

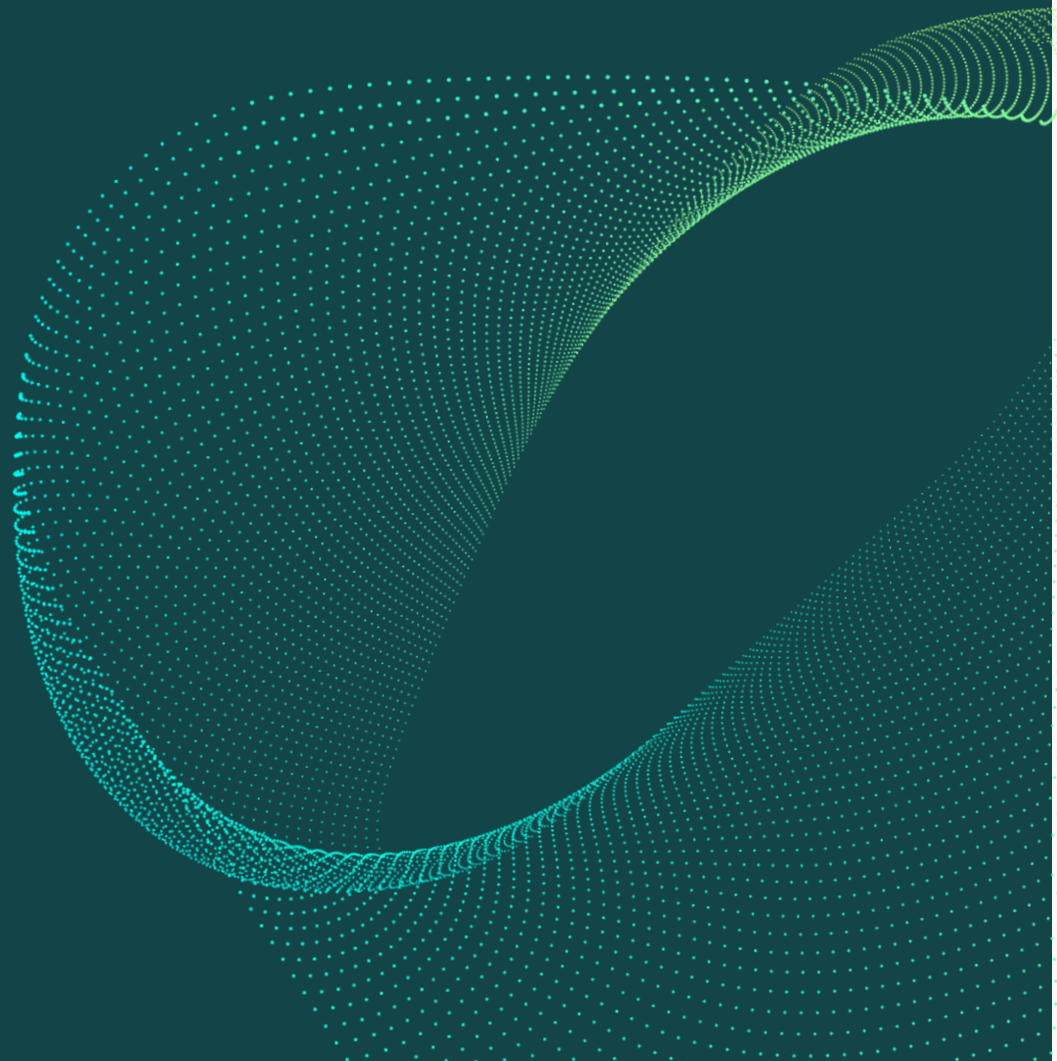
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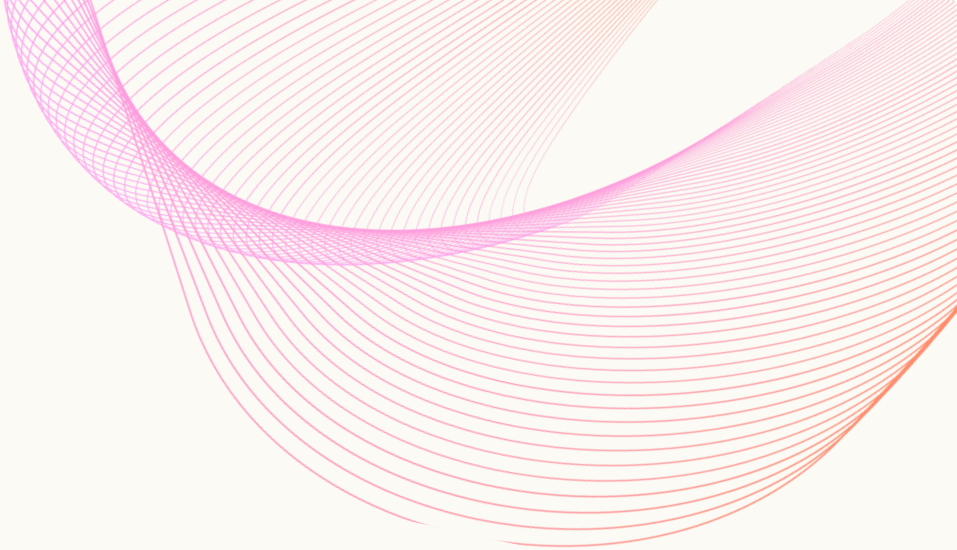
NGED community energy case studies

