

November 2022 | Issue 3

National Grid Community Energy Newsletter

Quarterly news on support available
to community energy organisations



Hello from National Grid, the new name for Western Power Distribution (WPD). We are still the same people running the distribution electricity network in your region. We are still helping to facilitate net zero and we remain committed to supporting community energy across the Midlands, South West and South Wales.

In this edition of our newsletter, you will find news and funding opportunities from across the sector, as well as a call for your views on what support you would like for community energy from us over the next few years.



Connecting to our network video

We are delighted to have launched the first in our series of short video guides for community energy groups.

In this video, Kyle, from our connections strategy team, takes you through the process of connecting your renewable energy project to our network, the key things to be aware of, and where to go for more information.

You can watch the video on Regen's YouTube channel [here](#).

Community energy in our business plan

For our next business plan, 2023-28, we submitted an ambitious plan to drive net zero by as early as 2028 across our region, requiring an investment of £6.7 billion – without raising consumer bills. We encountered some challenge to this in Ofgem's draft decision so we have spent the last few months considering how that might impact our commitments and plans.

We hope that Ofgem's final decision, this month, will allow us to invest as planned. In the meantime, you can read our 'RIIO ED2' plan [here](#).

Community energy stakeholder survey

We are updating our Net Zero Communities Strategy and we want your views on how we can best support your community energy organisations.

We have developed a survey to capture your views. Your responses will be valuable in helping to shape the support and engagement we offer communities over the next 12 months and beyond. You can read the 2022 strategy [here](#), and take our 10 minute survey [here](#).

Thanks in advance for your time.



Net Zero Communities Forum

– 7 December, online

We enjoyed catching up with many of you recently in Exeter and Birmingham during our Net Zero Communities Forums where we heard about some great local energy projects driving net zero and tackling the energy crisis in your communities.

We will be hosting our next Net Zero community energy forum online on 7th December. At this event, we hope to share our plans around community energy for the next year and we will be seeking your feedback.

You will also have the chance to discuss local energy topics that interest you in interactive breakout sessions with community energy experts from various organisations. You can register for the session [here](#).

Community energy spotlight

Power Allotments Devon

Power Allotments Devon is a new not-for-profit collaboration between Regen and community energy company Devon Energy Community Interest Company (CIC), funded by Devon County Council.

The project aims to deploy local renewable 'power stations' across Devon, whilst bringing the financial benefits to local communities.

Local people are encouraged to identify areas of land that they think may be suitable for a parish-scale solar farm or a commercial-scale wind turbine that would be community owned.

An interactive map has been designed to help rule out unsuitable areas such as places that are too far from our electricity network or fields better used for food production. At a time of unpredictable energy prices and the wider cost of living crisis, it is an opportunity for communities to take control of local energy infrastructure and retain the economic benefits locally.

The vision is for every community to own a local energy site that can also be managed for biodiversity, becoming a haven for wildlife.

For more information, visit <https://devonenergycic.co.uk/our-projects/power-allotments-devon/>

Community Energy England Conference

– 10 November 2022, online

The Community Energy England (CEE) Autumn Conference, Energy Crisis Talks: The Power and Possibility of Community Energy, will involve online discussions on solutions to the energy price crisis and community energy's potential to respond in the context of the climate emergency. Sign up [here](#).

Community Energy Awards

– 20 January 2023, City Hall, London

The 2022 Community Energy Awards will celebrate achievement, innovation and excellence in the community energy sector.

The awards are free for CEE members and open to organisations connected to community energy. You can find out more and book your place [here](#).

Funding

Energy Redress Funding

Energy Redress Scheme remains open to community groups, with a priority to help people who are most at risk from cold homes and high energy bills this winter, through grants over £20,000.

You can register your organisation and apply for funding [here](#).

Powering Communities Fund

Younity's Powering Communities Fund is open throughout the year and enables community groups to apply for grants to either start or improve a community energy project.

You can read more about the fund and apply [here](#).



Get in touch

You can find more useful information and resources on the [community energy page](#) on our website, including how to **book an appointment** with one of our network planners to discuss your community energy project.

If you have any community energy news that you would like to share through this newsletter, please email fchanda@nationalgrid.co.uk, and you can get in touch if your community is hosting an energy-themed event and would like us to attend.



Faithful Chanda

Development Engineer
(Community Energy) Electricity
Systems Management/System
Development