

# Securing a Supportive Policy Environment Breakout Session



# Paul Monaghan

Co-op Energy and Chair,  
CEE Policy Group



# CEE Policy Sub-Grp

- **Established January 2017, agreed ToR and priorities.**
  - Bring in expertise when needed, e.g., Josh Roberts at REScoop on EU Market Design
- **Smart, Flexible Energy System call for evidence**
- **EU Winter Package of Energy Directives**
  - Right to produce, consume, store, and supply renewables
  - Renewable energy communities” are preferenced... but loss of Origins of Guarantee
- **Industrial Strategy**
- **Housing White Paper (progresses changes to NPPF)**
- **Regular cajoling / engagement with BEIS and No10, reactive and strategic on “Post 2019 support”**
- **CEF mobilisation with Climate Coalition / Climate Week**



# GE2017 – “Snap” election

- Little time to mobilise: worked with Social Economy Alliance... esp in support of changes to planning & tax relief
- If visit <https://socialeconomyalliance.wordpress.com/> can see SEA Manifesto and Mash-up of what realised
  - Conservatives & DUP & UKIP: no mention of community energy
  - Labour: support creation of publicly owned, locally accountable energy supply companies and co-ops, with at least one in every region
  - Lib Dems: expand community energy schemes, encourage councils to develop community energy-saving projects and local generation
  - Greens: grid operators to give priority access to community energy & pioneer toolkit to empower local communities to create energy and municipal heating projects in every town and city
  - SNP wants to see communities benefit financially and Plaid Cymru wants to see a Welsh energy company



# CE Fortnight 2017

- **Dates shifted from Autumn to Summer: 70+ events**
- **Mindful of mood of 2015 (☹) and 2016 (☹\*)**
- **Now includes a “Week of Action”, with Climate Coalition**
- **Next week: latest polling of UK public on community energy**
  - retains overwhelming backing, with two-thirds (66%) supporting local community-owned renewable energy projects such as wind turbines, with just 8% in opposition
  - two-thirds (67%) prepared to pay a small surcharge each year on their energy bill to fund an expansion of community energy
  - 46% say Government should once again offer tax relief to those individuals who take the risk of investing in community energy, with 16% against.



24th June – 9th July 2017





# CE Fortnight 2017

**Bespoke Lobbying Pack produced by 10:10 and CEE**

- **Re-introduce fair taxation and financial mechanisms for community-owned energy**
  - **Need EIS/SITR and pre-registration reinstated, and discretionary relief for solar-PV on business rates**
- **Review planning rules so that community wind, solar and hydro projects are given fair treatment within the planning system.**
  - **E.g., reverse discrimination against onshore wind, particularly at sub 1.5MW scale... and community ownership of renewable energy projects to be a real ‘material consideration’ in local planning policies.**
- **Give communities full and fair access to the energy markets, particularly where scale and capacity prevent communities from selling or using their energy locally.**



