



Community Energy England and Community Energy Wales proudly present 2017 Highly Commended Local Authority - Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council



Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council is the custodian trustee and project partner of Energise Barnsley, a community energy society. Energise Barnsley has installed solar PV on 321 tenanted houses and 16 corporate buildings, including schools and sheltered housing. Barnsley Council has supported Energise Barnsley since its inception and sees it as a key part of the 'Energy Strategy 2015 – 2025' and specifically in tackling fuel poverty in the borough.

Strong engagement with local people has been vital for this projects' success. Local pop-up energy shops and meetings in community centres were key for local engagement. The high level of community involvement with the project would not exist without wider local support through council meetings and MP backing. Sir Stephen Houghton, Leader of Barnsley Council strongly endorsed the 'Barnsley Solar Bond' and over 40% of the monies raised came from local investors.

Despite the lower than average irradiance levels in Barnsley, Energise Barnsley successfully raised £2 million of finance at a 10p FiT tariff rate. This was aided by the project having the local authority as a strong partner. The council took an innovative approach to households with prepayment meters, and the right to buy scheme, allowing them to receive a solar PV installation, which enabled the Solar License to attract Charity Bank as a long-term ethical lender to the project.

The project launch was the day the government launched the FiT consultation, which saw the FiT rate shrink dramatically. However, the project had received underwriting commitments, gone through full legal due diligence and had the support of Barnsley Council from the leader to individual councilors, so the project team was able to deliver a scheme with community benefits.

Tenants' electricity savings to date are over £60,000, due to over 1,400 megawatt hours of electricity generation which has reduced 765 tonnes of carbon emissions. Tenants with solar PV and battery storage are making savings of over 60% on their electricity bills. The community fund from the project has financed over 300 volunteer hours in Goldthorpe through street cleaning and a 'solar for skips scheme' to reduce fly tipping. The fund has also financed and is working in conjunction with Age UK Barnsley, an energy tariff advice team for senior residents. A local school that had solar PV installed has also been a beneficiary of the community fund and has been able to rejuvenate its'

playground facilities. Looking into the future, Energise Barnsley have developed a 7MW battery storage standalone facility which will go live in early 2018.

www.energisebarnsley.co.uk



Energise Barnsley with Patrick Allcorn of BEIS

Community Energy England and Community Energy Wales teamed up to deliver the Community Energy Awards 2017 to honour the organisations and individuals that have done the most to advance the sector over the last year and to celebrate their achievements. The ceremony took place on 1st November At City Hall in London.

About Community Energy England

Community Energy England (CEE) was established in 2014 to provide a voice for the community energy sector primarily in England. Membership totals over 200 organisations. The majority of the member organisations are from the community energy sector but the membership extends across a wide range of organisations which works with and supports the community energy sector.

Further details can be found on the CEE website www.communityenergyengland.org

About Community Energy Wales

Community Energy Wales (CEW) wants to put sustainable energy schemes at the heart of communities in Wales. Communities can become stronger, more resilient, and self-reliant by generating their own energy, using it efficiently, and directing the net income to regenerate their communities. CEW help to bring about this change by inspiring, empowering, and influencing people, policies and practices across Wales. They bring together a network of practitioners who work with and within the communities of Wales to develop renewable energy generation and energy efficiency schemes.

Further details can be found on the CEW website www.communityenergywales.org.uk