

COMMUNITY ENERGY UPDATE – APRIL 2026

WELCOME TO THE NORTH EAST AND YORKSHIRE NET ZERO HUB'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS, FUNDING, POLICY AND EVENTS IN THE WORLD OF COMMUNITY ENERGY

NORTH EAST AND YORKSHIRE NET ZERO HUB UPDATES	LINK
<p>The latest round of nationally-funded community energy projects supported by the North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub are mobilising across our region – and you can find details on the link opposite.</p>	NEYNZH
<p>Recordings of recent community energy skills workshops delivered by the Hub are now available on our YouTube channel. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commercial Case Development• Governance and Procurement• The Connections Process• Project Development and Management• Low Carbon Technologies <p>We have also produced a new series of videos showcasing some of the amazing local and community-owned energy projects taking place across the North East and Yorkshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our Cow Molly Goes Electric• Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council• Solar City York• Birley Health Centre• Chapter of York Heritage Retrofit <p>On our YouTube you can also find out more about our two of our recent Seeing is Believing events, which showcase successful community energy projects to local organisations who may be interested in starting projects of their own.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newcastle• York	YouTube
<p>We're encouraging people to sign up to the Great British Energy - Expression of Interest. GBE would like to hear from you whatever stage you're at with a community or local renewable energy project to understand how many projects need project delivery investment and how many want early-stage support. This will help them design and develop their services and products. There is also the option for your submissions to be shared with your local Net Zero Hub and you can use the EOI to sign up for GBE's mailing list.</p> <p><i>Completing the EOI is entirely optional and is not required in order to contact GBE directly for informal discussions, or engage via local authorities, combined authorities, or other partners such as the Hub.</i></p>	Great British Energy
<p>The Hub is launching a free interactive tool helping local authorities and the wider public sector accelerate deployment of solar canopies in public car parks across the region at a webinar which takes place on Monday April 27th at 11am -12.30pm. Although not aimed at community energy groups specifically the event is open to groups looking to develop projects in partnership with local councils.</p>	Solar Canopies Toolkit Webinar

FUNDING & SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES	LINKS
<p>The Community Energy Go programme delivered by the Centre for Sustainable Energy have free, tailored support of £1k-10k for early-stage community energy projects, or groups undertaking new projects including LAs. There is ringfenced support for the North East and Yorkshire and you can apply using this Expression of Interest form.</p>	<p>Community Energy Go</p>
<p>Northern Powergrid Foundation have changed the way they assess their Energy Resilience Grant. Instead of application windows, the foundation now operates assessment windows, meaning you can apply for an energy resilience grant at any time. The current assessment window closed on April 14th but you can continue to apply after this.</p> <p>The grants offer up to £20,000 to support community resilience projects, such as installing solar panels with battery storage or generators, helping ensure communities have a safe, warm place with power during emergencies like power cuts or flooding.</p>	<p>NPG Foundation</p>
<p>All business Feasibly are looking for five community energy groups based in York and North Yorkshire to pilot a new platform with free access to a community support tool aiming to assist with site selection and feasibility. £1200 will be paid to the pilot groups.</p> <p><i>The signposting of this opportunity is not an endorsement of a commercial product or organisation by the North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub.</i></p>	<p>Feasibly</p>
<p>The Asda Foundation has grants of up to £20,000 for communities to repair, maintain and improve community spaces which can include roof repairs, upgrades to windows and doors, boilers and heating, but not solar panels. The deadline for applications is April 28th.</p>	<p>Asda Foundation</p>
<p>Charities and public sector organisations can apply for an electric vehicle chargepoint grant under the Workplace Charging Scheme for up to 40 sockets at 75% of costs and installation up to a max of £500/socket. Scheme deadline 31 March 2027.</p>	<p>DfT</p>
<p>The Energy Learning Network is offering free peer mentoring - apply by 15th May. ELN has a Technical Helpline for community energy groups and resources on topics including financial modelling, partnering for funding, community retrofit, shared ownership and heat networks.</p>	<p>Energy Learning Network</p>
<p>The Village Heat Share project funded by the Energy Redress Scheme partners with communities to host small data centres to feed their waste heat into local heat networks and is offering to assess 100 communities interested in exploring the idea. Suitable communities can have free support to develop feasibility assessments led by networks.coop and expert partners.</p>	<p>Village HeatShare EOI</p>
<p>Ethex, a not-for-profit social investment platform have a Friendly Guide to Community Shares, IFISAs & Ethical Bonds for community energy projects.</p>	<p>Ethex</p>
<p>Northern Powergrid's Community Energy team have developed a monthly updated funding list for community energy projects which you can request, alongside support for your community energy group or access to their other guidance and CE training modules by emailing them at communityenergy@northernpowergrid.com</p>	<p>NPG</p>

