

The Community Energy Fund in the North East and Yorkshire

Abbie Raynes – North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub

Agenda

Time:	Session:	Delivered by:
10:00 - 10:05	Welcome, recording, and house rules	Abbie Raynes
10:05 – 10:20	Overview of CEF and learnings from Round 1	Abbie Raynes
10:20 – 10:35 (incl. 5 mins for Q&A)	Case Study: Northumberland Community Energy Ltd – Stage 1, Type A	Andy Dean
10:35 – 10:50	Introduction to Hub’s Community Energy Development Officer	Sue Manson
10:50 – 11:05 (incl. 5 mins for Q&A)	Case Study: SY Ecofit CIC – Stage 1, Type B	Helen Todd
11:05 – 11:25	Q&A	All
11:25 – 11:30	Close	Abbie Raynes

House Keeping

- This webinar will be recorded
- Please remain muted unless invited to ask a question/input
- Please use the chat function to introduce yourselves
- Slides and recording will be shared following the webinar
- Time for Q&A at the end
- Feedback Forms



The North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub

- One of 5 Hubs in England
- Funded by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero – (DESNZ)
- Our aims:
 1. Attract commercial investment into projects and help to develop investment models which accelerate progress to net zero.
 2. Increase the number, quality, and scale of local Net Zero projects being delivered across the region.
 3. Develop and support Net Zero elements to wider programmes and initiatives delivered across England.
 4. Support a national knowledge transfer programme to improve information sharing, training, and evaluation.
 5. Raise local awareness of opportunities for and benefits of local Net Zero investment.



What is the Community Energy Fund?

- £10m grant scheme for urban and rural communities to develop community energy projects.
- The CEF funds are for community-based organisations, which are developing projects for the benefit of the local community.
- Funding is for the development of projects from concept to investable scheme – no Capital funding is available.
- Project proposals should ensure they are **at least 50% community ownership** and must benefit the local community in their final project.
- The fund aims to remove barriers to investment that are currently preventing the development of community-scale projects.



Humshaugh Net Zero CIC – Community Solar Farm Feasibility



Circular Malton and Norton CIC – Anaerobic Digestion Feasibility

Eligibility – Organisation

Applications must be led by legally constituted voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in England only. Eligible incorporations types are as follows:

- Charitable Incorporated Organisation
- Community Benefit Society
- Community Interest Company
- Co-operative Society
- Development Trust
- Pre-Commencement Society
- Registered Charity Registered Social Landlord
- Town or Parish Council



Sewerby Methodist Church

Eligibility – Organisation

Schools:

Applications cannot be accepted directly from schools. However, a community group can apply for project infrastructure on school sites. For example, the community surrounding a school may form a community group in order to progress a project on their school site, or an existing community group could do this.

Local Authorities:

Local authorities cannot receive CEF funding for their own costs in any circumstances (except Town or Parish Councils) other than formally required fees (e.g. for planning applications). However, they can lead an application if they are applying in their capacity as a Registered Social Landlord for a social housing-based project, and they can be a supporting partner to an eligible organisation leading an application for any other eligible project. Although the local authority cannot claim their own costs in these circumstances, they can add value to a bid by coordinating work or providing other support or advice.

Nationwide Organisations:

Applicants who cover a nationwide geography or span more than one Hub region are welcome to apply, however, they should contact one of the Hubs first to ensure they understand the grant value and expenditure they are eligible for.

Eligibility – Type A Projects - Technology Type

The following technologies are eligible for funding towards feasibility work:

- Anaerobic digestion
- Biogas heat network
- Bio liquids/gas/fuels
- Biomass heat network
- Electric vehicle infrastructure (publicly available, incorporating generation/storage)
- Heat pumps
- Heat pump-fed heat networks (e.g. heat zoning for a village)
- Hydropower
- Solar (photo voltaic and thermal)
- Wind power
- Battery storage

Technologies NOT on this list will be considered on a case-by-case basis and you should contact the North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub for advice before applying

Be sure to investigate Grid Connection capacities and wait times if required.



Solar on Great Park Community Centre



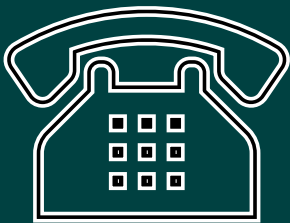
ASHP at Fenham Association of Residents Community Centre

Eligibility – Type B Projects - Project Type

The following types of energy efficiency or advice projects are eligible for feasibility funding:

- Advice targeting fuel poor households
- Advice available to all households, or targeting households that are not fuel poor
- Bulk-buy scheme for energy efficiency measures (multiple households)
- Bulk-buy scheme for renewable and low carbon energy (multiple households)
- Other energy efficiency retrofit programme (multiple households)
- Other renewable energy retrofit programme (multiple households)

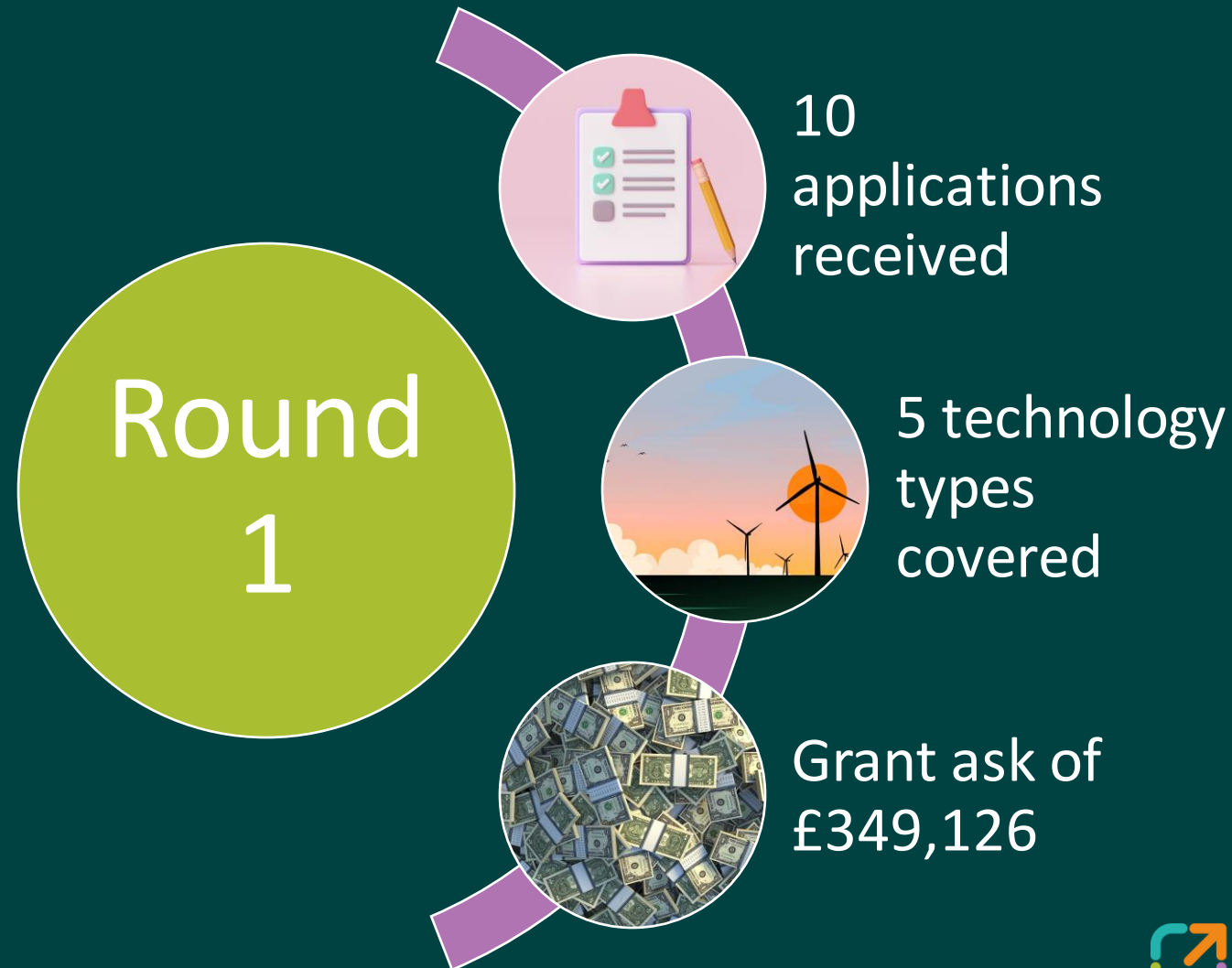
Other community-owned energy services models can be considered on a case-by-case basis and should be referred for an initial conversation with the Hub before applying.



