips from London to New York*

*On average, a round trip flight from London to New York emits approximately 792 kg of CO₂ per passenger



Our survey has evolved over time so for all the statistics were gathered in earlier years

FINANCE & INVESTMENT

TOTAL ORGANISATIONAL TURNOVER

£43.2 million turnover

TOTAL INVESTMENT SECURED

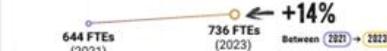
£24 million investment secured in 2023

£225 million investment secured since 2017

EMPLOYEES & VOLUNTEERS

TOTAL NUMBER OF JOBS IN THE SECTOR

796 currently employed



102 new jobs created in 2023

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS IN THE SECTOR

3,719 volunteers



LOCAL ECONOMY

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO LOCAL ECONOMY

£12.9 million contributed

to local economies from organisational expenditure and community benefit funds

INVESTMENT RAISED FROM LOCAL COMMUNITIES

£6.4 million investment raised from communities in 2023

ORGANISATIONS

COMMUNITY ENERGY ORGANISATIONS IN THE SECTOR

583 organisations



123 organisations providing energy advice

111 organisations providing low carbon transport

319 organisations providing energy efficiency retrofit

TOTAL MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY ENERGY ORGANISATIONS

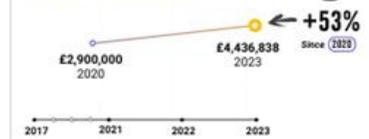
69,500 members



ENERGY EFFICIENCY & FUEL POVERTY

BILL SAVINGS FROM ENERGY EFFICIENCY & ADVICE

£4.4 million bill savings



£13.8 million saved since 2020

PIPELINE

CONTINUED SECTOR DIVERSIFICATION IN 2024

72 new energy advice and energy efficiency services

FORECAST FINANCES IN 2024

£157 million planned investment to be secured for renewable energy

STALLED RENEWABLE ENERGY

79 stalled projects with **270 MW** capacity that communities want to deliver



The State of the Sector



Community Energy State of the Sector 2020

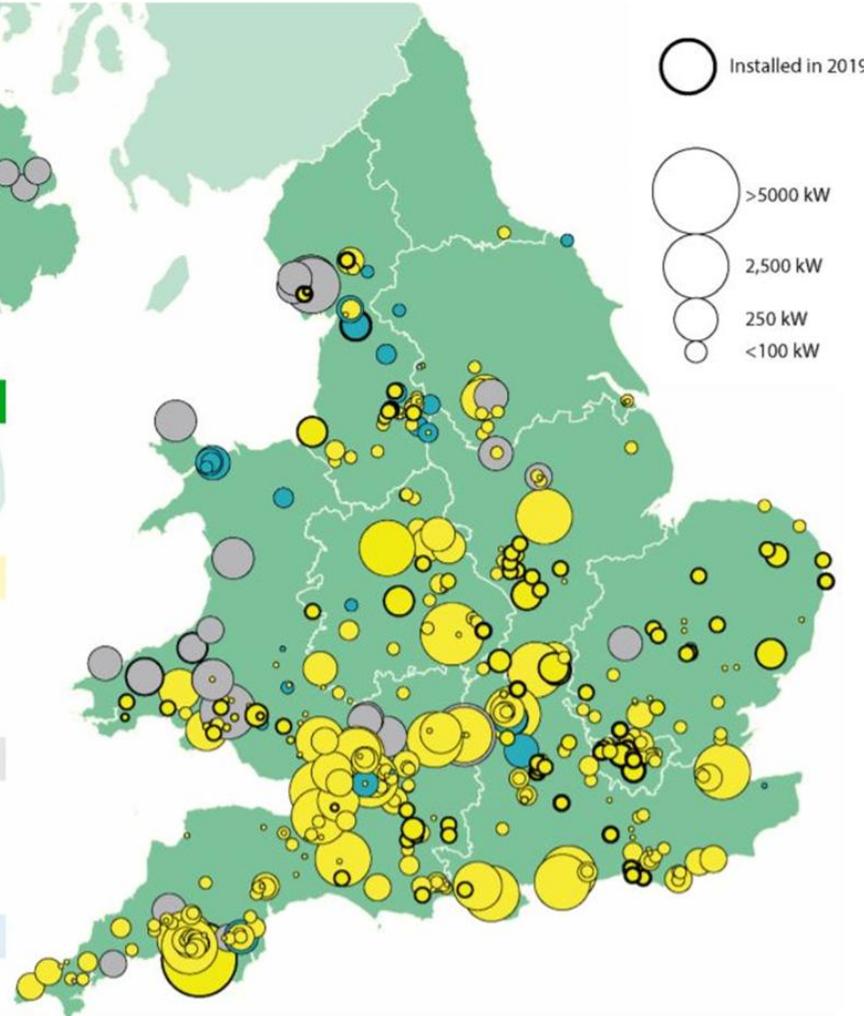
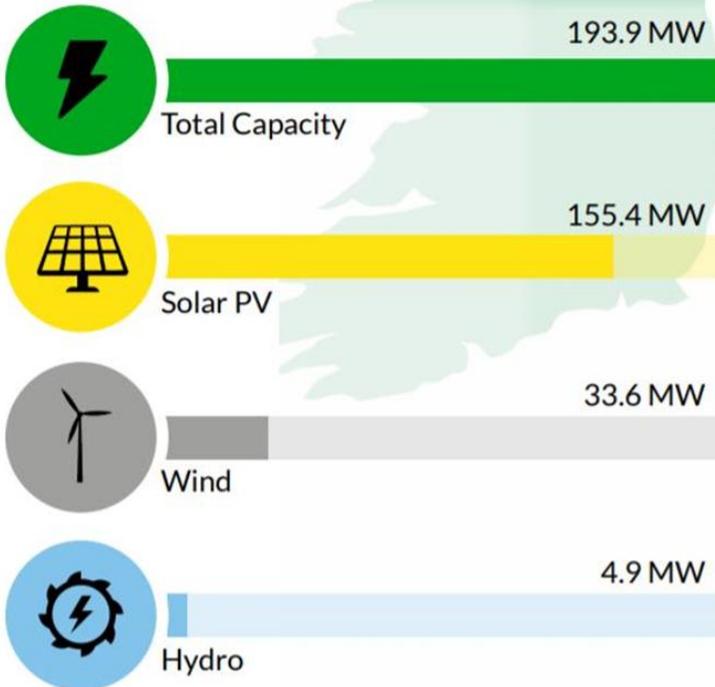
Community Energy England

