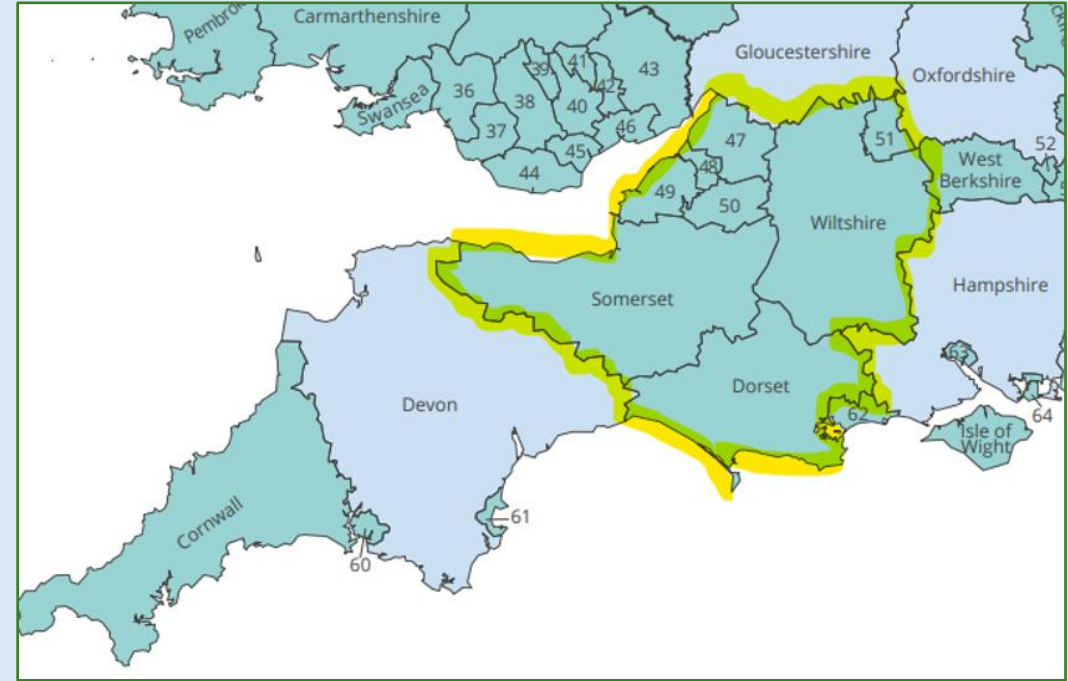




Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 30th September 2026

Agenda

- 12:00** **Welcome & Introductions**
- 12:05** **Review of Last Year & Presentation of Accounts**
- 12:10** **Appointment of Steering Group and key posts**
- 12:20** **Update on the Local Power Plan Funding – Arabella Peatfield, SW Net Zero Hub**
- 12:40** **A Guide to Working with Local Authorities – Dr Rachel Coxcoon, Climate Guide**
- 13:00** **Looking Forwards – Plans for the Next Year**
Poll & Discussion
- 13:15** **Meeting Close**

Who is in the network now?

WCEN has grown from 50 members in 2018 to **182 members in 2026** including:

- **30+** Community energy organisations
- **15** Councils – all the regional councils plus town & parish councils
- Climate action groups
- Service providers – Energy4All, Empowered, Yunity, Solar for Schools
- Supporting organisations – WECA, SW Net Zero Hub, CSE
- Individuals

Highlights of the last 12 months

Our Events

	Date	No. of people registered	No. of people attended
“Opportunities for Local Electricity Trading” Online Meeting	Dec 2025	52	45
“The Local Power Plan for Community Energy” Online Meeting	Mar 2026	100	80
Spring Conference (In Person) “Community Energy Partnerships”	Jun 2026	53	47

*Copies of all presentation slides and recordings of online meetings can be found on our website via the ‘**Meeting Notes**’ page <https://wessexce.net/meeting-notes/>.*

Highlights from the Spring Conference

Explored 3 Themes:

- Local Authority Collaboration
- Shared Ownership
- Innovation Workshops

Collaboration is the solution to deliver more community energy at scale

Energising and inspiring. I learnt a lot about shared ownership and thought a lot about collaboration!

New connections made and existing connections bolstered

There is a huge amount of talent and activity in this region within the community energy sector



Positive Outcomes

Local Supply

Several community energy groups are looking at P442 including:

- **Bath & West Community Energy**
- **Bristol Energy Cooperative**
- **Zero North Wilts**

All have had briefings from Yunity re their local supply club offers

Community-scale Batteries

Dorset Community Energy is applying for funding to pilot a small number of community battery installations and investigating the potential for a community battery to maximise local supply from the 50kW wind turbine currently supplying the **Energy Local Bridport** Co-operative.

Energise Stur Valley IPS are also working with Dorset Community Energy to investigate the potential for a Community Power Club solution involving solar, wind and batteries, for the local village Fonthill Magna.

