

# A Review of Community Energy Fortnight 2018

How the community energy sector got together for the sixth year to celebrate the energised communities who are generating and saving energy, fighting fuel poverty, improving their local environment, reducing carbon emissions and transforming the energy system during a fortnight in 2018.

## Energised Communities in 2018



23 June – 8 July 2018



*162 events took place in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales & across Europe*

### Summer vibes

2018 saw the largest, most diverse Community Energy Fortnight to date. It was inspiring to see such a huge response to CEF18. A record-breaking number of events was organised, with European partners also getting involved. Several celebrations took place in the weeks leading up to and following the Fortnight and, in the name of inclusion, were still listed as part of CEF18. Is this a case of too many events to take place in a single fortnight?

By organising events and showcasing the benefits of community energy, we are igniting an energy revolution which places communities at its heart and strives for a clean, fair and affordable energy system for all. The events might have been diverse, but our message was united: when people come together to tackle energy issues, a multitude of charitable and sustainable development objectives can be achieved.

### Collaboration with The Climate Coalition

For the second time in 2018, the UK Community Energy Coalition combined forces with The Climate Coalition's Speak Up Week of Action, in the first week of July. This partnership resulted in a distinctly louder voice and more community groups engaging in lobbying activities, getting their MPs thinking about climate change and energy policy as well as encouraging them to sign a cross-party letter to back a UK net zero emissions target ahead of 2050.



**#energisedcommunities**

# A flavour of some of the events organised



Community Energy Conference 2018



Energy Garden Tour



DIY Solar Charger Workshop



Renewable Energy Technologies Degree Open Day



Eco-Homes Open Day



Saddleworth Community Hydro Open Day



Open Day at Greater Manchester TreeStation Ltd



Green fleets: Harnessing the electric vehicle revolution



Flexibility Markets for Beginners with WPD



Community Energy and Neighbourhood Planning



Wind Energy Museum Open Day



Sustainability Tour of Polesden Lacey



John Cleveland College Community Woodheat Co-op Study Tour



Community Energy England AGM



Community Connects - How the Grid Works



REScoop International Conference



Liverpool's Green Drinks



Funding Energy Efficiency



Passivhaus & Retrofit Talk



Carbon Co-op



Energy Workshop for Children



YnNi Teg and Community Energy Wales Photography Competition



Community Heating and Cooling - SIRACH Site Visit



Energising London's Communities



Energy Advice Drop-in



Energy Efficiency and Buildings Workshop



Sustainable Living Tour



Community Energy Fund Webinar



BHA Hydro Network 2018



Community Renewable Energy - Ways Forward in Stroud and the Five Valleys?



Energised Communities: You and Parliament



Introduction to Photovoltaics Course



Action for Warm Homes Energy Awareness Course - Newcastle



Torrs Hydro Open Day



Energywise - Supporting Vulnerable Customers



Local Energy Meeting



ZCY Open Forum & AGM



Zero Energy Buildings Catalyst - Ventilation Training Day



Windfarm Site Visit



Electric Vehicle Day



Electric Vehicle Day



Energy Bills and Supplier Switching Workshop



West Solent Solar Open Day



Smarter Wales: A Fairer Energy Future?



Westmill Wind Farm and Solar Park Open Day



Micro-Generation at Home Course



South Dartmoor Community Energy's AGM



# Types of events

## Conferences

A number of high caliber conferences took place during CEF18, which was officially launched at the 2018 Community Energy Conference - jointly hosted by Co-op Energy and Community Energy England and sponsored by Electricity North West and Tyndall Centre. It was quite a day, with an eclectic mix of 200+ delegates and speakers provoking debate and learning from each other. Despite unexpected policy and support changes, there is a sense of optimism over the future as communities are exploring new models and technologies.



## Open Days & Tours

Community Energy projects opened their doors to the public across the country. Communities were given the opportunity to learn how projects were developed, meet the people driving forward energy projects in their local areas and find out about different ways to support projects, such as through volunteering or investing.



## Workshops

With the energy system going through a rapid transformation, it is important for community energy groups to be able to learn from and share experiences with organisations from across the public and private sectors. Many workshops were organised by Distribution Network Operators and other organisations at the forefront of change to keep community groups up to speed with developments and to ask communities to feed into their plans.



## Social events

People are at the heart of the community energy movement. Social events allow investors, volunteers, members, activists and stakeholders to share ideas, get updates on progress and form relationships with their community. The energy sector will be democratised through these grassroot food and beverage fuelled meeting of minds happening across the country.



## Online events

Online events allow organisers to get their message to a wider audience. Podcasts and webinars were used as mediums which allowed for participation or passive learning for a variety of energy-related subject matters.