EVENTS, TRAINING & FORUMS	LINK
<p>VONNE's Going Green Together Project is launching online Peer Support Time as a space for Going Green participants in the North East to focus on an area they are working on - find out how others are approaching it and share challenges, wins and learning. The next session takes place on Thursday April 16th at 10am and focuses on engaging your teams, community and trustees.</p>	<p>Voluntary Organisations Network North East England</p>
<p>Durham Community Action - Share and Learn Network Meeting - Community Engagement for Community Energy Projects, 16th April 1- 3pm, online, for trustees and staff of VCSE organisations in how to engage your community in your Community Energy project. Booking link-</p>	<p>Durham Community Action</p>
<p>Business in the Community are hosting a Futureproof Communities Forum on Powering Resilient Communities: Energy, Water and Community Buildings. In-person event on April 21st from 9.45- 2pm with workshops exploring the different ways for Bradford and West Yorkshire community organisations to reduce their bills and protect themselves against future price rises.</p>	<p>BITC</p>
<p>Durham Community Action Completing a Funding Application: Bring your Project to Life - free online session aimed at volunteer led organisations and community groups, 21st April 2026, 10.00 - 11.30am. It'll cover the basics of applying for grant funding, how to link your project to a funders' criteria and a demonstration of the Durham4Community grant finder programme. Booking link opposite -</p>	<p>Completing a Funding Application-Booking</p>
<p>The CSE will launch a new Widening Participation in Community Energy toolkit, created through the Energy Learning Network project, at an online event on April 29th at 1pm.</p>	<p>Centre for Sustainable Energy</p>
<p>30th April, 12.30-1.15pm, webinar hosted by the Centre for Sustainable Energy will introduce renewable energy generation and how it can support organisations to reduce their reliance on grid energy.</p>	<p>CSE Webinar Renewables</p>
<p>Following on from our Seeing Is Believing Networking events Community Energy England has set up a new online forum for communities, local authorities and other energy stakeholders in the North East and Yorkshire to connect around community energy.</p>	<p>CEE</p>
<p>Yorkshire Energy Doctor - Community Energy Ambassadors: Free Training to Support Clients with Energy Costs. Thanks to funding from Northern Gas Networks, anyone working or living in Yorkshire, the Northeast or Cumbria can attend this 3 x 1.5 hour CPD-certified training course. To book follow link opposite -</p>	<p>Energy Ambassadors - Yorkshire Energy Doctor</p>
<p>Save the date - the Community Energy England Summer Conference will take place in Birmingham on June 18th. Booking link opposite -</p>	<p>Community Energy England</p>
<p>Durham Community Action are hosting a new quarterly County Durham Community Energy Network and Community Energy Newsletter for community energy groups, funders and stakeholders in the region. The group aims to share best practice, coordinate activity, build collective resources and strengthen the development and uptake of Community Energy across County Durham. Use link opposite to find out more -</p>	<p>Durham Community Action</p>
<p>Community Energy England have a new Wind Working Group for CEE members to share information and experiences in bringing forward community wind projects. CEE members can use the link opposite to express an interest in joining it -</p>	<p>CEE</p>