Summary of Accounts

1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026

Income	£
Grant funding provided by West of England Combined Authority	4,035.00
Balance brought forward from Lush Cosmetics grant	435.00
Total Income	4,470.00
Expenditure (including non-reclaimable VAT)	
Centre for Sustainable Energy: WCEN network co-ordination and admin as per Service Level Agreement	2,835.00
Frome Assembly Rooms venue hire for in-person meeting 2 nd June 2026	246.00
Bank charges	47.00
Total Expenditure	3,128.00
Credit Balance	1,342.00
Restricted funds carried forward	954.00
Unrestricted funds carried forward	388.00

WCEN Steering Group

Continuing Members:

- Cara Naden, Avalon Community Energy & Somerset Council
- Vince Adams, Energise Stur Valley IPS
- Helen Martin, Bristol Energy Cooperative
- Alex Lockton, Empowered
- Iris Partridge, Resilience Network

Stepping Down (but continuing as Treasurer):

Pete West, Energy Local Bridport

WCEN Steering Group

New Members:

- Sara Grimes, Bath & West Community Energy
- Jamie Oakey, Dorset Community Energy

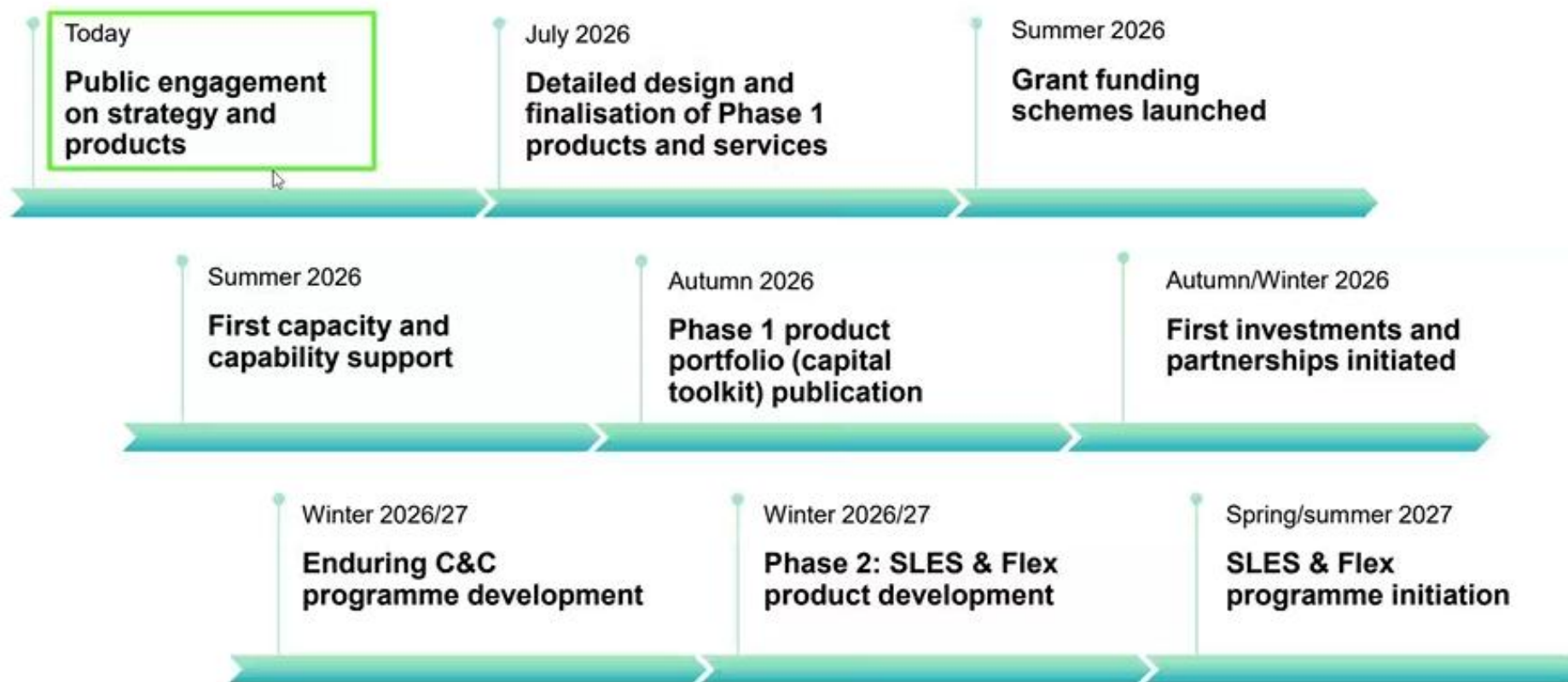
COMMUNITY ENERGY & PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

GB ENERGY FUNDS & SWNZH SUPPORT

Arabella Peatfield, South West Net Zero Hub

Great British ENERGY PIPELINE

Planned next steps.