Ynni Cymunedol Cymru
Community Energy Wales

SCENE

Electricity Generation in 2019

England, Wales and Northern Ireland



Includes 324 schools & NHS Trusts

Largest 40MW solar

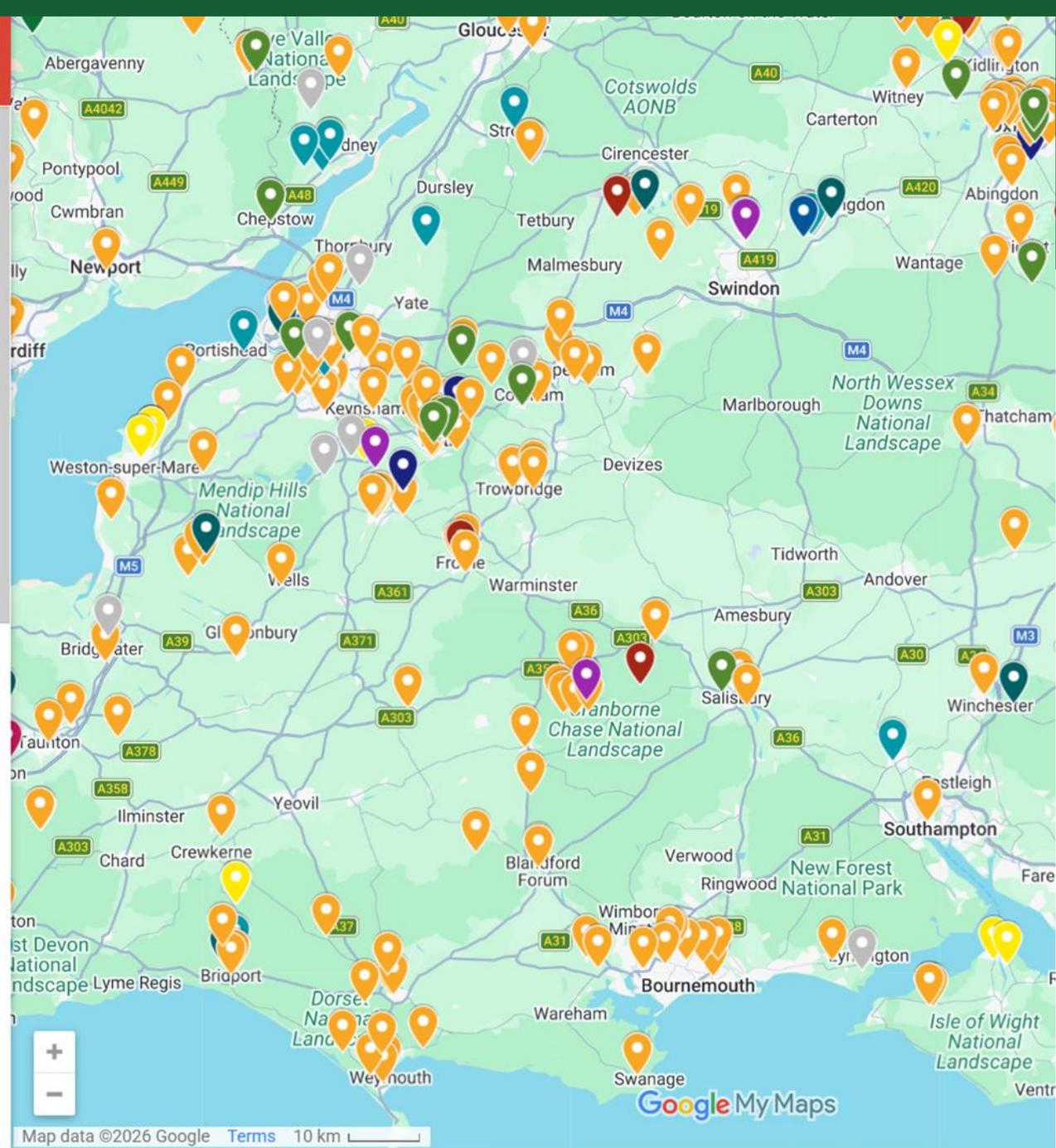
Support from umbrella groups

Welcome to Community Energy England's National Map. Please click here to read this short note to get the most out of this 159,224 views
Published on 16 September 2025

[SHARE](#) [EDIT](#)

1_Community Energy Projects

- Solar PV
- Solar
- Retrofit
- EV charger
- Wind
- Hydro
- Generation, multiple tech
- Low Carbon Transport
- Heat
- Storage
- Energy Efficiency / Retrofit
- Heat (Pumps)
- Heat (Biomass)
- Skills & Capacity Building
- Anaerobic Digestion
- Other



The Local Power Plan!



