

North West Community Energy Hub

Resources & Support for the Stages of Community Energy

Date: 22 July 2019

Revisions & updates:

Support and resources are listed below. But don't forget what a supportive sector we are. So always feel welcome to email or telephone other community energy groups to see if they can help you, share documents or give advice.

1. Community Energy Start Up

Type of Resource	Title & Comment	Stage of support	Date	Theme	Info/Link/Contact
Written Resources	Transition Enterprise Handbook – useful for any social business start up including Community Energy. Well worth a read from start to finish before you develop your ideas.	Start up	March 2015	General community business	http://www.reconomy.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Transition_Enterprise_Handbook_FINAL-v2.pdf  Transition_Enterprise_Handbook_FINAL-v2.pdf
Written Resources	Community Energy England Website – the home of community energy – useful information and contacts. The Hub has themed case studies and resources sections (eg on finance, legal, different technologies etc)	All	n/a	Community Energy Specific	https://communityenergyengland.org/ https://hub.communityenergyengland.org/
Written Resources	COALESCCE Community Energy Toolkit - an overview of community energy including EU examples; a project pathway and some resource	Start up and all stages	June 2018	Community Energy Specific	 Community Energy Toolkit COALESCCE June 2019.pdf

	links.				
Website	Co-operatives UK start up webpages. Select a Structure – a useful tool to chose your governance structure depending on your aims	Start up	2019	General coops	www.uk.coop/developing-co-ops/select-structure-tool
Website and free/low cost consultancy & mentoring support	The Hive - is a support programme for co-operatives delivered by Co- operatives UK in partnership with The Co- operative Bank. If you are looking to set-up a co- operative, or you're from an existing co- operative with ambitions to grow, you could benefit from up to 12 days bespoke support, training and mentoring. Also links to free workshops on whether a co-op is appropriate for your organisation.	Start up Developm ent Conversio n	2019	General coops and community benefit societies	https://www.uk.coop/the-hive/
Grant funding & expertise	The Bright Ideas Fund supports new community business ideas through the start-up and planning stages with tailored business support, to the implementation stage with grants of up to £15,000. There will be funding rounds in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August – September 2019, • February 2020 – April 2020, • August – September 2020, • February 2021 – March 2021. 	Start up and planning to implemen tation	August 2019	Community Businesses	https://mycommunity.org.uk/funding-options/bright-ideas-fund/
Community Energy	Shareenergy helps communities to set up and own renewable energy	Start up Feasibility	2019	Community Energy	https://www.shareenergy.coop/start-a-project/

Project developer	societies You could join an existing society and make a decent return while making a difference. Or we can help you start something new.	Finance raising Deliver Member Management			Shareenergy The Pump House, Coton Hill Shrewsbury SY1 2DP 01743 835242 info@shareenergy.coop
Community Energy Project developer	Energy4All has grown to become a family of 24 independent renewable-energy co-operatives. Our Co-operatives have 13,250 individual members and have created 30MW of electricity capacity. Energy4All demonstrates the power of co-operation in the renewables sector. We work with communities to develop innovative renewable energy projects, we then raise the funds those projects need to go forward, we bring high-quality project managers to support the construction process and finally we work with directors to help them manage the projects over the long-term.	Start up Feasibility Finance raising Deliver Member Management	2019	Community Energy	https://energy4all.co.uk/
Website to match CE groups with potential project sites	Power Paired - A matchmaking service for community energy groups and the owners of sites with renewable energy potential.	Site-finding	2019	Community Energy	https://powerpaired.org/welcome
Email group	NWCEN – North West Community Energy Network is a googlegroup where CE groups and supporters	Mutual support email	2019	NW Community energy groups	nwcen@googlegroups.com

	can put questions, comments and support out via email. To join the group, email louise@quantumst.co.uk or aliabbas@gmcr.org.uk	group			
Starter pack	DLA Piper CIC Renewable Energy Starter Pack	CIC set up assistance , short form leases/licences/funding arrangements/PPA contracts	2019	Community energy start ups	For more information contact Darren Walsh, Partner, NW Energy Sector Lead Darren.walsh@dlapiper.com Tel: 0161 235 4087

Grant funding	Sometimes projects just won't stack up – and are better off with grant funding. Some ideas of where to get grant funding include				https://www.pureleapfrog.org/british-airways-carbon-fund/ (full until end of 2019) http://www.postcodelocaltrust.org.uk/ EOI open now until 14 August, then bids in between 11 – 15 September.
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(Early) Feasibility Funding