Stage 1 Applications Vs Stage 2 Applications

Stage 1 - Feasibility	Stage 2 – Detailed Project Development
Grants of up to £40,000	Grants of up to £100,000
Professional support to scope project feasibility	Professional support to make the project investment ready and/or construction ready
By completion – Full feasibility must have been completed.	By completion - Projects should have obtained planning permission (or have completed the planning process) and have a viable financial model and secured grid connection (as applicable).
Type B Projects eligible	Type B Projects NOT eligible

Round 1 Overview - NEY



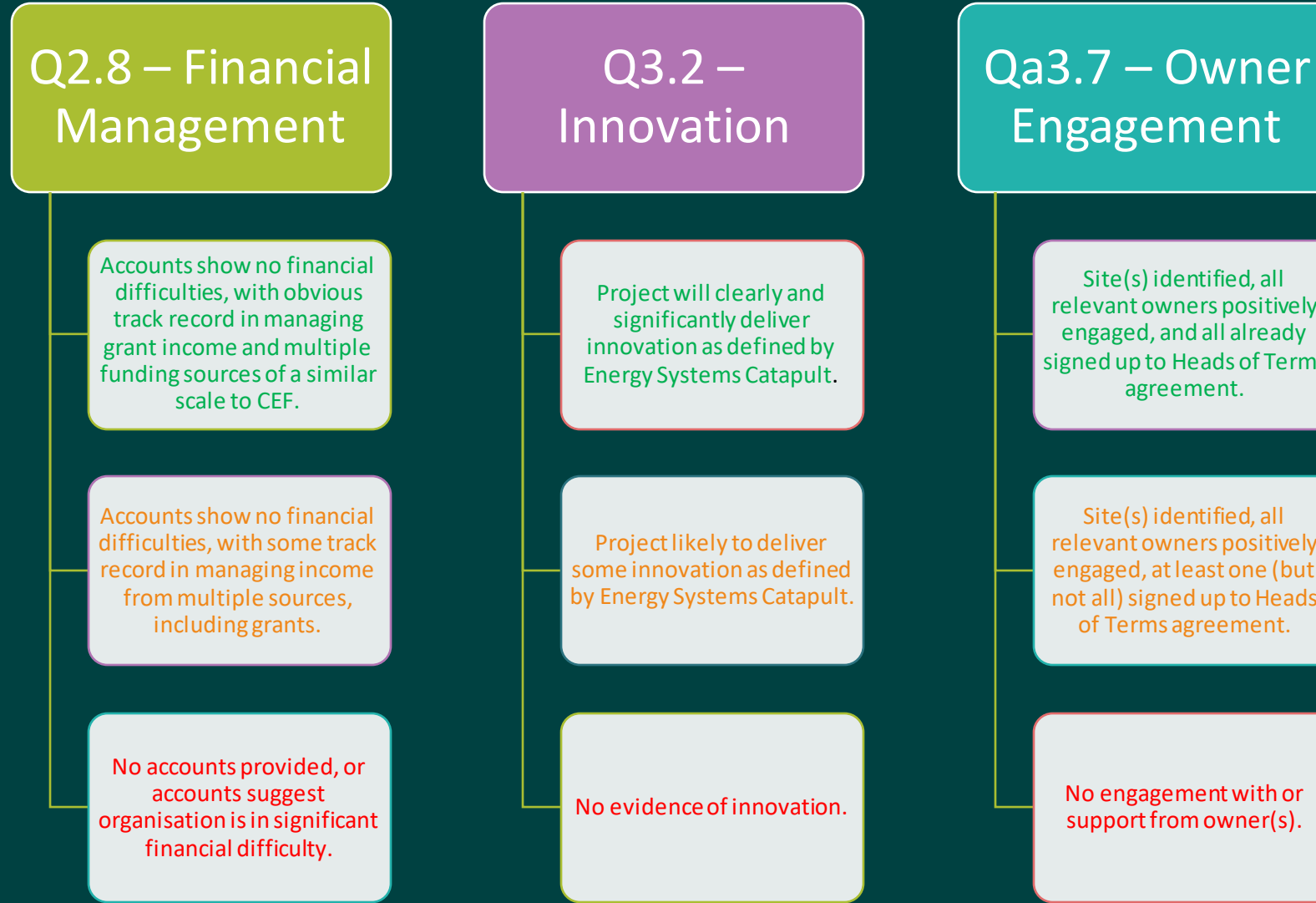
Round 1 Overview - National



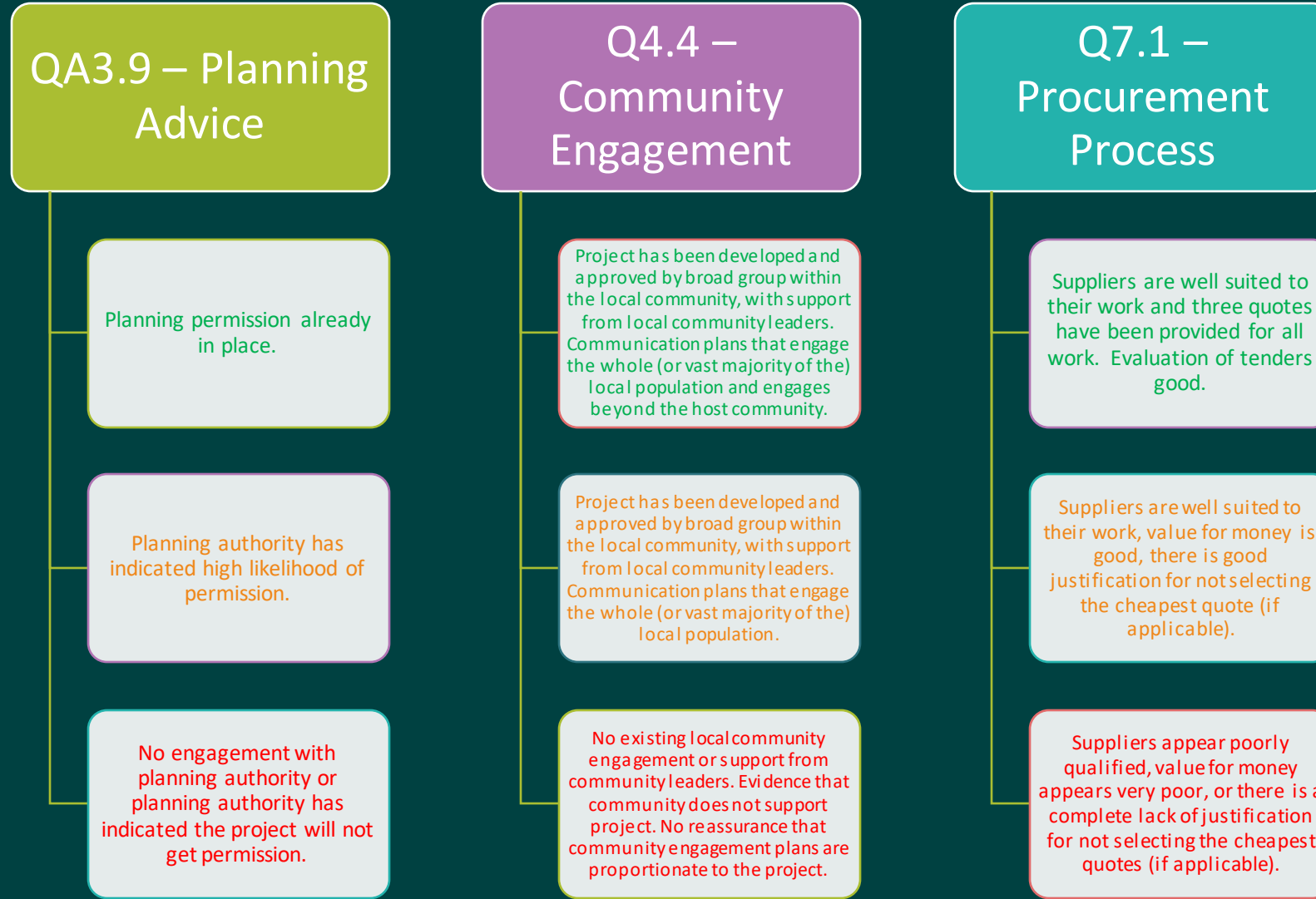
Round 1 Feedback

- Feedback from Groups
 - Timescales to apply were tight
 - We have ensured longer timescales for the second round.
 - Additional support from the Hub
 - Sue is now in post to support the sector, and Emma is in post to support on Hub delivery.
 - Suppliers/consultants list
 - Midlands Hub DPS and networking.

Lower scoring questions from Round 1



Lower scoring questions from Round 1



- **Scale (Type A)** - Applications based on single buildings will only be eligible if they create an asset that benefits the community beyond meeting the building's own energy needs (such as a village hall that generates enough energy to support an electric vehicle charging point, or exports energy to create a community benefit fund).