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero



Local Power Plan

February 2026



Great British Energy to
cut bills and create wealth
for communities through
Local Power Plan



Biggest investment in
community energy
in British history



The Local Power Plan

Our vision is:

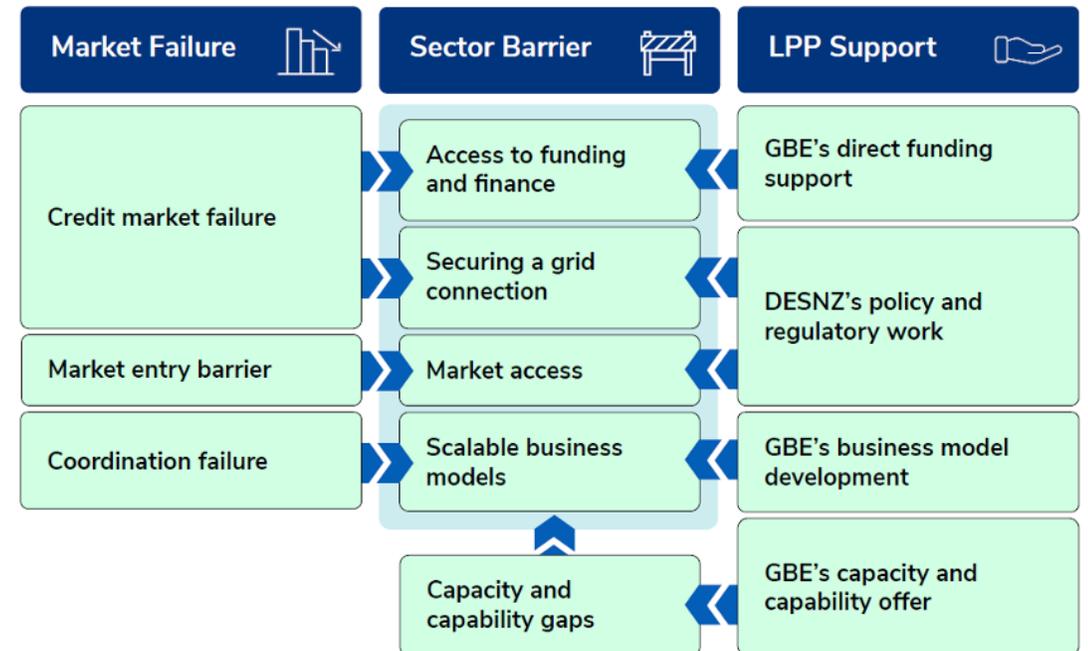
By 2030, every community in the UK will have the opportunity to own a local energy project.

4 areas of Support:

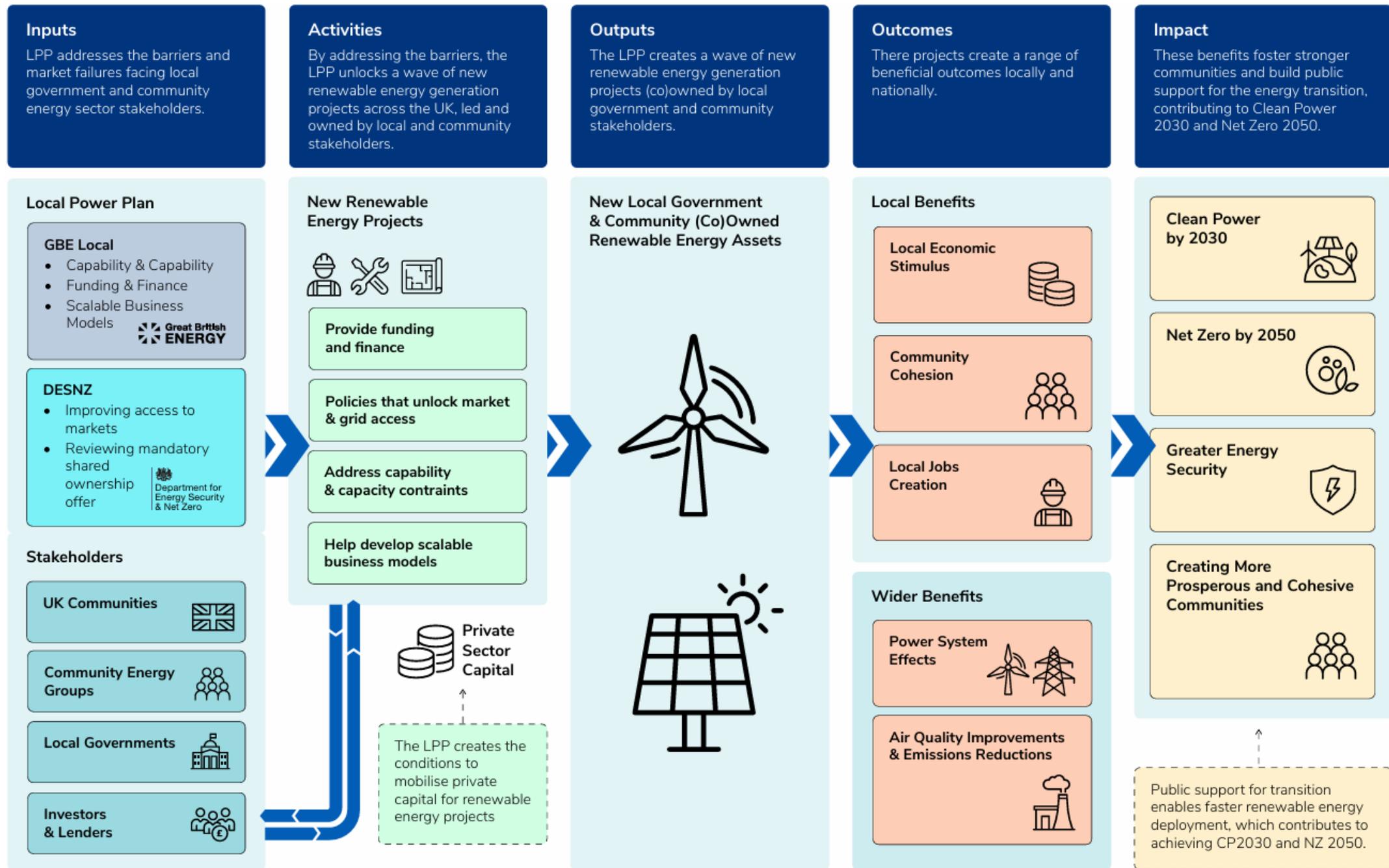
1. Direct Funding
2. Capacity and Capability
3. Innovation and Business Models
4. Policy and Regulatory Changes

