



ANNUAL REPORT

2024

PUBLISHED MAY 2025



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Community Energy England's Annual Report, covering January to December 2024.

CEE is the only organisation dedicated to supporting the growth of the community energy sector across the whole of England and advocating on behalf of the sector at the national level. Our work is powered by and designed to benefit our members; we now have over 320, with 270 community energy organisations at the core.

Guided by a board of directors drawn directly from member organisations, CEE acts strategically and deliberately to help create the conditions within which community energy can thrive and scale. In this annual report we will explain how we focused this mission into key strategic pillars and talk through the impact of our work under these pillars in 2024.

We have adjusted the timing so this annual report is based on the calendar year, rather than our previous April–March reporting cycle. As a result, you may notice some overlap with the previous report, which covered activity up to March 2024. Moving forward, all annual reports will follow the calendar year.

Thank you for being part of this journey — we hope you enjoy reading about the year we've had and the impact of our unique national support and advocacy.

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WHAT IS THE VALUE OF OUR MEMBERSHIP?

Being a member of Community Energy England means being part of something bigger – a growing, supportive movement working together to build a cleaner, fairer energy future.

When you join, you're not just signing up. You and everyone in your organisation – from staff to volunteers – become part of a vibrant network of people who care deeply about the power of community and the potential of local energy. Together, we're stronger, smarter, and louder.

Last year, **67 new members** joined our growing network, including two new Principal Supporters: SP Energy Networks and National Grid Electricity Distribution.

We're here to make sure your organisation has the connections, resources and policy support you need to grow and succeed.

"WE AT CEW REALLY APPRECIATE THE WIDE RANGE OF STERLING WORK THAT CEE DOES FOR THE COMMUNITY ENERGY SECTOR IN THE UK."

PHIL HARPER FROM
COMMUNITY ENERGY
WARWICKSHIRE



WHAT IS THE VALUE OF OUR MEMBERSHIP?

Connection and collaboration

One of the most valuable things our members tell us is how much they gain from the connections we help them make. Whether it's through our practitioner forum, a private space for peer-to-peer support, or our webinars and conferences, where organisations and stakeholders from across the country come together, CEE provides multiple ways to meet other people active in community energy and is unique in connecting practitioners and stakeholders throughout England and beyond.

With 9 Member Calls, 7 in-person events, and over 130 active discussions on our forums last year, we provide members with regular and varied opportunities to connect and learn from each other.

Visibility and recognition

Broadcasting the work and impact of community energy organisations is a key role of CEE. Members can share news, jobs, events, community share offers and projects through our newsletter, social media, and website — giving your work national reach. You're also featured on our interactive member map, making it easier for local people, politicians and potential partners to find your organisation and support your projects.

And when it comes to recognition, members are eligible for the Community Energy Awards, a chance to celebrate your impact on a national stage and promote your excellence.

Representation and voice

As a member, you help shape our work and the future of the sector. You can vote at our AGM, stand as a Director, contribute to our consultation responses, and help us shape national policy. You're not on the sidelines — you're at the heart of the action.

We also provide a range of tools and support, like templates to help you write to your MP, to help you amplify your organisation's voice and back up our national advocacy at the local level.



Membership is led by Jessica Vallentine and Lisa West



WHAT IS THE VALUE OF OUR MEMBERSHIP?

Resources and insight

Our long-running State of the Sector research captures the breadth, growth and impact of our sector and the challenges holding community energy organisations back. Produced in collaboration with our colleagues in Wales and Scotland, it is the most complete and inclusive dataset and research on community energy in the UK. We use the data you provide to design our events and capacity building resources and provide statistics and documents that help you put your local work and impact in the context of a national movement with a long and successful track record. You can even add your projects to our national map and be part of telling the bigger story of community energy in England.



State of the Sector

Your data

The 2025 data collection window is now open; please start updating your organisation's data now.

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Please make sure you click "Save" each time you pause working on the survey - there is no limit to the number of times you save, and all your data will stay viewable and editable, it doesn't disappear.

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1

Introduction & Guidance

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Your Organisation & People

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Renewable Electricity Generation

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Renewable Heat Generation

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Low Carbon Transport

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Energy Storage & Flexibility Services

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Energy Efficiency Retrofit & Energy Advice

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Community Benefit Funds

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Funding, Finance & Expenditure



THE IMPACT OF OUR NATIONAL VOICE

2024 was a big year for Community Energy England's policy and advocacy work — and for the future of community energy across the country. With a general election on the horizon, our focus was simple but urgent: make sure every major political party recognised the power and potential of community energy.