Grant funding	The Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) is a scheme to support rural communities across England wanting to set up renewable energy projects in their area.	Grants of £40k for feasibility; £100,000 for	2019	NW Community energy groups,	https://www.localenergynw.org/page/rcef Round One Expression of Interest (EOI) July / August 2019 Invitations to apply for funding September / October 2019 Round One Funding Award November / December 2019 Round Two Funding Winter 2020
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		business development and planning of feasible schemes			Two further rounds subject to funding availability Must be defined as Rural on Defra's Magic Map https://magic.defra.gov.uk/home.htm
Competitive innovation grant funding scheme	Next Generation Innovation Fund - aims to create a step change in the development of genuinely sustainable, financially viable and innovative community businesses, helping to raise the profile of place-based community energy activity with policy-makers and industry. The initiative is funded by Power to Change.	Expert support, grant funding up to £100k and peer support.	Applications close 15 September 2019	Community energy organisations	https://www.next-generation.org.uk/grants five projects already supported, and a further five will be selected in a competitive process. Offers expert support from the Next Generation consortium if the scheme is viable after the R&D phase, up to £100k development funding, learning and peer networking.
Grant funding	ENWL's Powering our Communities Fund - is to support projects that put community and local energy at the heart of their communities and in particular can demonstrate how they can contribute to the delivery of one of the following priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging communities in energy issues, particularly energy efficiency Supporting vulnerable customers and/or reducing fuel poverty in our communities 	Grant funding up to £15k	Reopens September 2019	Community energy organisations & community groups	https://www.enwl.co.uk/zero-carbon/community-and-local-energy/powering-our-communities-fund/ A versatile fund with a simple application process and supportive approach.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigating or delivering new ways of working, fit for a smart, flexible low carbon grid. 				
Grant funding to 67% of costs	Heat Networks Delivery Unit Support and guidance for local authorities developing heat networks.		2019 round 9 open April closes 3 Jan 2020	Local Authorities only can apply; but can work with partners	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/heat-networks-delivery-unit The Heat Networks Delivery Unit provides support to local authorities in England and Wales through the early stages of heat network development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> heat mapping energy masterplanning techno-economic feasibility detailed project development

Business Plan Development, Project Delivery & Finance Raising

Grant funding	The Reach Fund - is a grant programme that helps charities and social enterprises raise investment. The programme is funded by Access – The Foundation for Social Investment and is open to organisations in England. Social investors are often approached by charities and social enterprises who require extra support to raise investment.	£15k grant for investment readiness /share offer publicity etc	2019	Community businesses developing an investment proposition	https://www.reachfund.org.uk/ You have to apply through an Access Point, often a social investor or lender to get support. There is no requirement for organisations to be a particular legal form in order to apply. However, to be an eligible social enterprise and able to apply to the Reach Fund, organisations need to Have a clear social mission Distribute less than 50% of post-tax profits and reinvest at least 51% of surpluses into pursuing their social mission, and have a constitutional or contractual lock on their social mission, dividend and surplus distribution policy (also known as an asset lock).
Grant funding	Booster - Power to Change & Community Shares Unit support for investment readiness for	Development grants of up to	2019	Community businesses developing a	Power to Change & Community Shares Unit support for investment readiness for Community Shares.

	Community Shares. Provides grants for investment readiness and to meet national standards of good practice. And Match Funding up to £100k in equity investment.	£10k Match funding up to £100k equity investment		share offer	www.communitysharesbooster.org.uk
Written Resource	Community Shares Handbook	Best practice handbook to meet Community Shares Standard Mark	2019	Community businesses & practitioners	Useful resource whether or not your group wants to be formally assessed as compliant with the Community Shares Standard Mark. http://communityshares.org.uk/resources/handbook
Written Resource	Pure Leapfrog legal documents	Set of standard legal documents		Community Energy organisations	Email Pure Leapfrog and they will ask you to sign a form and will send you a ZipFile of downloadable legal documents including options, leases, PPAs, MoU's, Heads of Terms etc
Starter pack	DLA Piper CIC Renewable Energy Starter Pack	CIC set up assistance , short form leases/licences/funding arrangements/PPA contracts	2019	Community energy start ups	For more information contact Darren Walsh, Partner, NW Energy Sector Lead Darren.walsh@dlapiper.com Tel: 0161 235 4087
GM based	The virtual Low Carbon Network is			Checking if	https://www.green-growth.org.uk/network