£1 Billion budget through to 2029

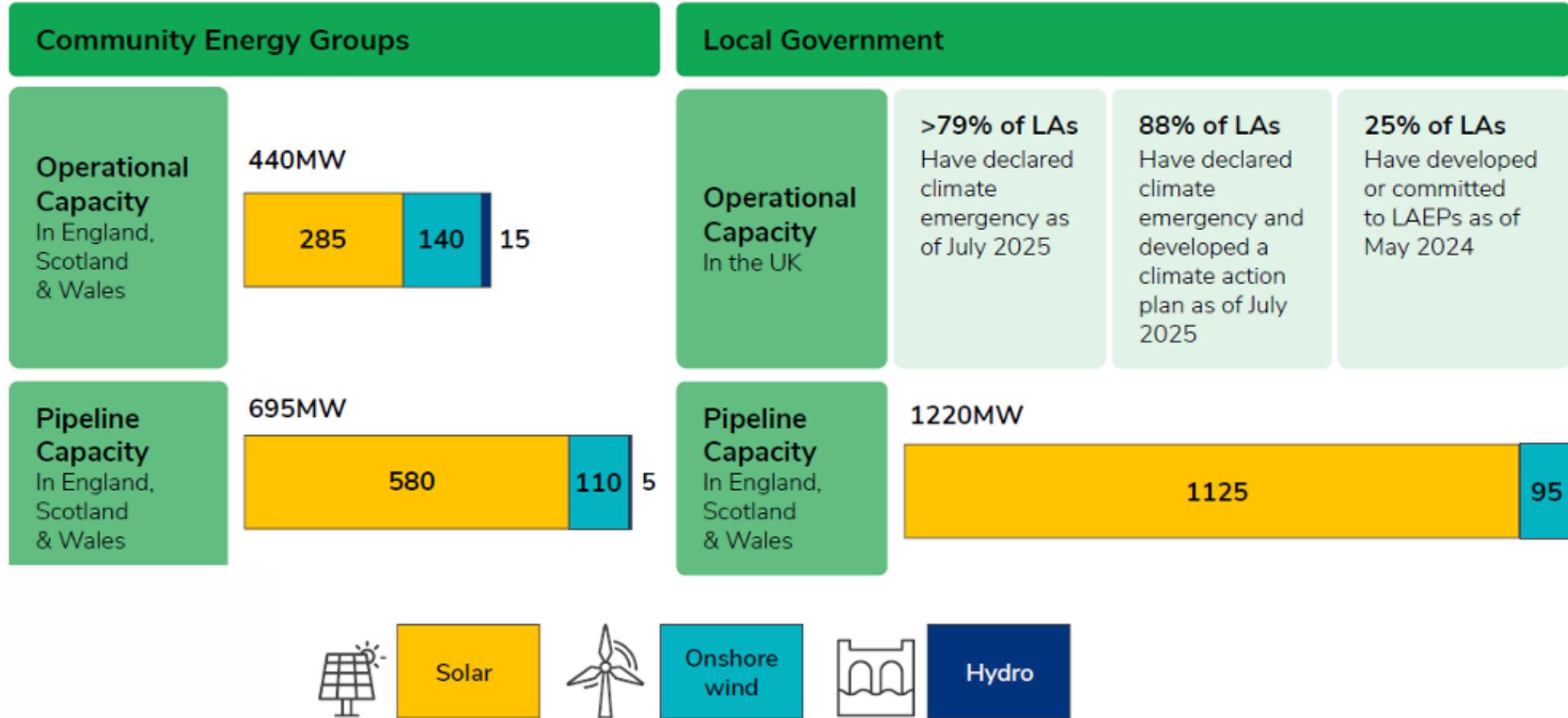
Focus on electricity generation:
Wind, Solar, Hydro, Batteries, Flexibility



This diagram shows, step by step, how the Local Power Plan delivers real benefits for communities:



Local Power - collaboration between LAs & CEGs



Local ownership as a foundation for Community Wealth Building

1. Funding

GBE Capital Toolkit

Emergence and development grants

Great projects start with strong foundations. That's why GBE is exploring two **grant funds** to support early-stage project development:

- **The Great British Energy Community Fund** for community energy groups.
- The **Partnership Fund**, backing joint local government and community energy group projects.