*Llangattock  
Green Valleys*

DECEMBER 2025 – FINAL VERSION

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## About this document

This case study has been prepared by Regen for National Grid Electricity Distribution to showcase some of the different community energy organisations operating within its licence areas. It is one of ten such case studies that demonstrate the vital contribution of community organisations in tackling climate change, addressing social challenges and delivering innovative energy solutions. Each pulls out insights and lessons for other organisations at different stages on their journey.

## About Regen

Regen provides independent, evidence-led insight and advice in support of our mission to transform the UK's energy system for a net zero future. We focus on analysing the systemic challenges of decarbonising power, heat and transport. We know that a transformation of this scale will require engaging the whole of society in a just transition.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Simon Walter, Peter Blood and Peter Stevenson, whose knowledge and time was central to the development of this case study.

This report was sponsored by David Witherspoon, community energy manager, National Grid Electricity Distribution

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# Llangattock Green Valleys

*Community-led hydro generation harnessing local resources for long-term community benefit.*

## Factfile

- **Founded:** 2009
- **Location:** Llangattock, Crickhowell, Wales (South Wales licence area)
- **Legal structure:** Community Interest Company (CIC)
- **Focus areas:** Micro-hydro generation and rooftop solar for domestic properties as well as community buildings
- **Installed capacity:** 29.5 kW peak
- **Annual generation:** Over 300 MWh
- **Core team members:** 6
- **Shareholders/members/investors:** Approximately 240 investors
- **Website:** [llangattockgreenvalleys.org](http://llangattockgreenvalleys.org)

## Overview

Llangattock Green Valleys (LGV) began with the ambition of turning local resources into long-term community value and to explore how a small Welsh village could take meaningful action against climate change. Their most significant achievement is the development of five community-owned micro-hydro schemes, constructed between 2011 and 2016, which generate renewable electricity while providing a steady income for local environmental and social projects.

Alongside their micro-hydro projects, LGV have successfully delivered a range of other projects, including domestic solar PV installations, a community air source heat pump for their village hall, as well as rooftop solar panels for the local school. Their experience shows how a rural community can design, finance and operate complex projects – and keep them running well beyond the initial build.

## Journey

LGV emerged from local enthusiasm for sustainability and a commitment to reducing the village's carbon footprint. Early on, the group identified micro-hydro as the most appropriate technology for their landscape, given the abundance of streams running off the Brecon Beacons. A major early milestone came with their success in the British Gas Green Streets competition, which awarded LGV £100,000. Over the course of several years, they secured permissions, raised community investment and successfully built five micro-hydro schemes capable of generating reliable, long-term revenue.

The group's willingness to take on technically challenging projects paid off, but it also required patience, perseverance and both local and regional support. Each micro-hydro scheme involved its own design, landowner agreements, planning processes and construction hurdles. Volunteers played a key role in managing this complexity, supported by specialist contractors and local partners.

By 2016, all five micro-hydro schemes were operational. Since then, LGV has focused on stable operation, ongoing maintenance and reinvesting surplus income into local community and environmental projects. One of these micro-hydro schemes is supplying an Energy Local Club and bringing cheaper electricity directly to its members.

Their long-standing track record demonstrates how infrastructure built over a decade ago can continue delivering benefits year after year and remain true to the group's original objective: to create community-owned renewable generation that reduces carbon emissions and brings long-term economic value to the area.

“You certainly seem to need a lot of patience. These things aren't going to happen overnight. If people think they can just come in and have everything up and running in six months, that's not going to happen.” – Peter Stevenson, Llangattock Green Valleys

## Achievements

Over more than 15 years, Llangattock Green Valleys has delivered consistent, tangible benefits:

- **Community-owned micro-hydro:** Five operational micro-hydro schemes have been developed and remain fully owned by local communities.
- **Long-term revenue:** Income from the schemes supports local projects and is reinvested into the community.
- **Volunteer-led governance:** Local volunteers have managed the schemes for over 15 years.
- **Local skills and capacity:** Communities have gained expertise from finance and project management to ongoing asset maintenance
- **Broader sustainability impact:** Work extends beyond energy, including woodland projects, growing schemes and retrofitting initiatives.

