



Community Energy England Annual Report 2018

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Who we are

Community Energy England (CEE) is the trading name of Community Energy Association (England) Ltd. CEE is registered as a private company limited by guarantee without share capital. Its articles and bye-laws can be accessed on the CEE website. CEE is governed by a Board elected at its annual AGM and is managed by the Chief Executive and her team. In 2018, the team comprised of a Communications Officer, an Administrative Officer and a Graduate Intern, recruited through the CharityWorks Programme. During the 2018 financial year the CEE Board consisted of Afshen Rashid MBE (Chairperson), Mark Billsborough (appointed 23 June 2018), Peter Capener MBE, Rachel Hayes BEM, Mark Kenber, Paul Monaghan (resigned 23 June 2018), Ollie Pendered, Giovanna Speciale (resigned 23 June 2018), Kathy Smyth MBE, Deborah Trebilco and Dan Nicholls (Board Advisor; resigned 23 June 2018). Emma Bridge acted as Company Secretary.

Registered address is The Workstation, 15 Paternoster Row, Sheffield, S1 2X.

Registered number is 09042561.

CEE is a not for profit membership organisation, set up by the sector, for the sector, that represents and supports those committed to the community energy movement. CEE works throughout England to help create the conditions within which community energy can flourish. CEE is a growing network of 210+ organisations who are active in the energy transition. Its members produce renewable energy, perform energy efficiency, operate distribution networks, perform retrofit work, lead behaviour change, engage in energy sharing, and provide electric car-sharing. CEE also collaborates with community energy networks in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as regional bodies, in order to develop a coherent and co-ordinated voice to influence UK energy policy.

Our Vision

Putting people at the heart of the energy system.

Our Mission

To support and accelerate the transition to a fair, low carbon and community-led energy system.

Objectives

- Helping the establishment of community energy initiatives inter alia by providing access to the expertise of established community energy organisations and others
- Creating new opportunities for community renewable energy and energy efficiency projects by working with both commercial and public sectors to develop successful delivery partnerships
- Providing a voice for community energy organisations in making inputs to policy and regulation, working in collaboration with others and independently
- Disseminating the achievements of the sector, providing best practice materials and providing a forum for community energy enterprises to collaborate, become more professional, and achieve continuous improvement
- Providing a network within which community energy organisations can maximise their outreach when seeking membership, funding and other inputs for their project.

An introduction from our Chair and Chief Executive

2018 was a busy year for CEE. From the launch of our second State of the Sector Report, to the events we hosted throughout the year - including a record-breaking Community Energy Fortnight - to our annual Community Energy Awards in October. The CEE team and Board also continued to progress the narrative of community energy on local, regional and national levels.



Community energy refers to people owning, controlling and benefitting from their energy. It can refer to any type of energy, such as generation, demand reduction, energy efficiency and supply. Community energy can be wholly owned by communities or through partnerships with private or public sector bodies. With such a wide and varied activity base, it is more important than ever for Community Energy England to provide the sector with a unified voice.

Through its activities, CEE engages not only with its direct members, but with a wider community of 48,000 individuals who are passionate about a just energy transition. CEE's focus is to support and accelerate the transition to a fair, low carbon and community-led energy system. We work with our 200+ strong membership base to put people at the heart of the energy system.

We are proud that we are an inclusive, welcoming body that offers membership to any organisation that supports community energy, including new community energy organisations who are unable to pay a fee initially. Community energy has so many benefits, with practitioners from all walks of life and backgrounds. In 2019 and beyond we will be working hard to ensure that the sector diversifies even further. Representation, experience and knowledge from a wide base of individuals from different backgrounds will only benefit the community energy sector.

The year ahead also promises much. We have secured funding to build on the strong work we have undertaken over the last four years. We will increase our reach and continue to support members. Although we see much to look forward to in 2019 and beyond, community energy is likely to see further challenges and hurdles, with the end of the Feed-in Tariff and an unstable policy backdrop. We will, as always, keep our members up to date with any relevant policy news and continue to work for the benefit of the community energy sector, wider partners and stakeholders.

Emma Bridge

Chief Executive
Community Energy England

Afsheen Kabir Rashid MBE

Chair
Community Energy England

Strategic Priorities

CEE's mission is to support and accelerate the transition to a fair, low carbon and community-led energy system. Our strategic priorities have been developed around the needs of our members and stakeholders who are supportive of the community energy sector. CEE's work over 2018 has been focused around these areas:

Advocacy and Policy

Capacity Building

Communications and PR

Member Support



Advocacy and Policy

In 2018, much of CEE's activity was focussed on policy, working closely with other trade associations, membership bodies and charities for the benefit of those committed to community energy. CEE recognises that evidence-based research is the most effective way to show the impact of community energy and the overall importance of the sector in the transition to a just energy system. Our reports are key documents in influencing policy and decision makers, making the case for a community energy business model and highlighting the varied benefits that community energy can bring on a local and national level. The views and experiences of our members are central to our work, they feed into our consultation responses, we create case studies around their activities and use their experience when championing community energy at roundtables.