# Insights from the Twittersphere

#CEConf18 #CEF18 #energisedcommunities



**Co-op Energy** @CoopEnergy Follow

"Our commitment to the [community energy] sector is as strong as ever." ~ Hector Cruz, CFO, @CoopEnergy #CEConf18

10:18 AM - 23 Jun 2018  
3 Likes

**Emma Bridge** @emmatbridge\_1 Following

On the launch day of Community Energy Fortnight, the Guardian has released this article on the role #communityenergy can play in reducing energy bills [bit.ly/2KfVWuI](http://bit.ly/2KfVWuI) #CEF18 #CEConf18 #EnergisedCommunities

6:24 AM - 23 Jun 2018  
48 Retweets 46 Likes

**Plym Energy Com** @plymenergycom Follow

Wow what a line up! #CEconf18 looks set to be an amazing day...great work @Comm1nrg @CoopEnergy... [eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-en](http://eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-en) ... @EventbriteUK

Community Energy Conference 2018  
Community Energy England and Co-op Energy are once again teaming up to deliver the country's largest and most thought-provoking community energy conference of eventbrite.co.uk

3:01 PM - 15 Jun 2018  
4 Retweets 8 Likes

**ElectricityNorthWest** @ElectricityNW Follow

More than half of Brits don't know how they can play a role in the UK's energy infrastructure. Do you? If not, #CommunityEnergyFortnight #CEF18 is the perfect time to find out! [enw.co.uk/about-us/news/](http://enw.co.uk/about-us/news/) ...

6:05 PM - 5 Jul 2018

**Luke Pollard MP** @LukePollard Follow

@UKParlEducation are visiting the superb @plymenergycom to deliver a workshop today at @PlymAthenaeum - sorry I can't be there. Political education is a vital part of maintaining a healthy democracy #Plymouth

4:43 am - 3 Jul 2018  
7 Retweets 9 Likes

**ofgem** @ofgem Follow

"Elaine Marsh, a retired NHS secretary living in one of the properties with PV and a battery, used to pay £350 a year for her electricity, but now her annual bill is only £185." [ow.ly/2HSW30kOpzs](http://ow.ly/2HSW30kOpzs) #CEF18 #energisedcommunities

2:44 PM - 5 Jul 2018  
4 Retweets 6 Likes

**Community Nrg Engld** @Comm1nrg Following

Our Chair & CEO of @RepowerLondon, @Afsheen\_Rashid along with @LeonieGreene of @thesolartrade (& #CEawards18 judge!) were on @Channel4News last night (at 24.30 mins) discussing #communityenergy & energy policy. #speakup #CEF18 [bit.ly/2KsZnuS](http://bit.ly/2KsZnuS)

1:22 PM - 29 Jun 2018  
14 Retweets 18 Likes

**Northern Powergrid** @Northpowergrid Following

During #CEF18, we're sharing the case studies of community projects supported by #TeamPowergrid in the last few years. Read about Leeds Community Energy on our website: [ow.ly/koxN30kGGnh](http://ow.ly/koxN30kGGnh) @CEFortnight @Comm1nrg

7:01 PM - 3 Jul 2018  
3 Retweets 5 Likes

**SELCE** @SELonCommEnergy Follow

**REScoop EU** @REScoopEU Following

Energised Communities, this years theme of Community Energy Fortnight, showcasing inspiring examples of #energy #communities. @Comm1nrg is looking for event organisers to make 2018 a diverse and distinctly louder celebration of #communityenergy! [bit.ly/2IKIQGg](http://bit.ly/2IKIQGg) #CEF18

23 June - 8 July 2018

11:10 AM - 16 May 2018 from Antwerp, Belgium  
13 Retweets 10 Likes

**UK PowerNetworksNews** @UKPNNews Follow

We've certainly enjoyed Community Energy Fortnight #CEF18 particularly the chance to get out and meet and speak to some of the fantastic #CommunityEnergy groups around the country. Find out more about our new partnership with @Comm1Nrg on our website [bit.ly/2IZVEn3](http://bit.ly/2IZVEn3)

4:21 PM - 6 Jul 2018  
1 Retweet 7 Likes

Community Energy LDN, CESouth and CE Fortnight

We'll be at this tomorrow. Come and ask if we can spot any energy and money savings that could be had for your household, whatever the circumstances. Or how you could reduce your carbon footprint, or which is better CFL/LEDs! #CommunityEnergy #CEF18 #cef2018 [lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/event](http://lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/event) ...

# Insights from the Media & Policy Worlds



## Media Mentions

The Community Energy Conference, State of the Sector Report and the CEF18 were mentioned in several national and local papers and magazines.

