

## Great British Energy Bill committee call for evidence

8th October 2024

### **Include 'supporting community and municipal energy' among the Objects of GBE.**

The Bill says that the objects of GBE are “**restricted to facilitating, encouraging and participating in—**

- (a) the production, distribution, storage and supply of clean energy,*
- (b) the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from energy produced from fossil fuels,*
- (c) improvements in energy efficiency, and*
- (d) measures for ensuring the security of the supply of energy.”*

These are all very functional, and in most cases, mechanical processes.

One of the three key priorities of Great British Energy according to the Labour’s Clean Energy Mission is “supporting the development and scaling of municipal and community energy”. Community energy is about much more than the mechanical processes of transitioning the energy system. It is about ‘putting people at the heart of the energy transformation’ so that they can participate actively, invent replicable local solutions, change the way they use, save and generate energy. It is about education, advocacy, empowerment, cooperation and much more. The Climate Change Committee has warned: “people need to be brought into the decision-making process and derive a sense of ownership of the Net Zero project” and that without this engagement “It will not be possible to get close to meeting a net-zero target”.

These activities, such a vital part of GBE’s mission, must be included in the objects.

Community energy, by building relationships, applying creative thinking to local opportunities and needs, is particularly good at creating the synergistic, joined-up projects that link many members and organisations in a community. These, especially if enabled by a ‘right to local supply’ will be able increasingly to match local demand to local supply reducing pressure on the grid and the need for expensive reinforcement and centralised generation. They will be able to supply local customers with cheaper electricity and leverage vastly greater benefit (often in terms of long term energy saving measures) to local people than commercial projects do. These are all stated aims of the Local Power Plan.

#### **Recommendation:**

**Include “the development and scaling of municipal and community energy” as an item among the Objects in Clause 3.**

## Further

We note that Wera Hobhouse has tabled this amendment to Clause 3, page 2, line 18

at end insert—

“(e) measures to increase low carbon and renewable energy schemes owned, or part owned, by community organisations.”

**We support this amendment.**

We also note that Sarah Champion has tabled this amendment to Clause 3, page 2, line 18,

at end insert—

“(e) measures for ensuring respect for human rights in the production, distribution, storage and supply of clean energy.”


CEE has been campaigning on this for a while through our Ethical Sourcing Working Group.

**We support this amendment.**

Signed by

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Endorsed by

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## About Community Energy England

Community Energy England (CEE) was established in 2014 to provide a voice and network for the community energy sector, primarily in England. Membership totals more than 300; many are community energy organisations, but membership extends across a wide range of organisations that work with and support the community energy sector.

[www.communityenergyengland.org](http://www.communityenergyengland.org)