In 2018, CEE submitted several consultation responses, including a response to the Feed-in Tariff and the Future for Small-Scale Low Carbon Generation. See here (<https://communityenergyengland.org/pages/policy>) for a record of the policy responses that CEE has submitted, as well as our position on subjects which receive the attention of legislators.

Our Chief Executive and Chair regularly met with civil servants and politicians, in particular, working with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to ensure that community energy was featured in the narrative of the then Minister of State for BEIS, Claire Perry. CEE created regular briefings to gain commitment from government to assess the specific support needs of the community energy sector and for a focus on community energy action within Green Great Britain Week.

“Community energy [is] a key cornerstone of the government’s ambition for transition to a low-carbon, smart energy system”

Claire Perry, Minister of State for BEIS

We coordinated with members, partners and stakeholders to create a unified voice when lobbying for the community energy sector, with a key output from 2018 being the Keep FiTs campaign we undertook with STA and 10:10. CEE also supported the development of the *Community Energy Manifesto 2.0*, a report by Green Alliance, a key document highlighting the struggles of community energy organisations in adapting to government strategic shift.

Green Great Britain Week, 15-21 October 2018

Green Great Britain Week (GGBW) was a new initiative in 2018 from BEIS, looking to demonstrate what individuals, community groups, charities, businesses and local authorities have been doing over the past 10 years to combat climate change. In celebration of the decade anniversary of the Climate Change Act, the week of events explored “how clean growth will change our futures and others can contribute to action on climate change”.



After the success of Community Energy Fortnight 2018, CEE was asked by government to support ‘Climate Action in Communities’ day on 19 October as an official partner, with Claire Perry MP writing to all MPs about community energy and encouraging them to engage with their local group. The day was an opportunity for the community energy sector to highlight what the movement is achieving and encourage continued support.

Community energy practitioners were able to get involved in GGBW in a variety of ways. Organisers arranged events as part of the week, with CEE providing a supporting event pack filled with ideas. Practitioners were also able to show their support by writing to their MP and

encourage them to engage in GGBW and the wider community energy sector, with support from CEE in the form of a template.

Building Capacity

CEE supports the community energy sector with strong links to local community networks and regional hubs across the country. We understand existing community energy support structures and help new local networks develop where there are currently none. We work closely with other trade associations, networks and representative bodies to ensure that our voice is part of the wider discussion taking place about the future of the energy sector.

In 2018, CEE's activity around building capacity was largely focussed on supporting research, guidance and case studies, such as our partnership with UK Power Networks, Community Energy South, Scene Connect with support from Community Energy East and Community Energy London on the report *Community Energy: Regional Research: The South East, East and London*. CEE also supported building capacity in the sector through maintenance and administration of the Community Energy Hub, and through the hosting of several events focused on skilling up the sector.

Community Energy Hub

The Community Energy Hub is the first truly integrated information sharing network to support community energy practitioners and supporters who are interested in the sector. The Hub was first commissioned by DECC in 2015, with CEE taking administrative control in April 2016. CEE has since been developing the Hub as a resource to build capacity for the community energy sector, adding new functionality and promoting it to our members.

The Community Energy Hub aims to:

- Provide a single point of access for information on community energy across the internet, helping practitioners to easily access the information they need
- Help community energy groups share information amongst themselves and other organisations, including potential funders or project partners.

In 2018 CEE focussed on reviewing the Hub and its functionalities in order to ensure it is fit for purpose for community energy practitioners, academics and other organisations who are interested in engaging in the sector. CEE conducted a series of interviews with practitioners as part of this process and will be using responses to directly feed into future plans for the Community Energy Hub.

Community Energy Afternoon of Big Ideas

With partnership from members Co-op Energy and Pure Leapfrog, we held an afternoon exploring a wide range of topics, including district heating co-operatives in Denmark and the launch of Co-op Energy's *Community Energy Strategy*. The afternoon was a great opportunity for practitioners to discuss a wide range of topics and engage in lively debate on the future of community energy.

Energy Efficiency in Your Community Event

We partnered with CEE member Carbon Coop to deliver a full day of workshops and presentations from industry experts and practitioners in energy efficiency and domestic retrofit. As can be seen from the result of our State of the Sector 2019 report, more community energy

organisations than ever began engaging in energy efficiency and retrofit activities in 2018. Energy Efficiency in Your Community provided community energy practitioners with an opportunity to share ideas and stories, as well as developing networks.

Community Energy Conference 2018

Community Energy England and Co-op Energy hosted the country's largest and most thought-provoking conference solely focused on community energy. The event was held at the University of Manchester and was supported by Electricity North West and the Tyndall Centre.

Delegates heard from Patrick Allcorn, Head of Local Energy at BEIS, about the future of support for small-scale low-carbon electricity generation and the opportunities that lay ahead for community energy organisations. Cara Blockley, Future Networks Project Developer at Electricity North West explored the future from a District Network Operator's perspective and the Tyndall Centre reported on research into funding community energy projects. Hector Cruz, Chief Financial Advisor at Co-op Energy, discussed how we can grow community energy under an energy price cap.