These funds are designed to increase project viability and give these groups the confidence to take the first step toward building a greater pipeline of clean investable projects.

Construction and operation loans

We know the challenges don't stop when a project reaches construction and getting loans for a range of community energy projects can be a barrier. That's why GBE is exploring new loan schemes to help projects move onto the next stage:

- **Construction** - giving projects the backing they need to get built and start generating clean power.
- **Shared Ownership** - enabling communities to buy a stake in larger renewable projects in their area, so the benefits stay local.

These loans will work alongside private investment and community share offers.

Local Investment Funding

GBE will launch a **Local Investment Fund** – searching on a project-by-project basis to identify viable investment opportunities and provide direct investment into local projects.

2. Capability

A strong partner network

GBE Local will develop strong relationships with a range of partners - both regionally and nationally - to tackle barriers to growth. This network will include:

- **Strategic partners**
Organisations GBE works with to develop new delivery models such as Ofgem, Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) and NESO.
- **Project partners**
Organisations GBE develops a commercial arrangement with to help support the development and delivery of projects.
- **Local Power Plan partners**
Organisations GBE works with to ensure the success of the Local Power Plan, including community energy groups and local authorities. GBE Local will work with these partners to develop a pipeline of projects in the construction and operation stages which we can support.

In house expertise & regional support -
working with CEE's Energy Learning
Network

External partners

Templates and Guidance
“Community Energy in a Box”
Shared Ownership guidance

3. Revenue

“Continue work with Ofgem and Elexon on key code modifications P441, P442, P444 and P415 to make it easier to establish local energy communities, share locally generated power and benefit from community energy.” p23

Community Energy Revenue Models

Sell to Market

Community generators sell their electricity to the market via an off-taker, such as a local business, an energy supplier or a national price mechanism.

Long-term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)

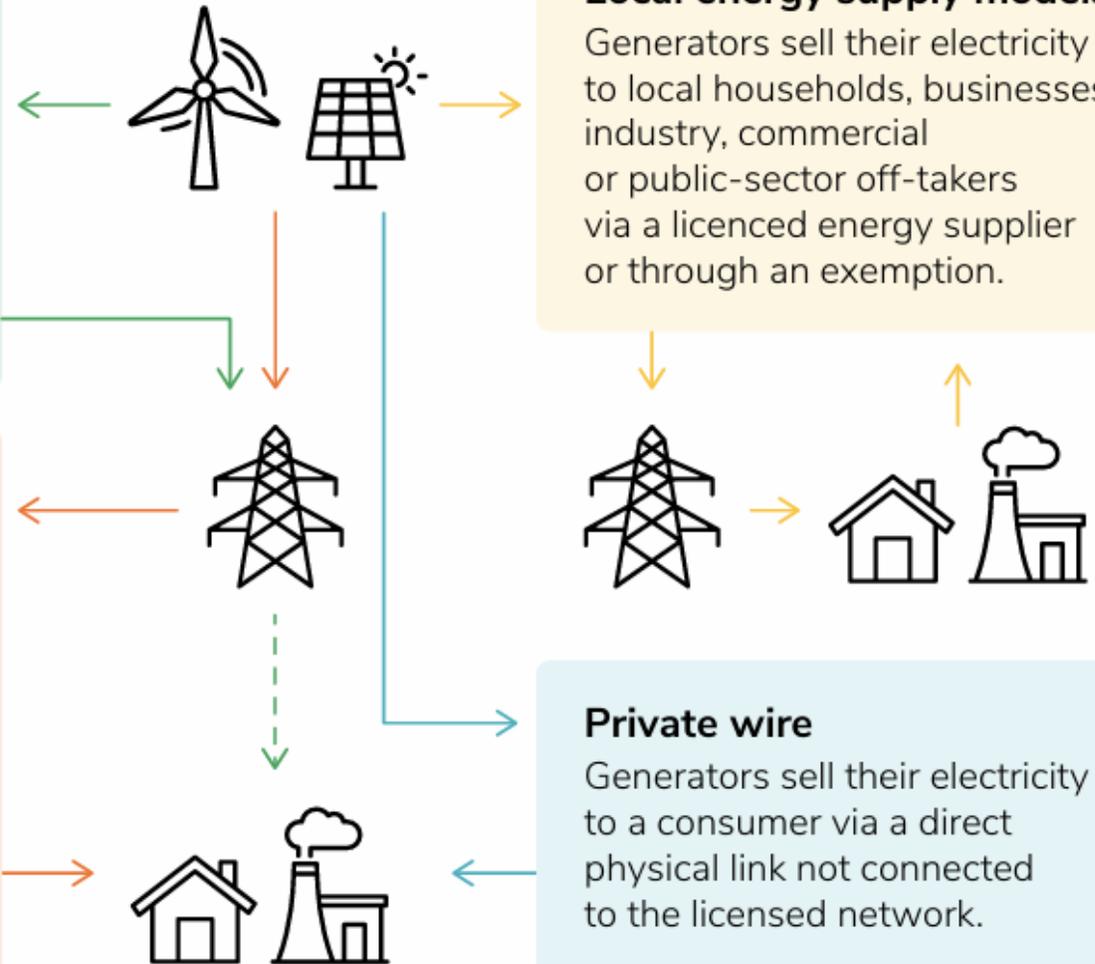
Generators sell their energy to an end user of energy or an energy supplier, over a longer-term contract. PPA arrangements and models vary.