“The major thing is communication with as many people as possible and networking with all the stakeholders – anybody who might be affected or might have influence. Talk to them as early as you possibly can.” – Simon Walter, Llangattock Green Valleys

## Lessons for others

- **Choose technologies suited to your landscape.** LGV succeeded by focusing on micro-hydro schemes because it made sense locally – not because it was the easiest route.
- **Expect long development timelines.** Permissions, land agreements, regulatory hurdles, and construction for micro-hydro projects require sustained perseverance.
- **Build strong volunteer capacity and partnerships.** LGV have approached their energy installations as partnerships with the local community rather than technical projects.
- **Plan for ongoing maintenance.** Even well-built micro-hydro schemes need regular inspection and long-term operational oversight.
- **Community ownership builds trust and resilience.** Local residents invest in projects, and the financial benefits are reinvested into the community, demonstrating the strength of local commitment to the net zero transition.
- **Use surplus income creatively to maximise local benefits.** LGV directs revenue to a diverse range of local enterprises, which strengthens community support.

**For groups starting out: Engage early with a diverse range of communities and individuals helps to build trust.** Attend a variety of local and national events to meet people from different backgrounds. Early engagement with a wide range of communities helps build trust and opens opportunities for constructive dialogue, even with those who might be initially sceptical.

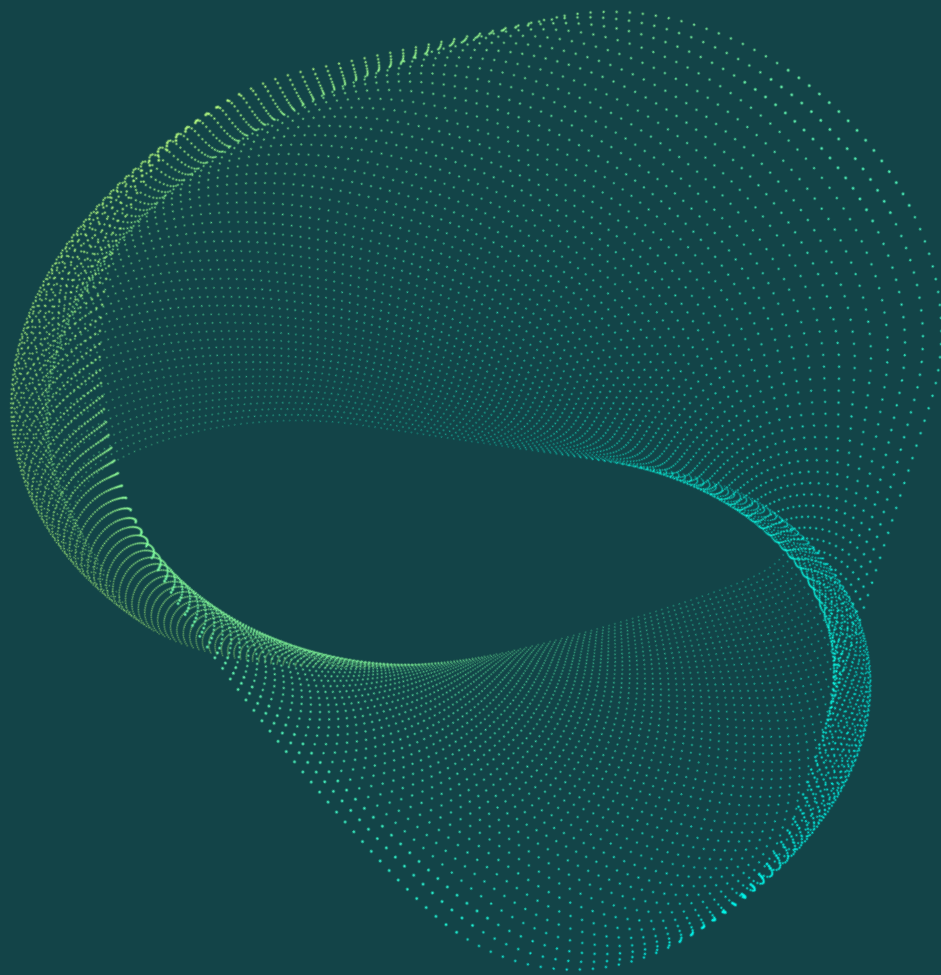
“We’ve supplied a greenhouse to Crickhowell High School... the village society received money... the woodland group... the litter-picker group for their vehicle that died. The money gets spread around quite a lot.” – Simon Walter, Llangattock Green Valleys

## Looking ahead

LGV continues to manage and maintain its micro-hydro assets while exploring new opportunities for sustainability projects in the area. Alongside the Black Mountains Community Energy group, LGV are developing a new approach to overcome local grid constraints, combining solar, battery storage and an Energy Local model to keep more clean power within the community. A funded feasibility study is under way, supported by continued engagement with residents and new biodiversity work on the proposed site. If successful, it could progress to development and provide a template for other areas, strengthening local energy resilience and long-term community benefit.

## Find out more

[llangattockgreenvalleys.org](http://llangattockgreenvalleys.org)



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