And we did just that.

We met with officials from all of England's major opposition parties, making the case that community energy is essential for reaching net zero. When the election was called for July 2024 – earlier than many expected – we were ready. Thanks to years of behind-the-scenes work, we saw a breakthrough:

- The Labour Party, Liberal Democrats, and Green Party all included strong pledges to support and grow community energy in their manifestos.
- Labour committed to delivering the Local Power Plan, an ambitious proposal CEE helped bring to life, which aims to create up to 8GW of clean, community-owned power by 2030 — the biggest expansion of its kind in British history.

This wasn't just luck. It was the result of years of dedicated policy work, collaboration with partners, and persistent advocacy.



Policy and Advocacy is led by Duncan Law and Josh Barnes





THE IMPACT OF OUR NATIONAL VOICE

Supporting our members to make their voices heard

During the election campaign, we gave our members the tools and confidence to engage candidates in their area. Together with the Cooperative Party, we spread the message far and wide about the local impact of community energy – and why it deserves strong national support.

It worked. Community energy was mentioned in the House of Commons more than ever before. Politicians across the spectrum now have a clearer understanding of the sector – and why it matters.

From policy promises to action

With a new Labour government elected and over 75% of MPs in England representing parties that pledged to support community energy, our focus shifted:

No longer pushing for promises – now, we’re working to turn them into action.

At regular meetings with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), we’ve been shaping how the Local Power Plan should be delivered.

We’ve also taken part in **15 government consultations** over the year, making sure community energy stays on the radar of the Treasury, Select Committees, and regulators like Ofgem. The Energy Security and Net Zero Select Committee’s first inquiry of the new parliament – “Unlocking Community Energy at Scale” – was a huge signal that the sector is finally getting the attention it deserves.

OUR PROPOSALS FOCUS ON THREE BIG IDEAS:

- BUILD EARLY MOMENTUM
- DESIGN A PLAN THAT ENCOURAGES GROWTH, INNOVATION, AND PARTNERSHIPS
- REMOVE BARRIERS THAT HOLD COMMUNITY ENERGY BACK



THE IMPACT OF OUR NATIONAL VOICE

Standing up for our sector

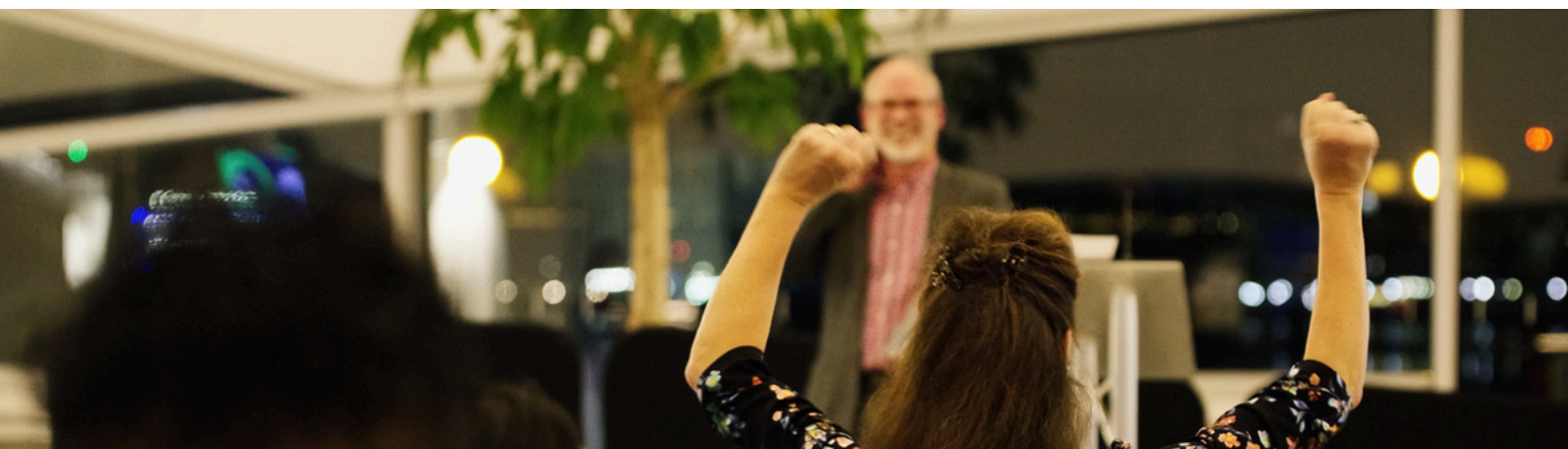
Not all policy news last year was positive. We pushed back hard against proposed changes from the Law Commission that could have damaged the structure of many renewable energy cooperatives. Thanks to the efforts of CEE, experienced practitioners, and our wider community, we responded to the consultation, supported others to do the same, and are hopeful that the final proposals will be much less harmful.