GBE COMMUNITY ENERGY & PARTNERSHIP FUNDS

- **Both funds now open for applications** - closing date 12th November 2026 at 11:55pm
- **Grants managed by DESNZ Central Grants and Loans Team (CGL** - Grant agreements, change requests and claims)
- **Application via online portal** - PLEASE use a file naming protocol for uploading supporting documents
- **Projects appraised by GBE and CGL**
- **Programme end 31st March 2028** - all project feasibility work must be completed by this date
- **Hubs will offer wrap around support** - from application to project completion after initial triage

GBE COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND

- [Link to Guidance](#)
- **Technologies:** Battery storage is only eligible with another technology. **Type A (generation/storage) & Type B (energy advice) in scope**
- **Stage 3 Capital:** Reduced list of eligible technologies cannot be used for biogas/biomass heat, heat pumps or solar thermal. Stage 3 connections must be connected at distribution level
- **Scale:** "We use a project target rather than a megawatt target, so smaller, locally impactful projects are valued alongside larger ones"
- Some scope to include multiple sites in one application, but each site must independently meet all scheme requirements, funding may be refused if any individual site fails eligibility, deliverability, value-for-money, or strategic fit criteria
- Project Management costs are limited to no more than 20% of a total claim, for a Stage 1
- "Applicants must clearly disclose any proposed in-house feasibility work and associated costs within their application"
- Each scored Q is scored 1-5. Any application with a score of 1 or 2 in any assessment area will not be recommended for funding irrespective of the final weighted score. Assessment frameworks (p29 onwards) are really useful

GBE PARTNERSHIP FUND

- [Link to Guidance](#)
- **England-wide pilot.** GBE intends to "use the fund to explore and strengthen the LA community partnership model helping to build its understanding of what makes successful partnerships, the barriers orgs face, the support needed to bring projects forward"
- **Local Authority lead applicant** - don't have to name a CE partner, but show clear route to identifying one (ie. market engagement or an expression of interest process). LAs responsible for due diligence on community partners.
- **LAs can only submit one Stage 1 and one Stage 2 app.** Must be for different projects. "Each application assessed independently" (ie submitting 2 doesn't reduce chances of getting 2 funded)
- **For Stage 2** - formal evidenced LA/CE org partnership must be in place: "which can include a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Heads of Terms, Partnership Agreement, or other appropriate documentation evidencing the relationship between the parties."
- **Additionality** - must evidence that this work would not happen without the grant. "A difference in timing, scale, quality, delivery model or level of collaboration"

SWNZH SUPPORT - APPLICATIONS

Initial Triage:

- Identify those projects that are not eligible
- Sign post to third party support if governance support is required
- Gauge amount of applications from mature orgs, that may only require light support
- Identify projects that are not developed enough for the first window, and advice actions/support to prepare for possible future windows

Support:

- Provide templates, eg Risk Assessments, Project Plan templates
- Webinars on how to complete the application form, and top tips
- Up to two 1:1s
- If applications completed within an agreed time period we can check over them and advice on further input requirements/improvements to the projec

TIPS FOR APPLICANTS

- Submit Request for Support form so SWNZH can allocate dedicated support for your application
 - [Community Fund - request for support form](#)
 - [Partnership grant - request for support form](#)
- Start your application now, create account in the portal to see Qs
 - [Community Fund application portal](#)
 - [Partnership grant application portal](#)
- Check GBE website for FAQs - they will be publishing and updating regularly
- Remember 3 quotes - start getting these asap
- CVs of staff working on the project AND directors
- Equalities - consider how your project impacts on groups from the equalities characteristics?

TOOLKITS & RESOURCES

Hubs and other partners are currently developing standardised toolkits and templates. Lots of resources on Net Zero Go

- [Guide to Community Solar on Council Assets](#) | GSE NZ Hub, Climate Guide and Community Energy Pathways
- [Community Energy Governance guidance](#) | GSE NZ Hub, CSE
- [Building collaboration between local authorities and community energy groups](#) | CAG Consultants
- [How-your-council-works-A-guide-for-community-energy-groups.pdf](#)
- [Solar potential analysis - GIS mapping: Instructions pack](#) |
- [Yunity Community Power Club](#) allows community generators to earn more through a Licence Exempt Supply arrangement

SIGN UP TO OUR NEWSLETTER



Visit

www.swnetzerohub.org.uk



Contact me

arabella.peatfield@westofengland-ca.gov.uk



Connect with us

[South-West-Net-Zero-hub](https://www.linkedin.com/company/south-west-net-zero-hub)

A Guide to Working with Local Authorities

Dr Rachel Coxcoon

Plans for Next Year

Hub funded events

‘Seeing is Believing’ – Site Tour & Networking Event

Feb/March 2027

Fairy Hill Solar Farm is a new 2MW community solar installation developed by Bath & West Community Energy (BWCE) and incorporating a local supply offer via an Energy Local Club.

- Guided tour of the facility and talk by BWCE
- Afternoon networking event at a venue in Bath

Online Meetings (Zoom)

Themes TBA – we would like your input!

- November 2026
- January 2027

Plans for Next Year

Lottery Funding

- Develop our Social Media Presence
Follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn
Sharing your stories
- More in person events –
What do our members want?
Join at **menti.com**
Use code **8726 4692**



Thank you for coming!

Wessex Community Energy Network

<https://wessexce.net/>

Contact us: wessexnetwork@cse.org.uk