- **Longevity (Type B)** - Community energy services providing energy advice or retrofit support must demonstrate that they will fill a gap in existing services, that there is local need for the service, and that the project can be sustained over a period of years.
- **Innovation** - We are seeking evidence of innovation as defined by Energy Systems Catapult, to innovate net zero through “new technologies, new ways of deploying existing technologies, new business models, new consumer offerings, and new policy, regulation and market design,” e.g. using new combinations of technologies to optimise the value of the project.
- **New ideas** - A community group that has already received funding may apply again for a different project on a different site. These new projects would be eligible for the full Stage 1 and Stage 2 support, providing subsidy control requirements are met.

North East and Yorkshire Application Timescales

Round 1 – now closed

Open for applications – 05/12/23

Closes for applications – 05/01/24

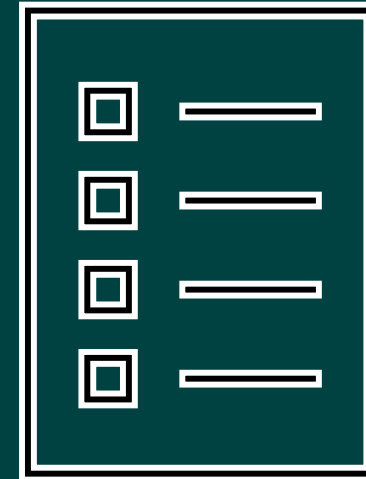
Round 2

Open for applications – 04/03/24

Closes for applications – 05/05/24

Round 3

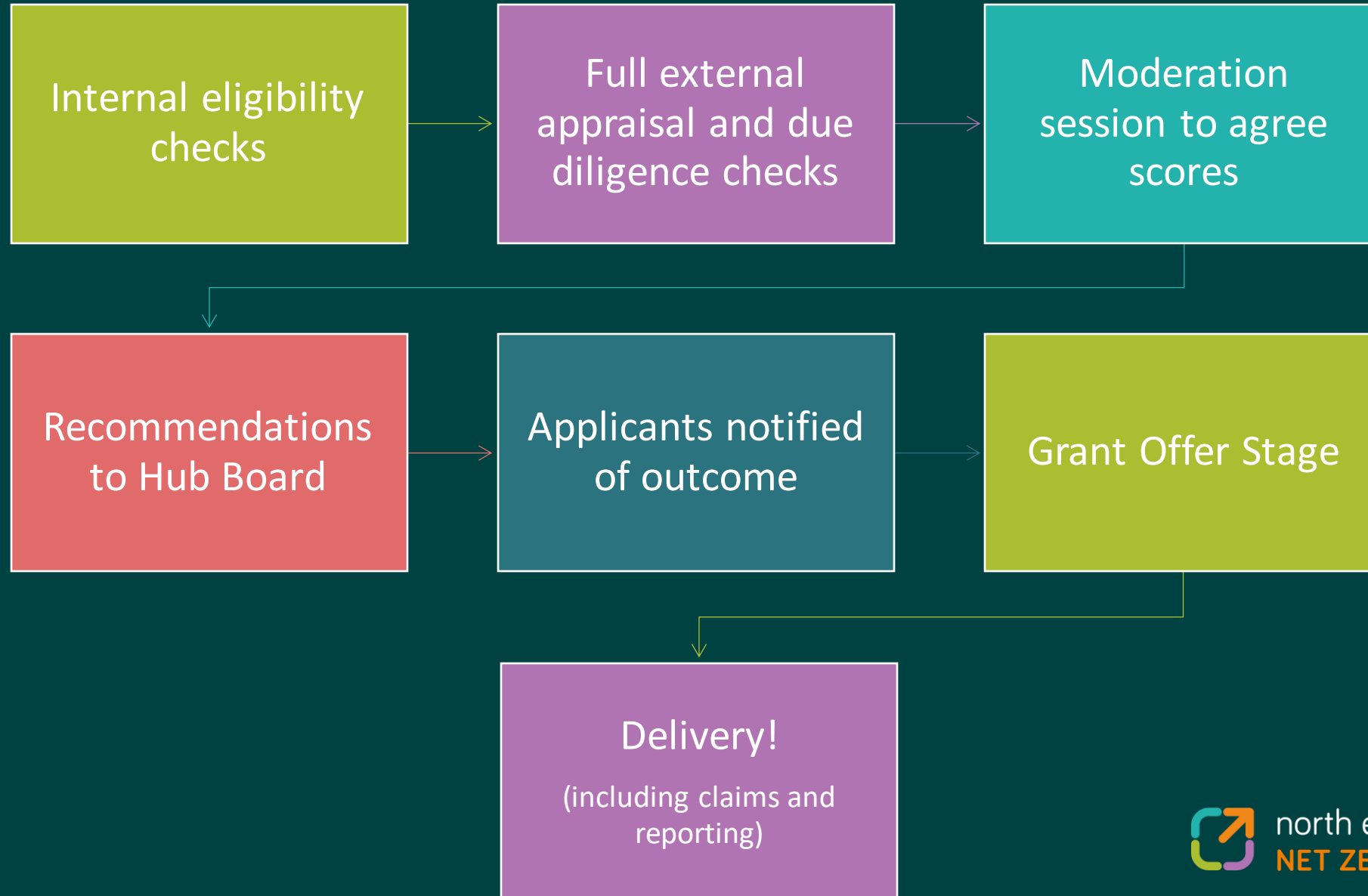
Planned for Summer 2024, subject to funding.



Each of the five Net Zero hubs have different timescales for CEF.

All programme documents can be accessed on our website - neynetzerohub.com

What happens once I've applied?



