

Community Energy – Life After FiTs

Speaker Bios – 8 April 2019



Chaitanya Kumar – Senior Policy Advisor, Green Alliance

Chaitanya joined Green Alliance in February 2017 to lead their work in Low Carbon Energy policy. He's since worked on policy issues related to the levy control framework, low carbon buildings, Brexit's implications on energy and climate policy and quite recently, on community energy. Before joining Green Alliance, Chaitanya worked as the South Asia campaigns leader at 350.org, an international climate campaigning group. He was responsible for designing and executing political and educational campaigns, to move India and other key South Asian countries away from coal and towards cleaner forms of renewable energy. He has closely followed the international climate negotiations since 2008 and has written extensively on climate and energy issues.



Maxine Narburgh – Regional Hub Manager, Greater South East Energy Hub

Maxine Narburgh leads the Greater South East Energy Hub providing local capacity support to bring investment into innovative energy infrastructure projects. Before joining the Hub she worked in Economic Development and Waste Services at Ipswich Borough Council, developing and delivering economic growth and environmental projects. Prior to working in local government, Maxine spent 12 years as the Managing Director of Bright Green, an environmental social enterprise, working with business and communities on low carbon and circular economy initiatives. She was instrumental in setting the standards and securing the finance for the first passivhaus building in England, the Centre for Disability Studies, led the first private sector energy efficiency retrofit scheme funded by the Community Saving Energy Programme and pioneered zero waste systems at some of the UK's largest music festivals. Maxine started her career as a Research Associate at the Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment at the University of East Anglia.



Andrew Morton - Energy Systems Manager, Local Energy Scotland

Andrew Morton is the Energy Systems Manager at Local Energy Scotland, having previously worked in renewables with Home Energy Scotland and as a Local Energy Scotland Development Officer. Through Loughborough University's part time, distance learning course, he gained an MSC in Renewable Technologies in 2013. Prior to this Andrew worked for several years as an architect with Keppie, one of the leading consultancy firms in Scotland, culminating in the role of divisional director. Andrew initially trained in this profession at Dundee University.

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Ollie Pendered – Chair and Co-Director, Community Energy South

Ollie is Chief Executive of Community Energy South and leads on the Low Carbon Across the South East scheme to support Community Energy Groups to become sustainable. Ollie is also Executive Director of Riding Sunbeams, a new start-up investigating powering railways with renewables. He has 18 years' experience of the energy industry in particular in campaign management and strategic stakeholder communications. He is the regional representative for Community Energy England, Chair of Greater Brighton Infrastructure Board's Energy Group and was previously Southern Local Energy Partnerships Manager and Community Energy lead for Department of Business and Industrial Strategy.



Claire Hanratty – CEO, Pure Leapfrog

Claire commenced as CEO of the Leapfrog Group in August 2017 having completed a masters' degree in impact investing for biodiversity conservation. Before coming to England, Claire was CEO and Managing Director of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation from 2011 to March 2016, having earlier been the Foundation's General Manager. Prior to joining the Foundation, she spent eight years with Rio Tinto in global strategy and process improvement roles. Claire began her career in finance with BP, in New Zealand, Australia, the UK and Europe. She holds an MBA from INSEAD in France, an MA in International Relations (Environment and Development) from Oxford Brookes University and a Bachelor of Commerce and Administration (First Class Honours) from Victoria University in Wellington. Claire is also a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and an Honorary Research Associate with the Smith School for Enterprise and Environment at Oxford University.



Mike Smyth - Chair, Energy4All

Mike Smyth is chair of Energy4All, a co-operative of 25 independent generating community energy organisations, and which has more prospective members which are currently working on the development of their projects. Members co-operate through Energy4All to share administration, management and development resources, and share a mission to grow community energy. Mike was a solicitor specialising in commercial and corporate law and is now a full-time volunteer community energy activist. He was co-founder of and chairs The Schools' Energy Co-operative which has recently commissioned its 50th school solar roof and he has founded several other roof-top solar community energy organisations including Marks & Spencer Energy Society; and Springbok Co-operative which has constructed a community owned, locally sourced biomass fuelled, district heating system.

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Kayla Ente – CEO, BHESCo

Kayla Ente is founder and CEO of Brighton and Hove Energy Services Co-operative (BHESCo), a not for profit, social enterprise working with property owners in Sussex to help them meet their energy needs with efficient buildings and clean, affordable, community-owned energy. Since 2015 BHESCo has developed 40 renewable energy and energy efficiency projects which save local businesses £50,000 each year and reduce annual carbon emissions by nearly 200 tonnes. Kayla applies her 20 years of experience in the energy sector to develop partnerships with industry to drive innovation forward and introduce new financial models that support the uptake of clean technologies, removing the barriers in our transition from fossil fuels in the energy supply. She creates pioneering new business models that encourage the development of clean energy initiatives, such as peer to peer electricity trading, renewable heat networks in rural communities, and smart grids with battery storage capability. Kayla has a Masters in Environmental Management from TIAS, Netherlands and is a qualified accountant.