Looking ahead

We know there are still challenges. Government spending is tight, and the Community Energy Fund was extended by only £5 million – less than we had hoped. But the political interest in community energy has never been stronger. The government remains committed to its net zero targets, and with the right policies in place, community energy can grow faster and further than ever before.

Your voice, amplified

Everything we've achieved last year is thanks to the collective strength of our members and supporters. Together, we're making sure that community energy isn't just part of the conversation – it's shaping the future. Our national voice is loud, clear, and impactful. And it's only getting stronger.





HOW DO WE HELP THE SECTOR TO GROW?

At Community Energy England, everything we do is about helping the community energy sector to thrive – supporting projects from first spark to full power. Whether it's through sharing knowledge, connecting people, or shaping national initiatives, we're here to make sure community energy grows stronger, smarter, and more impactful every year.

And in 2024, that's exactly what we did.

A hub for learning and connection

This year, over 190,000 people visited our website, using it as a go-to place to learn, share, and discover opportunities. Our funding opportunities page had more than 15,000 views, helping groups find vital support, and over 7,500 people accessed our Community Energy Fund resources. Our State of the Sector report was downloaded more than 1,100 times, giving groups the data they need to plan and advocate effectively.

THE COMMUNITY ENERGY
PROJECT MAP HAS NOW
BEEN VIEWED OVER
120,000 TIMES

We relaunched the community energy project map, which has now been viewed over 120,000 times. The map is a really useful tool that shows just how many amazing community energy projects are happening all over the UK. It highlights the wide range of projects, the people behind them, and the positive impact they're having locally. Whether you're part of a group, a supporter, or just curious, the map helps you see what's possible, learn from others, and feel connected to the growing community energy movement.





HOW DO WE HELP THE SECTOR TO GROW?

Bringing people together

We know community energy thrives when people connect. That's why we ran a busy programme of in-person and online events, attended by more than 900 people. These events offered practical advice, celebrated achievements, and created spaces for members to network and learn from one another.

We also launched:

- A 2024 programme of regional conferences
- A quarterly new member introduction call
- Webinars to support key projects like Net Zero Terrace Streets (NZTS)

All of this helps groups feel supported, informed, and part of something bigger.



Working groups

Tackling challenges together

Our working groups are where ideas are shared, problems are solved, and solutions take shape. In 2024, these groups met regularly to support one another, pool expertise, and collaborate on real-world challenges.

Ethical Sourcing

This group raised awareness of forced labour in solar supply chains, contributed to national consultations, and shaped policy in collaboration with leading experts and organisations like Anti-Slavery International.

Energy Efficiency

Meeting monthly, this group focused on retrofit and energy advice. Members shared funding tips, discussed policy changes, and explored how to scale up local projects like Warm Homes Plans and retrofit partnerships.

Community Energy Heat

Decarbonising heat is a huge challenge, but our members are stepping up. This group explored low-carbon heating, shared models for community heat networks, and supported collaboration with local authorities and national projects.



HOW DO WE HELP THE SECTOR TO GROW?

Driving innovation through strategic projects

Two exciting projects helped us show what's possible when community energy leads the way. We want to make sure that innovative ideas and tested business models are spread across the sector and our position as the national network for community energy means we are uniquely able to share and disseminate this information widely. To help enhance your funding bids and support our role enabling sector growth, include us in more projects like this – get in touch and we can provide wording or a letter of support and let you know how much we'll need you to allocate to us in the bid.