Reporting Requirements



- Monthly written progress reports to the Hub's Project Manager.
- Meet with the Hub monthly (online) to discuss the projects progress.
- Provide a final case study upon completion of their project, on a template to be provided by the Hub.

Support from the Hub

- More information on the CEF can be found on our website - neynetzerohub.com
- All queries can be sent to - enquiries@NEYnetzerohub.com
- **Our Community Energy Team are happy to discuss project proposals and answer questions prior to application!**



Community Energy Team



Abbie Raynes

Net Zero Hub Project Manager and
Community Energy Lead



Sue Manson

Community Energy Development
Officer



Emma Dowson

Project Officer for Community Energy

All enquiries sent to the
inbox will be passed on to
one of the Community
Energy Team who will
respond ASAP.



Regional Support



Lizzie Lunn - (North Of Tyne)
Elizabeth.Lunn@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk



George Lee (South Yorkshire)
george.lee@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk



Femi Omoniyi (West
Yorkshire) Oluwafemi.Omoniyi@westyorks-ca.gov.uk



Harry Baross (Hull and East Riding)
h.baross@heylep.com



Thiru Annamalai (Tees Valley)
Thirunavukarasu.Annamalai@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk

We are currently recruiting for our
York and North Yorkshire based
Project Manager

Please contact
enquiries@NEYnetzerohub.com
If you're within the YNY region

Key Takeaways

- All project proposals must ensure **at least 50% community ownership** and must benefit the local community in their final project.
- Round 2 applications close at midnight on 5th May 2024.
- All projects must fall within the North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub region.
- CEF cannot provide capital funding for the installation of projects themselves.
- Subsidy control guidelines must be considered before application.
- Type B projects are only eligible for Stage 1 funding.
- Different Hubs have different programme timelines.
- Guidance Documents are available for both stages of funding on our website.
- **All queries can be sent to - enquiries@NEYnetzerohub.com**



Northumberland solar powered community buildings project

April 2024



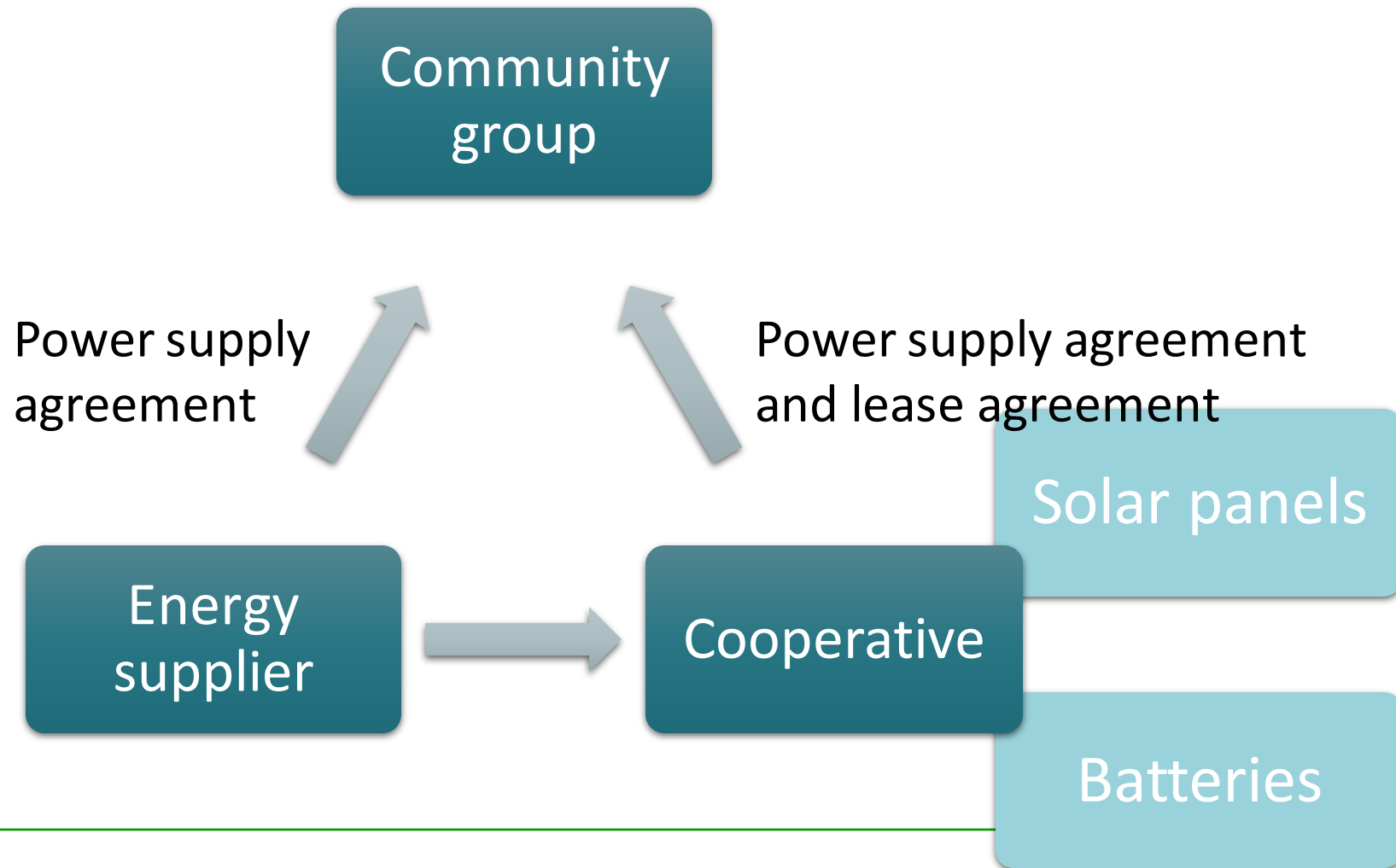
Northumberland Community Energy Ltd

AIMS:

1. Reduce energy costs for community buildings
2. Support resilience in response to long term climate change and short-term events
3. Reduce carbon footprint of community activities

...all whilst limiting risk and maximising reward for community groups

Basic principle



How it works

- Coop funds, installs, maintains and insures solar panels, inverters, batteries and control software
 - Coop manages grid connection, metering and grid feed in
 - Coop has a peppercorn lease arrangement with the community group for 20 years
 - Community group buys power from Coop when local generation is available at a discount to grid rates, fixed for 20 years
 - When local generation is not available, community group buys energy from grid as usual
-

Benefits for community groups

- Coop bids for grant funding and secures loan funding at preferential rates, allowing discounts on energy to community groups
 - Coop is able to access preferential rates for installations
 - Coop takes on all risk
 - Expert project manager (employed by CAN) to manage installations and operation
 - Coop negotiates with energy providers to achieve bulk buying discounts on grid power (NEPO)
-

