

# Community Connects

Community and local energy training workshops

electricity  
north west

Bringing energy to your door

**Realising community energy potential:** Solutions to get community schemes through the early development stages

Capture report of the Community connects workshop held in Manchester on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019

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Welcome to the capture report for our Community Connects workshop *Realising community energy potential: solutions to get community schemes through the early development stages* held in partnership with Quantum Strategy and Technology.

The purpose of this report is to capture and play back the discussions that took place at our event, which was held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at The Hive in Manchester. We are grateful to all those who attended the event and value the discussions which took place, which will help shape our future plans.

Stakeholder engagement is really important to us and we are committed to responding to all of the issues raised and this report is part of the process.

Finance is one of the top three issues for our community and local energy stakeholders mainly

due to the decline in Feed in Tariffs which guaranteed an income for generation projects. This workshop was organised as part of our Community and local energy strategy which aims to increase our understanding of stakeholders and their issues and provide new mechanisms to engage with us.

The agenda was designed to facilitate an informed discussion. Community Energy England and Quantum helped to set the scene and Quantum facilitated the discussion that followed which addressed barriers to financing and resourcing early stage projects and designing and delivering solutions to overcome them

This report plays back the discussion and themes from the day and responses to the issues raised.

The presentations from the event are available as to download from our [website](#).

We hope you find this report useful and we welcome any feedback you may have – please send any comments you have to [communityandlocalenergy@enwl.co.uk](#)





- 9.30 **Welcome and introductions,**  
Helen Seagrave, Community Energy Manager, Electricity North West
- 9.40 **Overview of community energy finance**  
Emma Bridge, CEO, Community Energy England
- 10.00 **The story of developing a community energy renewables project**  
Louise Marix Evans, Director, Quantum & Community Energy North
- 10.10 **Session 1. Mapping existing landscape; identifying gaps and opportunities**  
Facilitated by Louise Marix Evans, Quantum
- 11.00 **Break**
- 11.10 **Session 2: Discussion and devising solutions**  
Facilitated by Louise Marix Evans
- 12.00 **Summary and closing remarks**  
Helen Seagrave, Community Energy Manager, Electricity North West
- 12.15 **Lunch and networking**

# Summary of discussions and actions



## What we discussed

**Community Energy England and Quantum Strategy and Technology provided an overview of the current state of play for groups developing community and local energy projects**

**The first workshop session started with identifying the available support to the sector**

**The workshop identified four themes to discuss: technical issues in a post FiTs world; early feasibility funding; partnerships that could help; and new business models**

**The workshop discussed future opportunities and how to progress community energy projects.**

## What we heard

Community energy is the cornerstone of the BEIS smart, flexible grid of the future and has public support; The decline in Feed in Tariffs (FiTs) has hit the sector hard; there is support out there including the ENWL fund and projects are still being developed despite challenging times

Not everyone is aware of the support that is available and it is geographically patchy and not always for projects of all sizes.

Without FiTs counter party risk needs greater consideration, it is also leading to larger projects that require more legal involvement; Local Authorities would like to work with community energy groups but don't know how to.

That there are solutions emerging all the time such the local energy markets and sleeved PPAs but they are not all well understood.

## What we will do

We will launch our funding for community energy projects again in the autumn.

We will produce a summary of the support that is available as an output from this event to help highlight the support that is available.

We will continue to support the sector and with our Community Connects workshops, guides and newsletters to promote the resources available . We will also support the development of the NW community energy hub

We will use our communications channels such as newsletters and websites to provide information and case studies to help improve understanding of these options.



## Keep up to date

Sign up for our newsletter and view previous editions on our website.

[www.enwl.co.uk/communityandlocalenergy](http://www.enwl.co.uk/communityandlocalenergy)

## Get in touch

If you are developing a community or local energy project please get in touch to discuss your plans.

## Contact details

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