[Bdaily](#)

[BusinessUpNorth](#)

[Camden New Journal](#)

[Citizens UK](#)

[Co-op News](#)

[Cumbria Crack](#)

[Energy World](#)

[Financial Times](#)

[GreenhousePR](#)

[Guardian](#)

[Ham & High Express](#)

[Impact4All](#)

[New Power](#)

[Solar Power Portal](#)

## Blogs

A variety of insightful and thought-provoking blogs were written by a mix of UKCEC members, social funders, umbrella groups and grass roots community energy groups.

[Colin Baines - Friends Provident](#)

[Emma Bridge - Community Energy England](#)

[Dan Curtis - Brighton & Hove Energy Services Co-operative](#)

[Laura D'Henin - Hope For The Future](#)

[Ethex](#)

[Jodie Giles - Regen](#)

[Cara Jenkinson - Ashden](#)

[Colin Nolden - Community Energy South](#)

[Harriet Sansom - Centre for Sustainable Energy](#)

[Nadia Smith - Communities for Renewables](#)

## News

- 21 June** [Research from Electricity North West](#) revealed that 70% of British consumers believe they have a role to play in the UK's energy infrastructure, with 59% interested in learning more and engaging with community energy.
- 22 June** [Coop Energy polling](#) showed that 71% of Britons support community renewable energy projects, with 79% also supporting the idea that the government should do more to help communities generate their own energy.
- 23 June** The second [State of the Community Energy Report](#), launched at the Community Energy Conference, found 228 active community energy organisations, owning 168 MW of electricity generation capacity and saving over 71,650 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.
- Electricity North West launched their new [Community and Local Energy Strategy](#).
- 23 June** Three out of five Distribution Network Operators attended the Community Energy Conference. DNOs are keen to collaborate and engage with communities in the transition to Distribution System Operator. It was positive to see more DNOs in attendance.
- 27 June** EU institutions agreed upon a new [Renewable Energy Directive](#) which includes a strengthened binding target of 32% renewable energy by 2030 and strong definitions of self-consumption & renewable energy communities.
- 30 June** Solar energy briefly became the UK's [number one power source](#), overtaking gas for the first time.
- Northern Powergrid released some great [case studies](#) throughout CEF18 to highlight how it has been supporting community projects.
- 2 July** Fal Energy Partnership opened a [Crowdfunder campaign](#) during CEF18 to install solar PV on the Dracaena Community Centre in Falmouth. Help them reach their goal!
- 3 July** Community Power Cornwall [acquired West Country Renewables](#), bringing five solar arrays totalling 500kW and three 11kW wind turbines into community ownership.
- UKSSD released a [landmark report](#) revealing how the UK is measuring up to the Sustainable Development Goals. Community energy has a strong role in the achievement of the SDGs, especially [Goal 7](#).
- 4 July** Western Power distribution and Regen released a [series of animations](#) aimed at communities during CEF18, that describe innovative ways of connecting, supplying, managing and storing energy on the electricity network.
- 6 July** UK Power Networks [announced plans](#) to become the first DNO to run a consultation in partnership with Community Energy England to understand more about the regional needs and aspirations of community groups and to help them unlock the value of flexibility markets.

# Community Energy Fortnight 2019

Following the success of CEF18, we are keen to get dates in the calendar for 2019. The successful collaboration with The Climate Coalition, the inclusion of wider climate change-related events as well as European celebrations allow for more participation and awareness raising activities which can help to normalise the idea of community energy for future generations.

## The challenge now is...

- **how to improve on 2018?**
- **how to increase our voice?**
- **how to build more partnerships?**
- **how to keep communities energised?**



Awel Co-op Community Wind Farm. Photo credit: Awel Aman Tawe

**Let us know, so CEF can grow!**

## The Community Energy Coalition

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*Owning, generating and saving energy together for the benefit of all*

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### UKCEC

Energy is such a vital part of our lives, and yet we have next to no say in how it is generated, how much it costs us or where it comes from. But it does not have to be that way.

From the Scottish Highlands to the Devonshire shores, people across the breadth of Britain are already coming together to change the way we think about the energy system and their relationship with it.

The Community Energy Coalition is a group of 41 trusted and influential civic society organisations and sustainable energy experts, working to help enable communities take control of their energy. Explore the site to find out more about who we are.

### Contact Us

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### Co-op Energy

The Community Energy Conference and Community Energy Fortnight are made possible with the generous support of Co-op Energy, an energy supplier that puts values before profits. Their two passions are energy and the community, making them the perfect partner for the UKCEC.



**Community Energy Fortnight is managed by Community Energy England on behalf of the Community Energy Coalition and sponsored by Co-op Energy.**