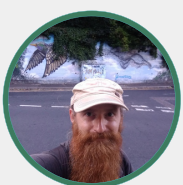


Community Heat Development Unit (CHDU)

Working with Sharenergy and others, we supported this project to identify areas where community-owned heat networks could work. We contacted 84 local groups, and 24 expressed interest in being part of this next big step in community energy. This project matters to us because finding fair, local ways to heat our homes is a huge part of getting to net zero. Our role is connecting with groups on the ground, gathering insights, and sharing what we learned widely – so others can build on it.

Net Zero Terrace Streets (NZTS)

We are helping to deliver this groundbreaking project to decarbonise older terraced homes – using retrofit, solar, shared ground loops, and smart energy systems. With no upfront costs for residents, this model has the potential to scale fast and fairly. We launched the project's website and newsletter, and over 400 people joined our first public webinar. Our role is all about sharing what's been learned and identifying "fast followers", so others can implement this model in their local areas. That's something that CEE does really well – making sure good ideas get out into the world and into the hands of communities.



These projects are led by John Taylor and Josef Davies-Coates



HOW DO WE HELP THE SECTOR TO GROW?

The Energy Learning Network

In 2024, we proudly launched the Energy Learning Network – a national initiative to support new and existing groups with resources, mentoring, and connections. It's all about empowering communities to start, grow, and sustain local energy projects.

Our role: growing understanding of community energy and helping you succeed

As the only representative organisation for community energy in England, our mission is to help the conditions in which the sector can thrive and scale. Here's how we do it:

- We connect people through events, webinars, and working groups. Following feedback from our members we have been focusing on community energy finance, and getting new volunteers and recruits into our sector.
- We share knowledge via tools like the State of the Sector report and our online resources, highlighting viable business models, and helping shorten project delivery times.
- We build capacity through strategic partnerships and national stakeholders, creating opportunities for our members to deliver.
- We remove barriers by identifying issues and working together on solutions

Together with our members, partners, and supporters, we're creating an environment where community energy can grow – and flourish.

"THIS IS AN EXCITING TIME TO BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY ENERGY MOVEMENT... THE ENERGY LEARNING NETWORK WILL HELP AMPLIFY THE AMAZING WORK BEING DONE BY COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UK."

EMMA BRIDGE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE



The Energy Learning Network is led by John Taylor



THE VALUE OF OUR UNIQUE NATIONAL NETWORK

At Community Energy England, we're proud to be the only organisation solely dedicated to supporting and representing the community energy sector in England. Thanks to the support of our members, we've continued to grow – in size, strength, and impact – and today, we represent over 320 community energy organisations and partners.

These organisations are doing incredible work to bring clean, local energy to their communities. And it's not just about generating renewable energy – many are also helping local people save energy, stay warm, and reduce their bills through energy efficiency and fuel poverty projects. Whether it's installing solar panels, running home insulation schemes, or offering trusted local energy advice, our members are finding practical, people-powered ways to tackle the energy and climate crises – and making a real difference in their communities.

Together, we are a powerful national movement.

A space where community energy connects

Whether you're in a city or a small rural village, if you're part of community energy, you're part of this network. No one else brings together community energy organisations from across the whole country like we do.

Our online forums are spaces built just for you. With over 130 active discussion threads in the past year, members have been connecting, troubleshooting, sharing advice, and learning from one another in real time – no matter where they're based.

Our national events and conferences give members the chance to meet face-to-face, form partnerships, and spark ideas that lead to real change. These aren't just events – they're where connections are made, solutions are shared, and the future of community energy is shaped.



Comms & Events is led by John Taylor and Kim Woodcock

Quick Link:
[Our upcoming events](#)



THE VALUE OF OUR UNIQUE NATIONAL NETWORK

A national voice, backed by a national network

We were created by a group of practitioners and we hold true to our beginnings, placing the experiences of the people delivering community energy at the heart of what we do. Because of our members, our voice is stronger. And that voice is heard. From government departments and regulators to funders and the media, we're using our national platform to speak up for the sector – with confidence, clarity and collective strength. The intelligence we gather is used by policymakers, investors, and partners to understand the sector and shape the decisions that impact it

Collaboration is at the heart of community energy. By working with partners in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on UK wide projects like the State of the Sector and the Energy Learning Network, we combine strength in numbers with the diversity of how community energy manifests, in order to fully represent the sector's needs and ensure that community energy is powering a fair, zero carbon energy system.