Local energy supply models

Generators sell their electricity to local households, businesses, industry, commercial or public-sector off-takers via a licenced energy supplier or through an exemption.

Private wire

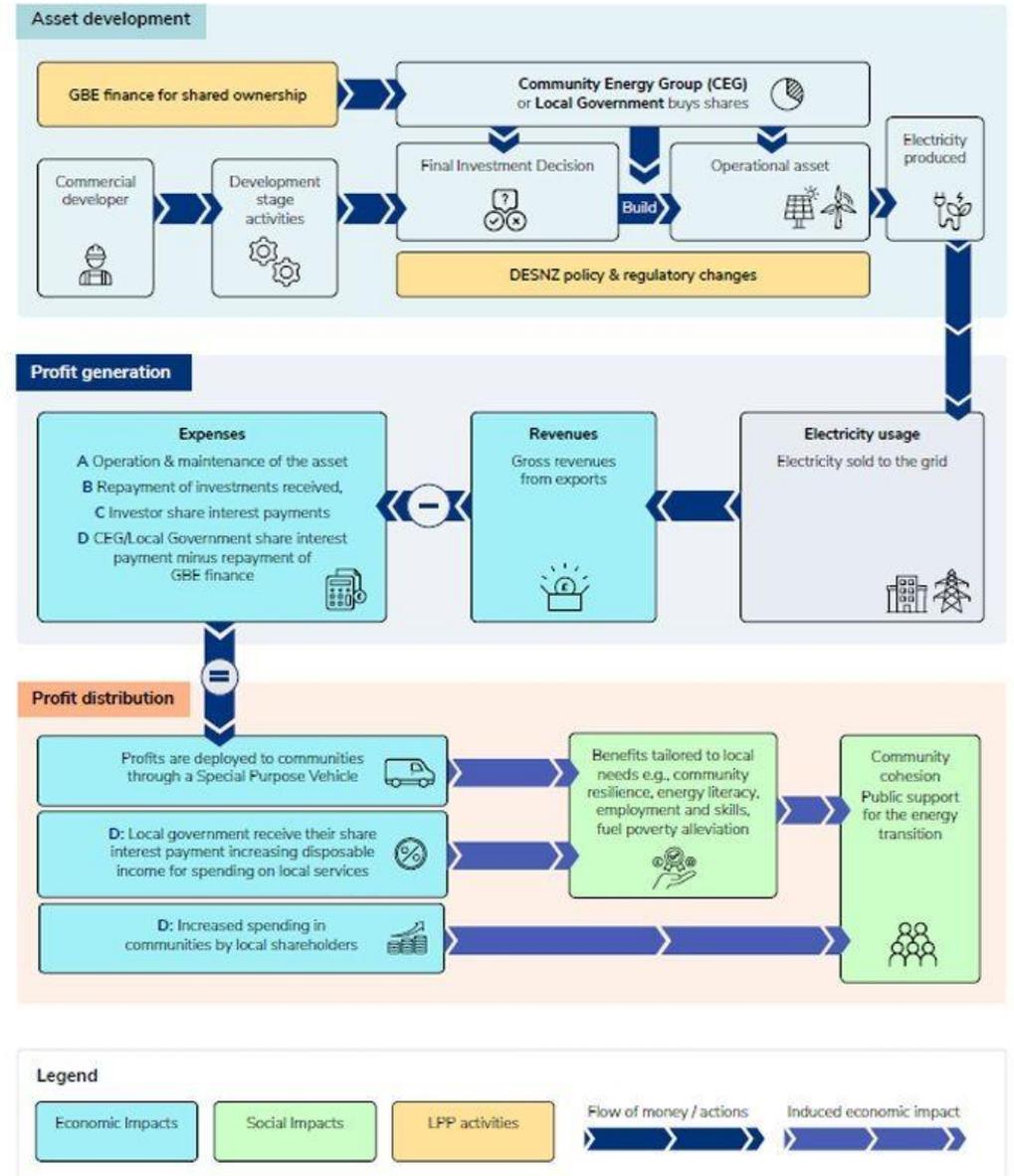
Generators sell their electricity to a consumer via a direct physical link not connected to the licensed network.



4. Policy

- Shared Ownership
- SLES, Smart Local Energy Systems
- Exempt Supply
- Community Batteries
- Planning
- Grid Connections

Figure 5. Economic and social impacts of the Local Power Plan to enable shared ownership of commercial renewable energy generation projects



Why community wind?

It's the missing piece of the Clean Power plan!