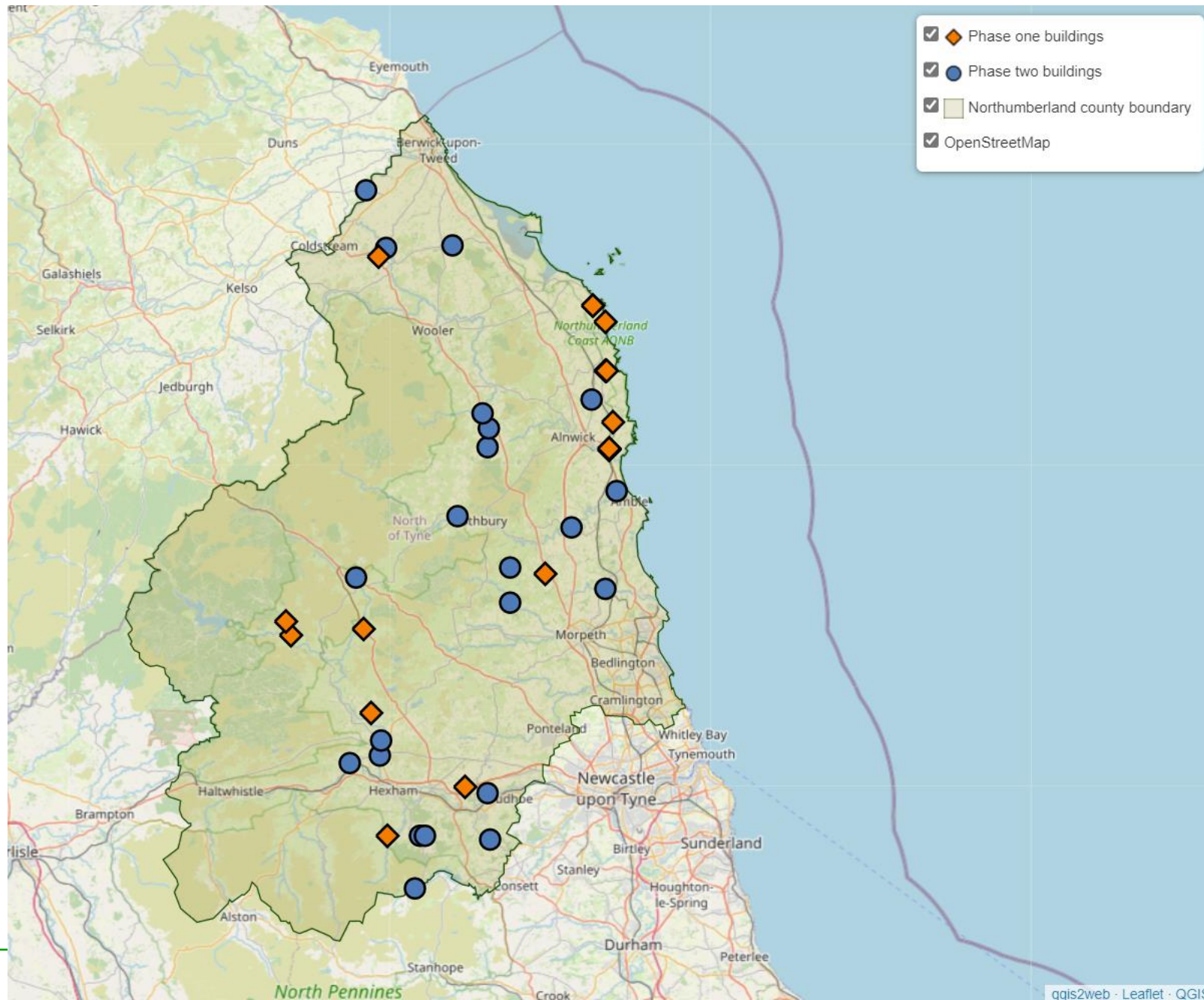
Governance

- Coop formed as a Community Benefit Society, with support from Cooperatives UK and Cooperative Bank
 - All participating community buildings have a right to be a member of the Coop
 - One member / one share / one vote
 - Liability limited to £1
 - Members appoint directors from mixture of members and independent directors with relevant expertise (6 members, 2 independent)
 - Asset lock
-

Current status

- Northumberland Community Energy Ltd established September 2023
- 40 community buildings feasibility/design complete (RCEF funded)
- Funding secured for first 4 installations (Enabling Fund + TNLCF)
- Funding secured (almost) further 15 installations by March 2025 (RAMP + TNLCF)
- Aim to reach 100 installations in 5 years (grant + loan funded)
- 12 planning permissions secured
- Bat surveys completed for initial test listed buildings
- Funding secured (almost) to progress planning on additional 18 installations (RAMP)
- Feasibility being commissioned for additional 33 buildings (CEF funded)
- ---

Project Manager currently being recruited!



Why have we bothered?

1. Reduce energy costs for community buildings
2. Support resilience in response to long term climate change and short-term events
3. Reduce carbon footprint of community activities

...all whilst limiting risk and maximising reward for community groups

PLUS

- Ramp up installations at no cost to each building
- Attractive to funders
- Develop expertise, knowledge and stream-lined processes
- Future surpluses
- Future potential – e.g. grid balancing, electrification of heating & transport, local microgrids, peer to peer energy . . .

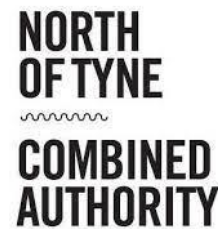
Thanks to our partners and funders

Partnership between Rural Design Centre, NICRE and Community Action Northumberland

RCEF, CEF and capital funding from government through the North East & Yorkshire Net Zero Hub

Additional capital funds through The National Lottery Community Fund

Rural Design Centre Innovation Project part-funded by European Regional Development Fund and North of Tyne Combined Authority



- [CAN recruiting Project Manager – Solar-Powered Community Buildings Project | News | Community Action Northumberland \(ca-north.org.uk\)](#)

 - [Northumberland's solar-powered community buildings project features at London conference | News | Community Action Northumberland \(ca-north.org.uk\)](#)
-

Introduction to the NEY Net Zero Hub's Community Energy Development Officer

Sue Manson

Community Energy Workstream 23-25

- The NEY Hub has DESNZ funding to deliver a Community Energy programme to build capacity and strengthen the links between community groups and Local Authorities.

NEY approach:

- NEY Community Energy Steering Group
- Energy Audit Programme (currently closed to new applications)
- Carbon Literacy Training
- Community Energy Fund
- Community Energy Development Officer



Community Energy Development Officer

- Started January 2024 (to Sept 25)
- Covers the whole of the North East and Yorkshire region.

Aims of Role

- ‘Support, engage and link’ role.
- Provide advice, support and signposting to help communities develop local-led community energy projects from initial idea to ‘ready to fund’ stage.
- Support/develop links between community energy projects and their Local Authority officers.



Community energy projects can be about saving, managing or generating clean energy

