



Community Energy England and Community Energy Wales proudly present 2018 Outstanding Contribution to Community Energy Award Winner Energy4All



Energy4All

The judges of the 2018 Community Energy Awards, decided that a new special award was required to celebrate the incredible achievements that Energy4All have made over the past 15 years. As such, the Outstanding Contribution to Community Energy Award was created.

Energy4All is a “family” of 24 independent but like-minded community energy organisations. It is a non-profit distributing social enterprise dedicated to delivering more community owned renewable energy. Each Energy4All member is independent but cooperates and pays fees through Energy4All for administration and management of its energy generators in accordance with their means. The surplus generated from this work, and from separate fees charged for successful delivery of projects, meets the cost of Energy4All’s development work, enabling it to develop more community energy projects on behalf of new and existing members. Founded by Baywind in 2002, the UK’s pioneering community owned wind farm, Energy4All has successfully enabled individuals to do something practical about climate change and to create and own some ‘green’ generating capacity.

Members’ projects include many of the largest and most complex community energy projects in Britain. Projects include hydro, roof top and ground mount solar, renewable heat and wholly owned and shared ownership of wind farms, and are located in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Projects are managed on sound commercial principles but adopt and deliver co-operative values and operate with the interests of the community at the heart of the project.

Operating renewable energy is complex and requires full time availability of many skills but not the full-time presence of those skills. This complex requirement can best be delivered by sharing the skills required with like-minded organisations. This also deal with succession issues amongst volunteers. Energy4All members also co-operate on matters such as selling electricity, procurement and board member development. Members offer each other mutual support.

Energy4All members share a unique ethos: each of them was supported in their development, so that they came into being as a successful project, by the existing members of Energy4All; all share a mission, once they are operating, to help to contribute to the development of new community owned projects, either for new members of the family or for existing members. Each Energy4All member contributes towards this shared mission according to their means and individual circumstances. Energy4All works with several hundred volunteers and its members have over 13,000 individual members.

During the past year Energy4All helped its members raise around £1.3 million in community shares, £4 million in community bonds and over £7 million of external finance – and to date equity and debt finance of over £65 million has been raised by members with the support of Energy4All.

By sharing the cost and risks of new development, Energy4All members enable more projects to be developed and delivered than most community groups could do on their own.

Who have been the key collaborators and what have been their roles?

The key collaborators have been the 24 community energy organisations who are the members of Energy4All, Energy4All itself and its 18 staff, and the volunteers who work for the individual co-operative members, particularly but not exclusively as their directors.

Members meet annually at the Energy4All conference to guide the work and priorities of Energy4All and to share expertise and experience and undertake training. Members frequently support new projects financially, enabling their more rapid and flexible development.

Energy4All regularly shares its models and ideas with others, and explores innovative projects, to encourage replicability. The core Energy4All model of community energy organisations co-operating together to improve performance and to deliver more projects is very replicable, and has been replicated both in the UK and in Europe.

Community Energy England and Community Energy Wales congratulate them on everything they have achieved to date and wish them the best of success with future endeavours.

Ahead of the ceremony in Bristol an expert panel of judges selected winners in each of the seven categories following an open application process. Mark Billsborough, Head of Renewables and Hedging at Co-op Energy and one of the Community Energy Awards 2018 judging panel, said: "It's been an honour to judge the Community Energy Awards 2018. I can honestly say that making the final decisions was incredibly difficult. From domestic heat loss surveys, to creating large-scale wind farms owned by the community, it's clear that the impact of groups across England and Wales means more people are able to access the benefits of community energy and make a change for the better in our bid to become a more energy efficient society."

About Community Energy England

Community Energy England (CEE) represents and supports those committed to the community energy sector. Our mission is to support and accelerate the transition to a fair, low carbon and community-led energy system. To do this, we:

- Provide a single unified voice for the Community Energy sector to government, industry and press.
- Share good practice from the sector and work with innovators to support the development of new ideas.
- Bring communities, businesses, local authorities and experts together and promote partnership working.
- Work with local hubs to facilitate a supportive environment in which community energy projects can flourish.

Membership is open to any organisation which shares the association's objectives for the development of 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