5.1GW capacity available still.
200MW in the UK Power Networks region

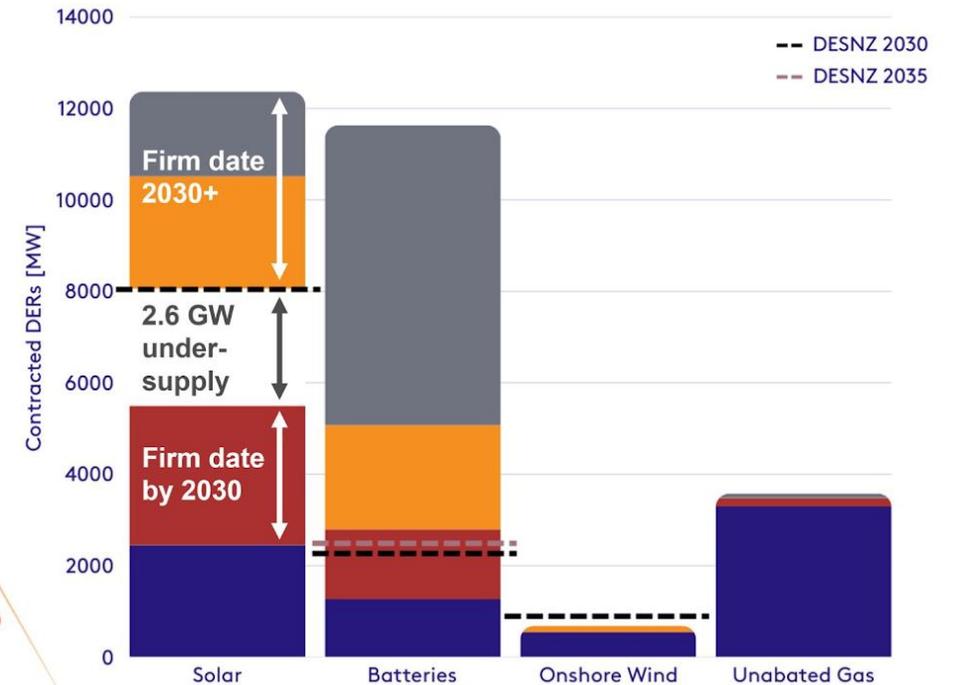
Table 22: Phase 2 MW permitted capacity remaining for onshore wind in England and Wales, and Scotland, for future Gated Application Windows

Technology	England and Wales	Scotland	Grand Total
 Onshore Wind	5100.7	0.0	5100.7



NESO's Queue Outcome UK Power Networks' pipeline

- Connected
- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Gate 1 - Failed Detailed Checks or Queue Formation



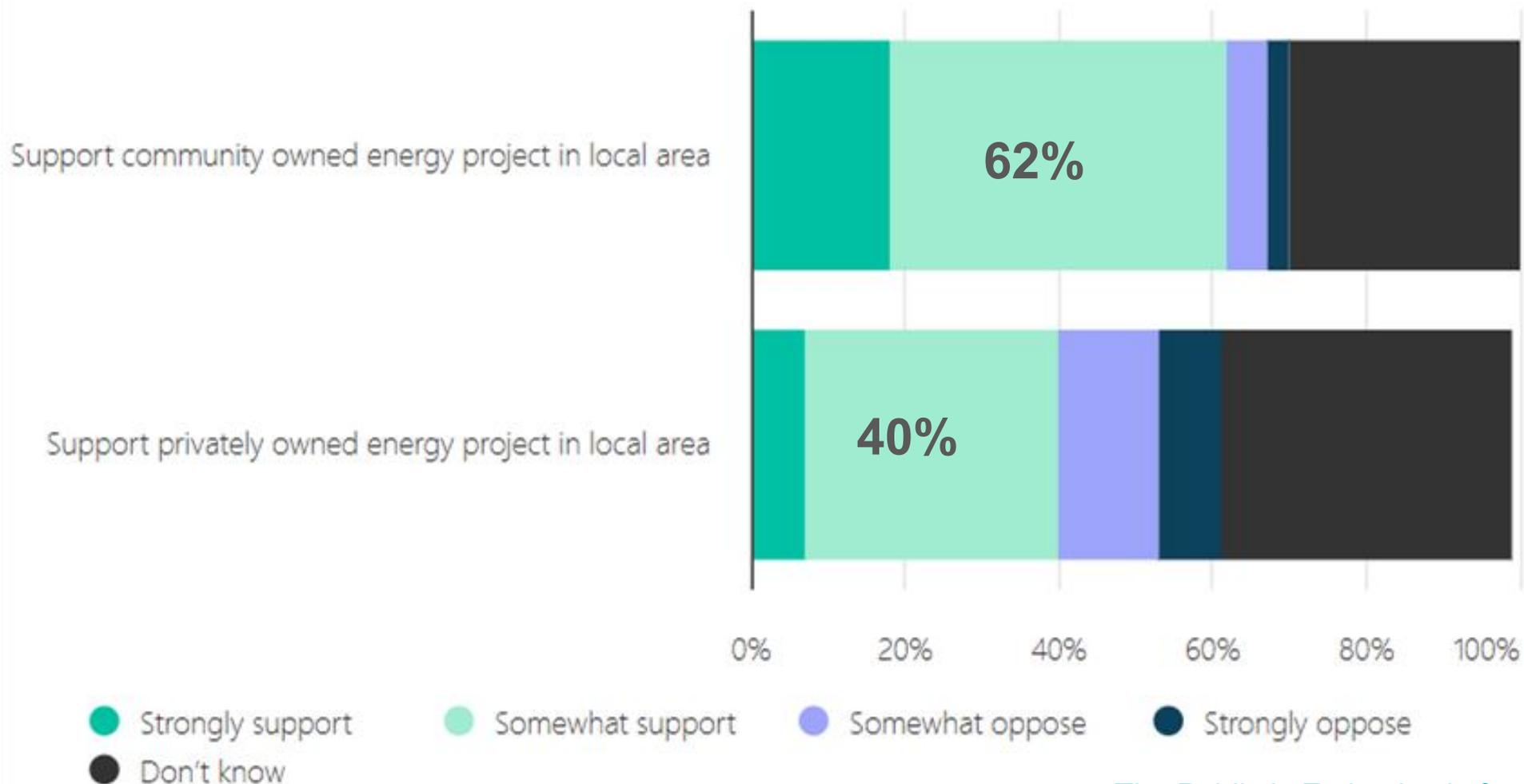
New! Wind Working Group



- Working group(s) page with join link.
<https://communityenergyengland.org/policy-campaigns/working-groups/>
- First meeting held 11th March, next 15 April 11-12.00
- Any CEE member can join. Wessex well represented at first meeting.