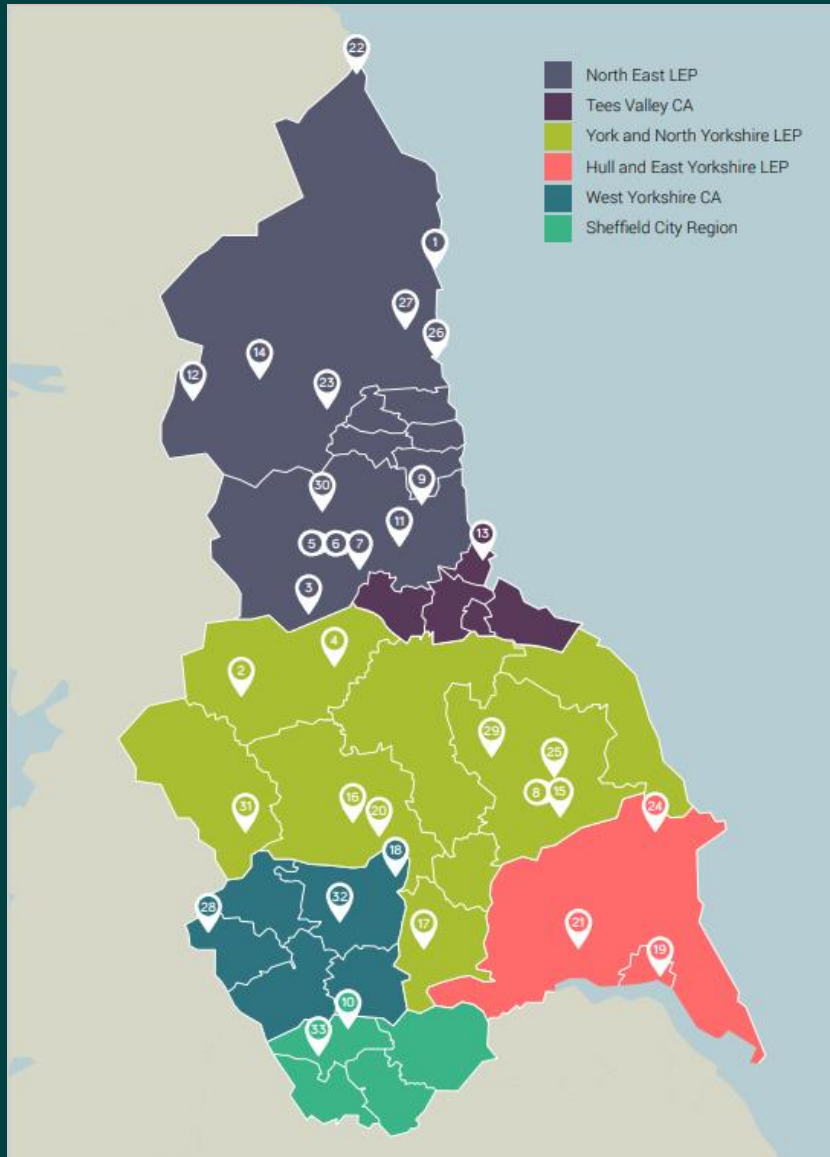
Community Energy Development Officer

Aims of Role cont.

- Build & share knowledge of community energy groups and projects in the NEY.
- Build & share knowledge of support available for community led groups and projects
- Build relationships with existing, emerging and potential networks and groups.
- Share knowledge and learning with and between projects.
- Identify support needed & barriers to development of community energy.
- Identify potential training needs.
- Foster links with local authorities where they don't already exist – working with and through Hub's regional Project Managers – Harry: HEY, George: SY, Lizzie: NE, Thiru: Tees Valley, Femi WY: & the Project Manager is being recruited for NY.
- Identify fit with and add to support already available for the sector – not reinventing the wheel.

Who working with?

- Work with and support community energy groups, networks, community infrastructure organisations, agencies, local authorities & partners to help them realise their community led energy aspirations and projects.
- Includes groups not applying for Community Energy Fund funding.



- 1 Amble Zero Carbon Harbour**
Warkworth Harbour Commissioners, NE65 0XS
- 2 Askrigg Community Energy**
The Yorkshire Sports Development Association Ltd, DL8 3BJ
- 3 Barningham Net Zero**
Barningham Net Zero CIC, DL11 7DW
- 4 Big Green Build Renewable & Low Carbon Energy**
Just the Job Environmental Enterprise Ltd, DL10 4TG
- 5 Bishop Auckland Churches Sustainable Energy Scheme**
Bishop Auckland Methodist Church, DL14 6EN
- 6 Bishop Auckland Community Solar Project**
Bishop Auckland Town Council, DL14 7JF
- 7 Bishop Auckland Deep Geothermal**
The Auckland Project, DL14 7JF
- 8 Circular Malton & Norton CIC Anaerobic Digester**
Circular Malton & Norton CIC, YO17 7BJ
- 9 Durham Villages Community PV Project**
Durham Villages Community Power, DH6 1AH
- 10 Energise Bamsley 2020**
Energise Bamsley Ltd, S70 9GG
- 11 Ferryhill Buildings Renewables Project**
Ferryhill Town Council, DL17 8JL
- 12 Haltwhistle Swimming and Leisure Centre Energy Feasibility**
Haltwhistle Swimming and Leisure Centre, NE49 9DP
- 13 Hartlepower Solar Village Project**
Hartlepower CIC, TS24 7QT
- 14 Humshaugh Net Zero Community Action**
Humshaugh Net Zero CIC, NE46 4DN
- 15 Leppington Energy CIC**
Scrayingham Parish Council, YO17 9RN
- 16 Low Carbon Heating for Historic Buildings (Churches)**
All Saints' Church Ripley on behalf of The United Benefice of Bishop Thornton, Burnt Yates, Markington, Ripley and South Stainley, HG3 3PB
- 17 MFH Community Buildings Renewable Energy Project**
Monk Fryston & Hillam Community Association, LS25 5HH
- 18 Net Zero Carbon Wetherby**
The Parochial Church of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wetherby with Linton, LS22 6LP
- 19 Net Zero for Humber Area Methodists**
South Holderness Methodist Circuit, HU9 3LP
- 20 Net Zero for Nidderdale Area Methodists**
Nidd Valley Methodist Circuit, HG2 9NJ
- 21 Newbald Energy Company**
Newbald Parish Council, YO43 4SN
- 22 Norham Community Energy Project**
Norham Development Trust Limited (NDTL), TD15 2LE
- 23 Prudhoe Community Buildings Renewable Energy**
Prudhoe Community Partnership, NE42 5AA
- 24 Renewable Energy Thwing Parish**
Thwing & Octon Parish Council, YO25 3DY
- 25 Ryedale Village Halls Solar Array & Battery Storage**
Kirby Misperton Village Hall, YO17 6XN
- 26 SCENE Community Solar**
SCENE – Sustainable Community Enterprises North East, NE24 3AG
- 27 Smart Connected Renewable Community Energy**
Community Action Northumberland, NE61 6UF
- 28 Solar Smart Communities**
Pennine Community Power Ltd, HX7 7JB
- 29 Sustainable Regeneration of Sports Club**
Helmsley Sports Club, YO62 5EZ
- 30 Tow Law Sustainable Heat and Power Project**
Tow Law Community Organisation, DL13 4AW
- 31 Towards Carbon Neutral Churches in Craven**
St Mary the Virgin, Embay with Eastby Parochial Church Council (PCC), BD23 6SF
- 32 Trinity Energy Hub**
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Holy Trinity, Ripon, Diocese of Leeds, HG4 2EY
- 33 Upper Don Community Biogas Project**
Upper Don Renewable Energy Ltd, S36 2DT

North East and Yorkshire Community Energy Projects 2022-23

How I Can Support

Direct guidance & advice –

- Support & guidance for Community Energy Fund applications
- Work with and support groups, networks, partners to develop their community led energy aspirations and projects

How -

- Initial enquiry via enquiries@NEYnetzerohub.com or via your Regional Hub Project Manager, Local Authority or Community Infrastructure organisations
- Responding direct to enquiries
- Follow up conversations and actions as appropriate
- Connect groups with other help they need.

How I Can Support

Signposting to support - Signposting and linking groups to:

- People & organisations - Sector and Local Authority support
- Information
- Training
- Expertise
- Funding
- Introductions to other groups doing similar things

Share knowledge and learning with and between projects -

- Encourage networking between groups and projects – share learning, mentoring potential
- Share models – identify & support potential joint working or scaling up
- Website case studies & webinars – <https://www.neynetzerohub.com/projects-and-events/case-studies/> -
- Share learning and case studies from other 4 Net Zero Hubs across England.