CONSULTATIONS AND REVIEWS	LINK
<p>Community Energy England, Community Energy Scotland and Community Energy Wales have launched their annual data collection portal for their State of the Sector Survey, which captures data to showcase the scale and impact of Community Energy in the UK. If you are from a community organisation, this is your opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update your data to ensure it reflects your latest achievements. • Provide new data if you haven't participated before. 	Community Energy England
<p>York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority have launched a consultation to gather the views of stakeholders – including community organisations - on their draft Strategy for a Sustainable Future which sets out their ambition to become England's first carbon negative region by 2040.</p> <p><i>The consultation is open until June 8th</i></p>	YNYCA
<p>The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero has launches a Call for Evidence into the design of the proposed Warm Homes Fund, the combination of consumer loans and innovative finance for investments and loans designed to deliver aspects of the Warm Homes Plan.</p> <p>The consultation contains several questions relating to whether community buildings should be in scope for any financing delivered through the fund.</p> <p><i>The consultation is open until June 1st.</i></p>	DESNZ

RESOURCES	LINK
<p>The government and Great British Energy have published the Local Power Plan described as “the biggest expansion of support for community owned energy in British history to cut bills and build wealth in communities”. The Plan is backed by up to £1 billion to support local and community energy projects so communities can own and control their own energy, cutting bills and creating real local benefits.</p> <p>The Hub has produced a briefing note on the Local Power Plan Briefing which you can download on the link opposite.</p>	NEYNZH
<p>The North West Net Zero Hub have commissioned a Guide to Power Purchase Agreements for a range of organisations including Community Energy Groups.</p>	NWH/Energy Systems Catapult
<p>Community Energy England have partnered with Thrive and Ovo to produce a guide for community organisations looking to fund, develop, and sell electricity from renewable energy projects. Whether setting up your first solar array or expanding a wind farm, this aims to help you understand the financial landscape and Power Purchase Agreements (PPA).</p>	Community Energy England
<p>The Energy Learning Network – led by Ashden have a wealth of CE related resources including publications such as Partnering to Secure Funding with LAs and recordings of previous webinars.</p>	Energy Learning Network Resources
<p>The National Grid commissioned has commissioned REGEN to produce some Community Energy Planning Guidance.</p>	National Grid

<p>REGEN are also disseminating their extensive insights and learning from their <i>Net Zero Living Programme</i> work. All are relevant for local authorities and many are either directly or indirectly relevant for community energy too. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities Driving Change • Better, Warmer Homes • How to Support Community Energy in Your Local Authority Area 	
<p>Planning a solar PV project? Try the free ShadeMap – which simulates shadows for any day, time or place on earth taking terrain, building and canopy heights into account.</p>	ShadeMap
<p>Humshaugh Net Zero in Northumberland have developed this free tool to calculate how much your actions will reduce carbon emissions by and help see what's needed to find a solution to achieve the CO2 savings we need to reach Net Zero.</p>	Humshaugh Net Zero
<p>The Church of England has an extensive range of free resources and templates to help churches on their Net Zero journey including multiple case studies. Communities looking to work with their Anglican church on community energy projects may wish to make contact with their Diocesan Environmental Officer and Net Zero Carbon Officer.</p>	The Church of England
<p>Northern Powergrid Community Foundation have launched a new three-year strategy. The strategy has three priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping communities to become more energy resilient, feel confident that their services can be run during emergencies, and improve the building they use so those services are more sustainable. • Giving communities the opportunity to find and deliver the solutions they need, unlocking the benefits of changes in the energy sector. • Supporting charities and local community organisations to manage rising energy costs and keep their doors open for those who need them most. 	NPG Foundation
<p>The Local Net Zero Hubs – led by the North West Net Zero Hub – have published new Communications and Engagement Best Practice guidance designed to support public bodies, regional organisations and community groups in delivering clearer, more confident and more inclusive engagement on net zero.</p>	NWNZH
<p>Energy Advice in Rural Northumberland have produced tips on improving domestic energy efficiency and information on domestic renewables.</p>	EARN