People LOVE community energy!



How will CEE support the LPP?



CEE proposed the Local Power Plan to the Coop Party in 2022

- Worked with Labour front bench to scope and model
- Since the election inputting to policy development on many fronts
- Minister asked us to “keep the government honest”. We will.
- Continue to input to ‘GBE Local Product Sprint’ -
 - Partnership Fund, Local Investment Fund, GBE Capital Toolkit, Capacity Building...
- DESNZ: Joining up LPP and WHP; Working Group on connection, Shared Ownership consultation etc.
- Promoting big picture thinking: put people and local at the heart of the energy transformation: ED3, Ofgem, local supply/balancing
 - (See Kate Gilmartin’s speech at <https://communityenergyengland.org/policy-campaigns/>)

How will CEE share info on the LPP?



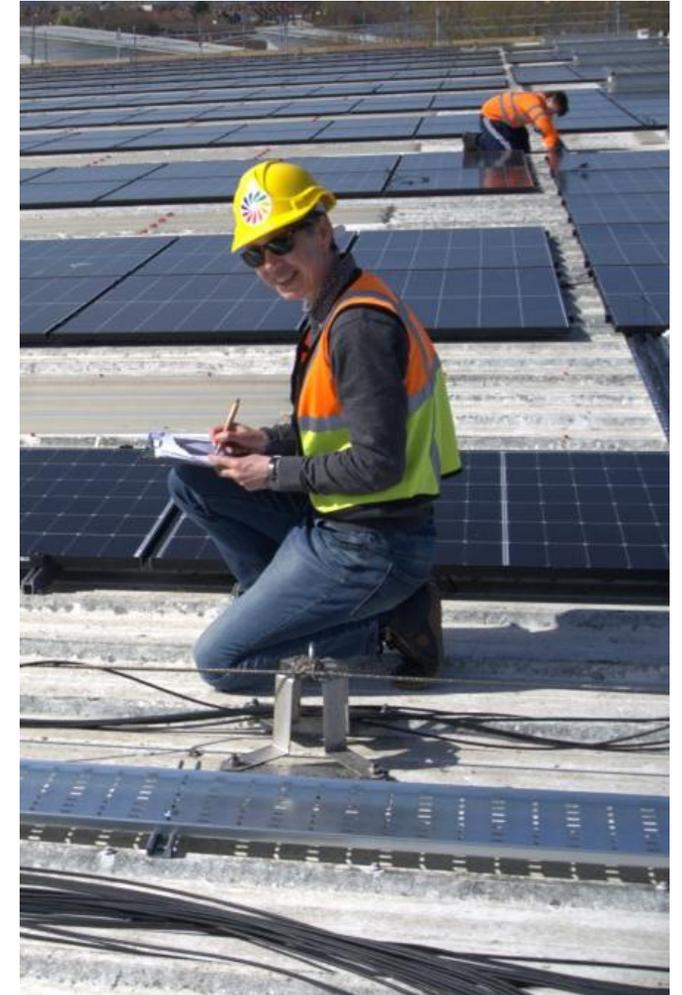
- Newsletters and news pages
 - <https://communityenergyengland.org/news/>
- LPP FAQs
 - <https://communityenergyengland.org/news/local-power-plan-frequently-asked-questions/>
- Energy Learning Network events and policy events at critical stages eg GBE CF next round, launch of GBE Products (Autumn)
- Via Working Groups; Heat, Energy Efficiency, Wind, Ethical Sourcing.
<https://communityenergyengland.org/policy-campaigns/working-groups/>



What CEE wants from CE orgs and networks?



- Ambition and take up of govt and Redress offers
- Fill in GBE Expression of Interest
<https://www.gbe.gov.uk/form/proposal-form>
- Tell your story. (social value, benefit, innovation..) - also to MP, candidates and councillors.
- Support the UptheEnergy.co.uk awareness raising campaign.
- Build collaborations with your LA for the Partnership Fund
- Connect with commercial developers about Shared Ownership
- Offer resources/expertise/case-studies to the Energy Learning Network and CEE esp. on flex and Smart Local Energy Systems



It's time to Up the Energy!



Email: d.law@communityenergyengland.org
www.communityenergyengland.org

Q & A

What's next?

In Person Network Meeting “Community Energy Partnerships”

Frome Assembly Rooms, BA11 1EB

Tuesday 2nd June 10:30 – 16:00 including lunch



Thank you for coming!

Before you go please complete our short feedback survey:

<https://forms.office.com/e/KLneX5KwhK>

Wessex Community Energy Network

<https://wessexce.net/>

Contact us: wessexnetwork@cse.org.uk

WCEN Online Meeting: The Local
Power Plan for Community Energy