How I Can Support

- Circulating info - sector developments, funding, resources and training – sign up to mailing list – email enquiries@NEYnetzerohub.com
- Inputting into local & regional newsletters – support organisations, raise awareness of partner webinars, workshops and training opportunities
- Direct engagement with climate, sustainability, community energy groups, networks, forums & events
- Direct introductions
- Building case study portfolio to share
- Partnership working with other organisations giving CE support – resources, funding support, training, governance etc. eg. Local authority officers, Community Energy England, CIOs, energy sector

Identify support needed & barriers to development of Community Energy

- In areas of North East & Yorkshire region with little community energy activity - work with groups, organisations & partners to understand barriers and provide support where possible.
- **Community Energy Consultations**
 - **Barriers to Community Energy Projects Call for Evidence - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)** Closing date: **30 June 2024** <https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/barriers-to-community-energy-projects>
 - **Community Energy England's 2024 State of the Sector research** - new online portal for capturing the sector's data that benefits community energy organisations – provides data to tell the story of the broader sector - input your info **by 22 April** <https://sots.communityenergyengland.org/>

A Few Links and Training



- **NEY Net Zero Hub events and training:**
www.neynetzerohub.com/latest-new/hub-events/ (neynetzerohub.com)
- **Community Energy Webinar Tuesday 16th April** to explore the **governance of community energy groups** for North West Net Zero Hub area through [Community Net Zero Pathways | local energy north west hub \(localenergynw.org\)](http://localenergy.northwesthub.org)
- **Community Energy England** – lots of ‘how to’s’, funding and training info, national map of CE projects, case studies www.communityenergyengland.org
- **Securing funding for your Community Energy Project** – slides and recordings of talks from 8 March webinar – includes some info on funding for solar panels.
www.regen.co.uk/community-energy-engagement-programme-online-training-sessions/
- **Northern Powergrid** run free workshops:
engage.northernpowergrid.com/events/upcoming-events **including 4 July in person**
North East community energy forum

SY Ecofit

Community Energy Fund project



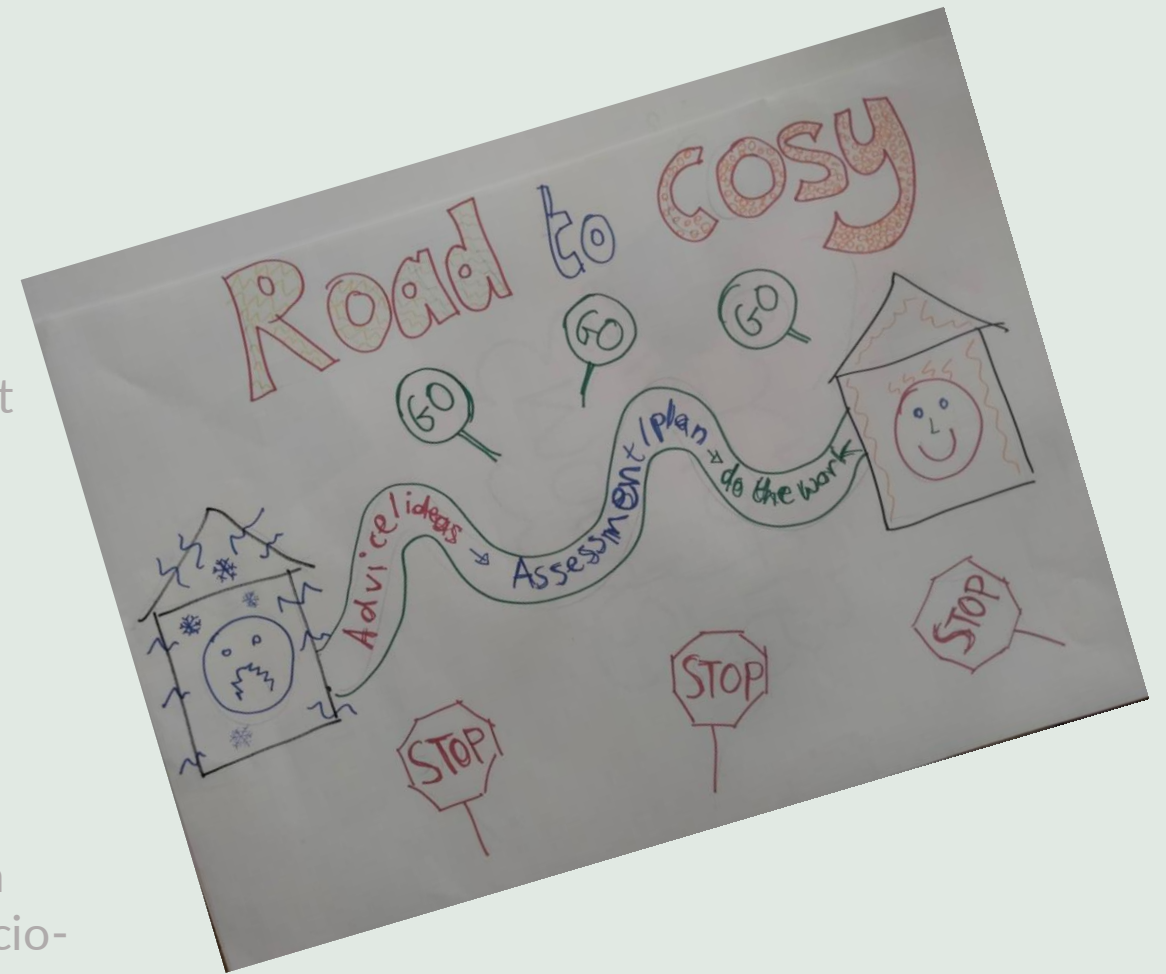
Overview

- The challenge- why this project is needed
- Intro to SY Ecofit
- Our CEF project



The challenge- why this project is needed

- Domestic energy use represents between 29% (Doncaster) and 39% (Sheffield) of total energy use in South Yorkshire
- Two-thirds of houses have an Energy Performance Certificate rating below C
- Very different situation, barriers and needs in different areas and among different communities
 - High levels of fuel poverty in some areas, 'energy decadence' in wealthier areas
 - People from ethnic minorities disproportionately impacted by fuel poverty
 - Existing projects focused on less wealthy people and uptake of grants
- To decarbonise while achieving social equity there is a need to engage and inspire behaviour change in all socio-economic groupings



The challenge

- Since the South Yorkshire Energy Centre (SYEC) closed, there is nowhere in the region providing expertise and information to the public on how to decarbonise (whilst also improving homes and reducing energy bills)
- Lack of an accessible pathway from basic information through to getting complex retrofit work done
- Current activity is fragmented and operating in a niche market (with the risk of poor quality retrofit damaging market confidence and reducing take-up)
- Risk of South Yorkshire falling behind its 'higher profile' neighbours in West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester (who already have organisations such as Climate Action Leeds and People Powered Retrofit)

Overview of SY Ecofit

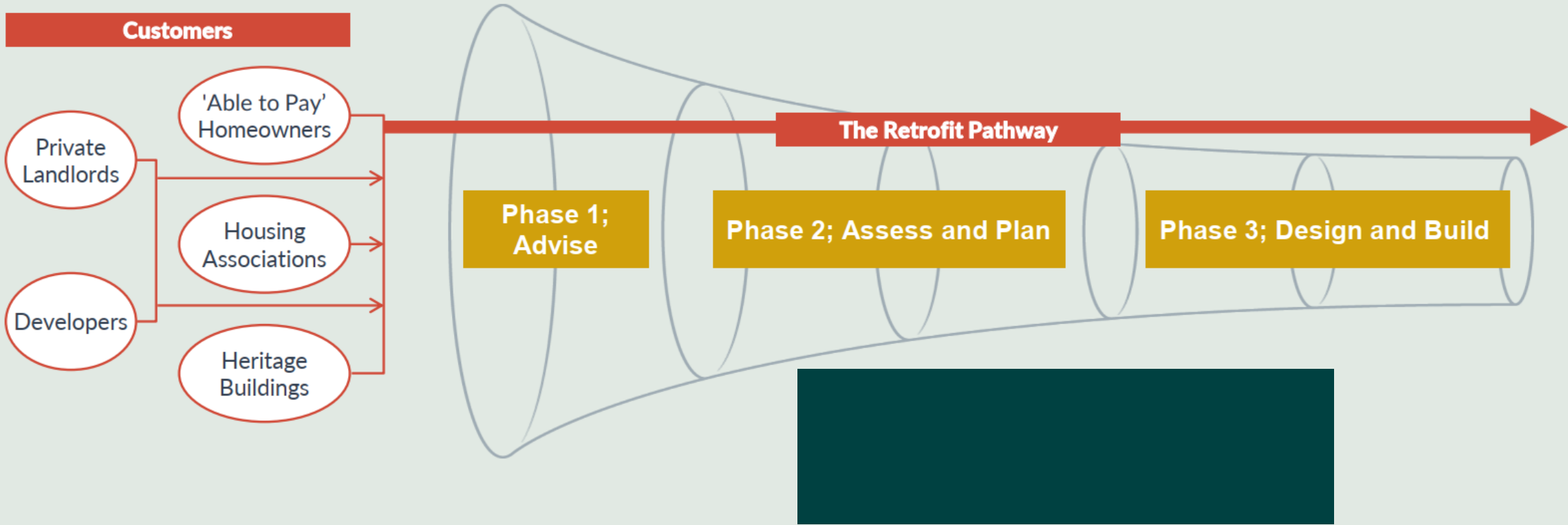
SY Ecofit is a Community Interest Company (registered Nov 2023) undertaking projects that decarbonise while building community wealth.

