



**Community Energy England and Community Energy Wales
proudly present 2017 Collaboration Award Winner
Marks & Spencer Community Energy Society**

Award sponsored by



M&S Energy Society was launched in June 2016, with funds raised to complete solar PV sites on eight of its stores by September 2016. The plan for the installations was two years in the making and was only possible because of the collaborative working relationship fostered between Energy4All, Joju Solar and M&S Energy Society.

M&S ENERGY SOCIETY

The project engaged a previously untapped audience for community energy in the retailer consumer. Through in store, online and mailings direct to customers, M&S used their brand to raise awareness of community energy and encourage investment. With help from a trusted community energy group in Energy4All and a committed project manager in Joju Solar, the project managed to raise all the required funds and installed onto eight M&S stores.

The project attracted 326 members, who invested a total of £1.15m. Whilst the project is not the largest and the community fund has not yet begun to make money available, the initiative has been beneficial in other ways. The project has resulted in an interest for more community energy from other retailers and commercial landlords. It has proved an invaluable case study to engage the corporate sector in community energy. It has been presented at the BRE Solar PV Summit and to members of the UK Green Build Council. Learnings from the project are also being used to develop a Community Asset Bank with Forum for the Future. Details of the project have been shared openly to promote the benefits of a collaboration of this type. Endorsing a community energy project with a national brand was an effective way to engage a wider population of the UK in the concept of community energy. This is a pioneering relationship between Joju Solar and Energy4All, with a High Street retailer and their 32 million customers.

Lord Bourne, Minister for the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) said, *"This new initiative... is an excellent example of private enterprise working with its customers to produce clean, green energy and support local community groups. I would urge other companies to follow suit"* (June 2016).

Collaborative working between Energy4All and Joju Solar, with brand endorsement from M&S has helped raise further support and awareness for community energy and what is possible for the future of the sector. This endorsement will continue, formally, for the next 20 years. Once the community benefit fund is supporting further projects, these will be actively promoted to build further awareness and support.



*Lydia Hopton of M&S, Chris Jardine of Joju Solar and Mike Smyth of Energy4All
with Anne-Claire Leydier from Northern Powergrid*

www.mandsenergysociety.com

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

About Award Sponsor Northern Powergrid

We are very grateful to Northern Powergrid for their generous sponsorship of the Collaboration Award. Northern Powergrid runs the electricity distribution that provides power to customers in the North East, Yorkshire and north Lincolnshire. They encourage community energy in their operational area by acting as a local catalyst for happenings, bringing people together so that information and knowledge can be exchanged, providing an annual seed fund and researching community-scale energy initiatives. Northern Powergrid also runs a £5,000 annual seed fund to support projects at the initial stage of development.

You can get in touch with Northern Powergrid here: community.energy@northernpowergrid.com or visit the website www.northernpowergrid.com