24th June – 9th July 2017



# Powering Together

#CEconf17



#CEF17

24th June – 9th July 2017



# Robin Clegg

## The Climate Coalition & National Trust







***The Climate Coalition***

We are a network of **130 organisations** with 15 million supporters

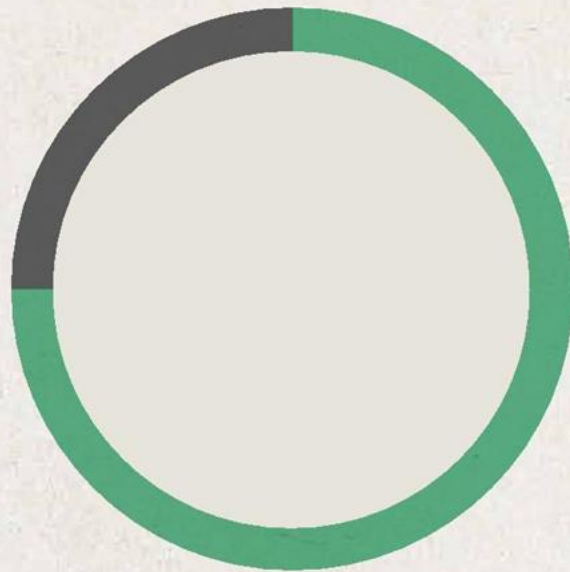


Together, we want a world powered by clean and secure energy within a generation

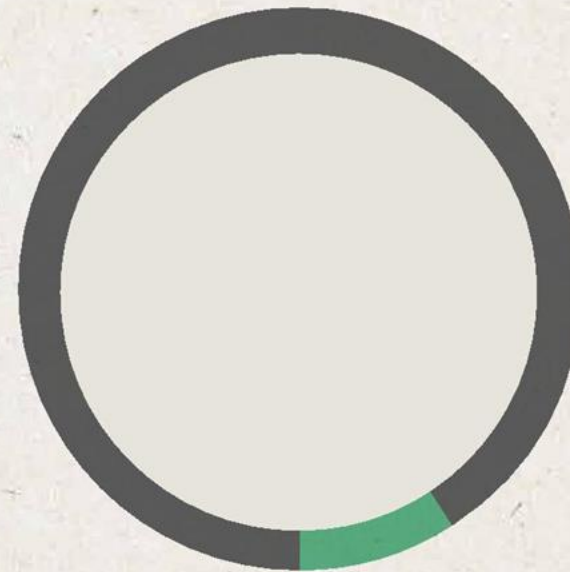


## *Our challenge*

There is **huge** support for clean energy across the UK



75% of the British public  
support renewable energy...



...but people *think* only 9% of the  
public support it.

## ***Political Context***

- ❑ **Perception of low public support = little political incentive to act**
- ❑ **Little pressure from MPs to act on climate change.**
- ❑ **The solution:**
  - ❑ Increase visibility of public concern to
  - ❑ Provide incentive for backbench MPs to champion green agenda, and to
  - ❑ Increase pressure and 'political space' for decision makers to act





## ***The plan: 2016-2021***

- ❑ **Build broad-based** public engagement via *Show the Love* campaign, personal and emotional engagement of politicians (February).
- ❑ **Win over MPs** via an annual grassroots *week of engagement* with MPs (July from 2017)
- ❑ **Real world impact:** Work together to achieve 100% clean energy on our own doorsteps





## *Week of Action*

### *Local groups and institutions winning over MPs*

**Site visits:** National Trust, Youth Hostel Association, Wildfowl & Wetland Trust, NFU farms

**Community events:** Women's Institutes & Church groups

Nature walks, tea parties, photo exhibitions  
Positive conversations with MPs about climate change.  
Politicians seeing, feeling, and hearing how much their community cares about what we could lose to climate change.





# Stories of Change

Story

## SOUTH WALES VALLEYS: EXPLORING CHANGING RELATIONSHIPS WITH E ...



Working with academic researchers at the University of South Wales and the University of Birmingham in conjunction with

Energy Change - Project - Oral History - Utopian - Values

Story

## TALES OF THE THE JULES I KNOW.



These are stories of the days spent working with Jules.

Energy Change - My Friend Jules

Story

## BREATHING SPACE - WORLD POLLUTION STORIES



Featuring Alex Kirby: 'China Takes Fresh Approach to Pollution' (Climate News Network, March 2017)

Air pollution - Case Study

Story

## SOLAR ENERGY & AGRICULTURE IN MYANMAR



Sunset in Costa Rica over a large dairy with two solar water heaters on the roofs of its milking sheds.

Solar Power - Agriculture - Digital Story - Documentary

## *What's Next?*

### **Week of Action**

- ❑ Meetings and events continuing over the summer
- ❑ Planning for next year

### **Show the Love 2018**

- ❑ **Green heart crafting**- Engaging new members of your community
- ❑ **Green Heart Oscars** - Celebrating what communities are doing to tackle climate change: Most sustainable visitor site/ Community inspiration/ Best rural innovation/ Best green startup/ Greenest School/ youth project/ Green MP of the year





*Thank you*

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