Our focus is on developing a community centred approach responsive to the needs of South Yorkshire and adjacent areas, building strong local relationships and taking advantage of opportunities to link niches in the region and establish a circular economy.

Within retrofit, our ambition is to increase the scale and pace of retrofit projects being delivered by:

- Developing a retrofit market that generates and retains wealth for the region
- Building collaboration and partnerships across the retrofit supply chain
- Dismantling the barriers that currently hinder the delivery of retrofit.

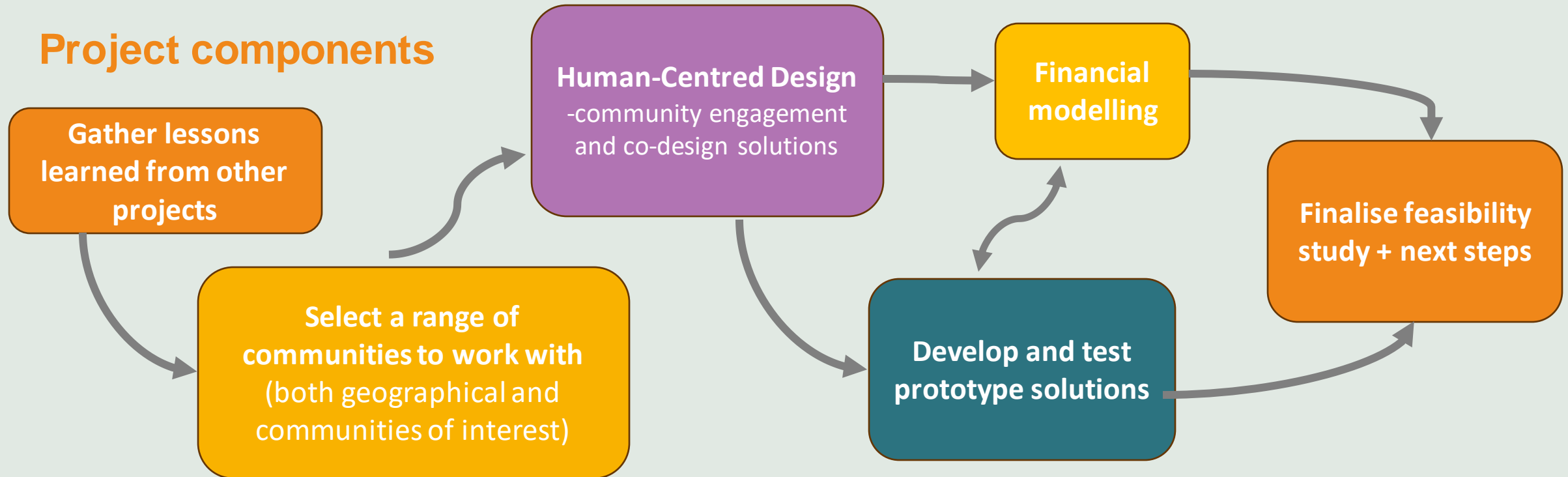
SY Ecofit- Retrofit Pathway



Our project

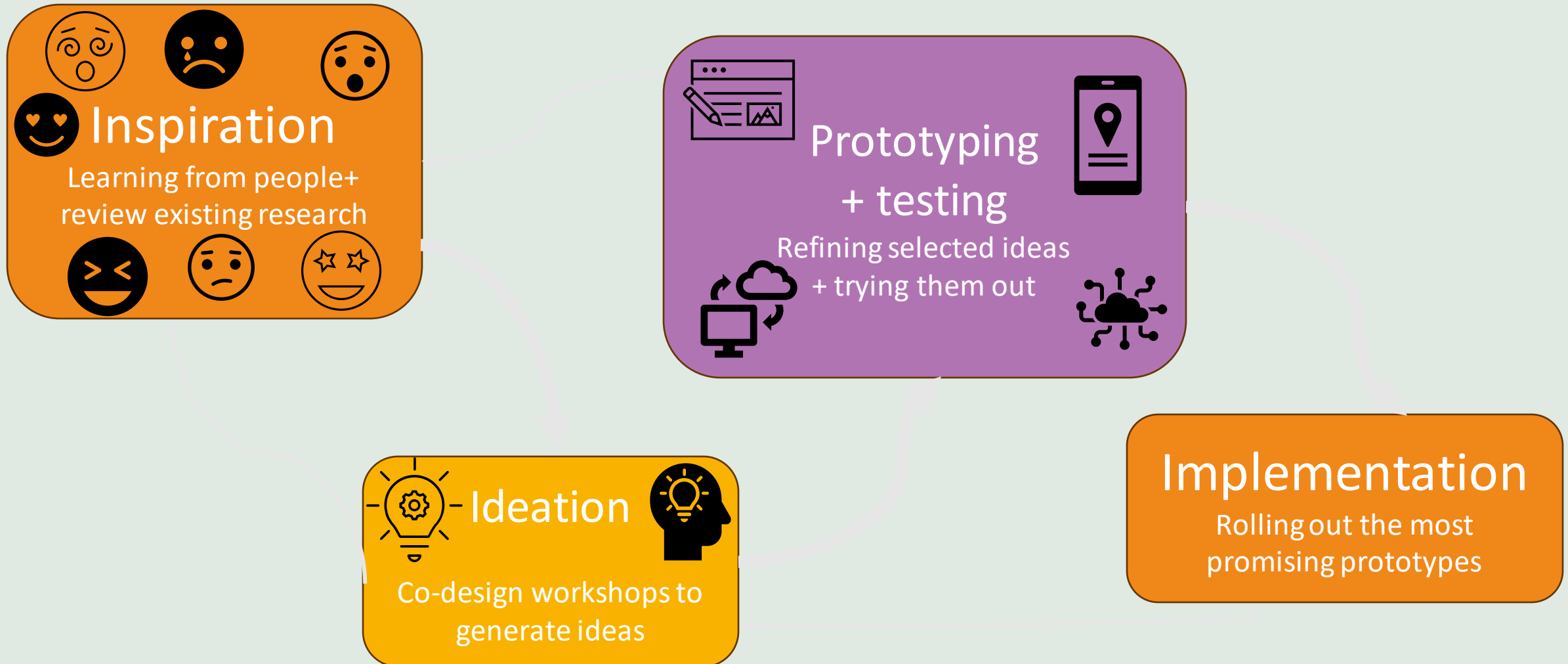
Develop a feasibility study for our holistic retrofit service, with particular focus on phase 1, with the aim of developing a socially, financially and environmentally sustainable model.

Project components



Stakeholder engagement, mentoring from PPR + SEGA, organisational development

Human-Centred Design approach



Q&A

More information on the CEF can be found on our website - neynetzerohub.com

All queries can be sent to - enquiries@NEYnetzerohub.com