Building a movement, online and offline

We're shining a light on community energy because it's a vibrant and rapidly expanding sector that deserves recognition and support. By showcasing the incredible projects happening nationwide, we aim to highlight that community energy isn't just growing but is also dynamic and full of potential.

Through platforms like LinkedIn, Bluesky, and our newsletters, we're reaching thousands of people, both within the sector and beyond. This visibility helps us amplify the achievements of community energy projects, making sure their impact is felt not only locally but across broader audiences.

Moreover, our partnerships with distribution network operators and other leading bodies in the energy sector ensure that community energy is not just a participant but a crucial partner in the journey towards achieving net zero emissions. By bringing community energy to the table, we aim to influence policy, foster collaboration, and ultimately accelerate the transition to a sustainable energy future for all.

Quick Link:
[Scrolling infographic
telling the story of community energy in 2024](#)

THE VALUE OF OUR UNIQUE NATIONAL NETWORK

What makes our network so valuable?

It's simple: you.

Our members are the beating heart of this network. You're the ones delivering energy advice, running solar and hydro schemes, installing insulation, empowering local people, and fighting for a fairer, greener future. Our job is to help you connect, grow and thrive — and to make sure your voices are heard where it matters most.

By joining Community Energy England, you're not just joining an organisation – you're plugging into a whole national ecosystem of support, solidarity, and shared purpose. And together, we're driving real, lasting change.



4 strategic pillars to
strengthen our impact



130

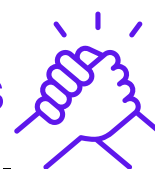
active
discussions
on our
forums



15 CEE Consultation
responses



8 Principal Supporters



7 in- Person
events



1,000+

people attended our events

320
members



1,200 downloads of State of
the Sector reports



190,000

website views



9

member
calls



A Message from Emma Bridge, Chief Executive

As I look back on 2024, I feel immensely proud of the strength, passion, and resilience of our community energy movement. It was a year of real change – politically, socially, and environmentally – and through it all, you, our members and partners, continued to lead with vision, determination, and care.

This report marks a new chapter for us at Community Energy England – our first annual report covering a full calendar year, from January to December. It’s part of our ongoing effort to be clearer, more consistent, and to better reflect the rhythm of your work and achievements. You might notice a little overlap with our last report, but from here on out, we’ll be telling the story of each year in full – and there’s already so much to share.

In 2024, we saw major breakthroughs. A general election brought a new government and with it, exciting opportunities. Years of tireless advocacy paid off as community energy featured in party manifestos, was mentioned more in Parliament than ever before, and found its way to the heart of national energy plans. That didn’t happen by chance – it happened because of you.

Our members showed up – speaking with candidates, engaging communities, and helping shape bold ideas like the Local Power Plan. We’ve gone from pushing for promises to working on how to deliver them. It’s a powerful shift, and one we must hold onto.

We launched new initiatives like the Energy Learning Network, built tools and resources to support your work, and highlighted your achievements across the country. Whether you’re installing solar panels, giving energy advice, or imagining whole new ways of powering homes and communities – your work is the heart of this movement. Looking ahead to 2025 and beyond, there’s so much potential. Yes, there are challenges – funding pressures, policy uncertainties, and the ongoing urgency of the climate crisis – but there is also a deep and growing recognition that community energy is a vital part of the solution. Our voice is louder, our network is stronger, and our story is more compelling than ever.



In 2025, you’ll see a number of changes as we continue to build momentum. We’re launching a new website, stepping up our communications, and working more closely than ever with a wide range of organisations. All of this is about one thing: making sure that community energy groups have the resources, support, and skills they need to thrive and grow.

So, thank you. For your commitment, your creativity, and your collaboration. Thank you for being part of this network – and for helping build a future where everyone has a stake in a fair, zero-carbon energy system.

Let’s keep going. Let’s keep growing. Together, we are the change.

Emma

OUR FUNDERS & PARTNERS

Our funders

Thank you to our grant funders, who have provided us with essential income that enables us to continue our work. We recognise their commitment to the growth of the community energy movement and we are grateful for their ongoing support.



Our partners





The Workstation, 15 Paternoster Row, Sheffield, S1 2BX



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communityenergyengland.org

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Community Energy England is the operating name for Community Energy Association (England), company number 09042561. Community Energy England operates on a purely not-for-profit basis with all of our income used to fund our activities working on behalf of the community energy sector.