SME business support	a new and exciting opportunity to raise the profile of businesses in the low carbon and environmental goods and services sector and improve the visibility of local supply chains.			comm energy allowed...	
Planning	Stockport Council Planning Policy is supportive of Community Energy and Renewable Energy.				Additionally GM spatial framework is supportive of low carbon energy approaches
Future	Bruntwood have an energy supply licence and company billing				This may be a useful service for CE groups in the future?
Future	GM Energy Innovation Company				Being developed at GMCA level for local authorities, but in future may be a potential purchaser of Community Energy generation.

Investment Finance

Loans	Some local authorities have provided low cost loans to CE groups to enable projects to be installed and finance repaid through the share offer				e.g. Oldham Council, Oxford City Council, Plymouth City Council have loaned funds to local community energy groups to kick start them. Other councils have grant/loan funds e.g. Bristol and London.
Investment	Thrive Renewables – investment, bridge finance while groups raise capital through share offers, or support to buy existing renewable assets		2019	Community energy groups	https://www.thriverenewables.co.uk/investment-criteria/community-bridge/
Investment	Triodos Community Renewables Underwriting Facility (T-CRUF) makes available a £10 million		2019	Community energy groups	https://www.triodoscrowdfunding.co.uk/news/new-finance-solution-for-community-energy

	affordable patient capital solution for community renewable energy projects. Finance is raised through bonds. Also a Reach Access Point.				
Investment	Leapfrog Finance Bridge provides affordable finance to community-led projects across the UK to help fund the installation of renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency measures.				https://www.pureleapfrog.org/bridge-finance/
Investment	Energy 4 All, Share Energy, Ethex, Crowdfunder				A variety of project support on raising capital, from a range of providers of services. Ethex and Crowdfunders are platforms; while Energy 4 All and Share Energy are consultancy based and also provide administrative services for share offers and member management.
ERDF	ERDF – not for the faint hearted due to risk and paperwork but available for schemes over £500k				Speak to Sarah Holland or James Johnson at the NW Local Energy Hub. To be honest for CE groups it's a long shot and you'd probably need a local authority partner.
Investment fund	GM Loan – Low Carbon Fund available for Energy from Waste, Wind and Biomass CHP. Investments between £1 – 3m over 15 years. Commercial rates. If you are working on a large project, might be worth a look.			Public / quasi-public-sector bodies Public-private joint ventures Private sector	http://gmlowcarbonfund.uk/ The Fund is open to Local Authorities, Government Bodies, NHS and Private Health bodies to apply for investment. Match Funding requirements apply. Investment is ideally suited to public-private partnerships and joint ventures undertaking carbon-saving projects. Our Fund Management team is experienced in structuring investments that work for the public and private sectors.

Operational

Membership	Community Energy England				Has a brilliant annual conference (free to attend) usually in June. https://communityenergyengland.org/ The Hub and other groups useful for networking and support at operational stages. Sign up to the Loomio discussion group.
Training courses	Co-ops UK Training		2019 onwards	Directors of Co-ops and Community Benefit Societies	https://www.uk.coop/advice/products-and-services/training training courses including 'Understanding your co-op's finances', Essential Co-op Director, Essential Co-op Secretary etc. The training costs £150 + VAT for members of Co-operatives UK and £215 + VAT for non-members.
Future	Asset Management and Professional Services				May be required as projects scale up and become more complex and multi-technology
Governance	Governance and Member Services				Energy 4 All, Share Energy, Co-ops UK all provide support around this.

Communications & Advocacy

Membership	Community Energy England			Community energy groups & supporters	Join CEE for support and communications with other groups, access to events; take part in the annual State of the Sector Survey. https://communityenergyengland.org/
Communications & Events	Community Energy Fortnight is a platform to showcase inspiring examples of communities who are actively reducing carbon emissions with renewable energy and efficiency technologies whilst			Community energy groups & supporters	https://hub.communityenergyengland.org/community-energy-fortnight/ takes place in the last week of June/first week of July every year. This is a good way to raise the profile of your project.

	helping people in their communities at the same time.				
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