With insightful breakout events looking at the transition from Distribution Network Operator to Distribution Systems Operator, policy and lobbying and heat – the hot topic, amongst other subjects, there was something for every community energy supporter.

We would like to thank everyone who attended, the speakers, exhibitors, our co-host Co-op Energy and supporters Electricity North West and the Tyndall Centre. Without them it would not have been possible to hold the Community Energy Conference as a free, inclusive event.



Communications

CEE's communications demonstrate the viability of community energy. We are actively increasing the understanding and profile of community energy. We enhance the discourse through a wide range of channels and produce the data which demonstrates the state of the sector. Our regular events across the country facilitate knowledge sharing. 2018 also saw a greater increase in CEE and community energy's presence in the media, with interesting articles in the Guardian, the Financial Times and various trade press.

As well as our own activity focussed on communicating the community energy sector in 2018, CEE supported the outputs of our members, partners and stakeholders. CEE partnered with members 10:10, Forum for the Future and Regen on the report *Building Local Economic Resilience Through Democratic Local Energy Models*. CEE fed into CSE's report *Bringing Local Energy Benefits to Deprived Communities*. As always, promoting member events, share offers and news was a key priority for CEE, through regular social media updates, fortnightly member newsletters and quarterly stakeholder newsletters.

State of the Sector 2018 Report

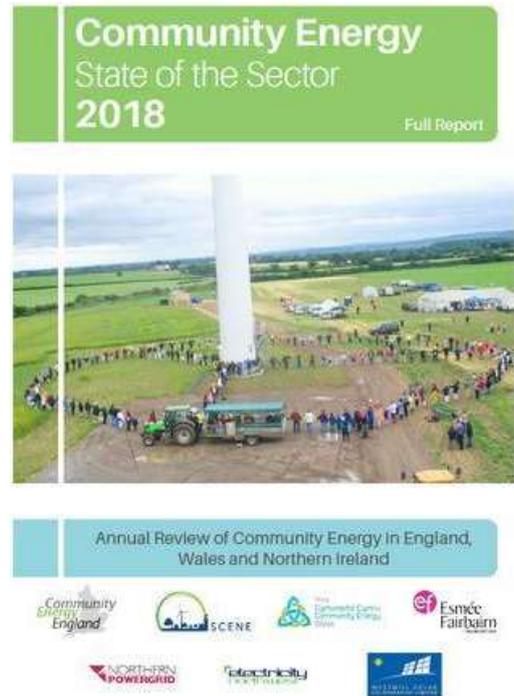
The annual State of the Sector report is one of CEE’s largest projects. The 2018 report was launched on 23 June 2018, at the annual Community Energy Conference, with our project partners Scene and Community Energy Wales. The anticipated follow up on the State of the Sector 2017 report built upon its benchmark and concluded some interesting, if not entirely unexpected changes in the sector, given policy upheaval.

Over two hundred community energy organisations participated in the survey, providing details of their organisational structure, activities and plans. The report provided the most in-depth understanding of the community energy sector in England, Northern Ireland and Wales to date.

2017 was found to be a challenging year for the community energy sector, with only one new community energy organisation constituted, 30 fewer successful projects and 31% less generation capacity installed or acquired, in comparison with 2016. The report highlighted that the community energy sector faces increasing risk as the impacts of subsidy and tax incentive retractions and reductions continue to be felt, with profit margin impeding progress.

Despite the warnings of the report, the findings also highlighted that the community energy sector is resilient. Whilst conditions may be difficult, there are success stories in the sector. Case studies within the report covered new regional community energy hubs and various activities undertaken by groups to improve their communities, engage the public in energy consumption and lead the way in the transition to a decarbonised, decentralised and democratised energy system.

We would like to thank all the groups who completed the survey, and our sponsors Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Electricity North West, Northern Powergrid and Westmill Solar Co-operative Limited.



Community Energy Fortnight 2018



Community Energy Fortnight is an annual campaign managed by Community Energy England on behalf of the Community Energy Coalition. The Coalition was formed in 2011 and is made up of some of the UK's most influential and trusted institutions and charities, such as 10:10, the National Trust, the Ramblers Association and the Women's Institute. Community Energy Fortnight 2018 was generously sponsored by Co-op Energy.

2018 saw the largest, most diverse Community Energy Fortnight to date, with a record 162 events taking place in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and across Europe.

By organising events and showcasing the benefits of community energy on an annual basis, the Community Energy Fortnight ignites 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 in 2018, but the message was united: when people come together to tackle energy issues, a multitude of charitable and sustainable development objectives can be achieved.

High profile conferences such as the Community Energy Conference 2018 and the BHA Hydro Network 2018 took place during CEF18, as did workshops and open days from community energy organisations such as Saddleworth Community Energy and Carbon Coop, making the fortnight varied and exciting, with a wide geographical spread.

For the second time, the UK Community Energy Coalition combined forces with The Climate Coalition's Speak Up Week of Action, in the first week of July 2018. This partnership resulted in a distinctly loud voice, with 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.

A variety of insightful and thought-provoking blogs were written by a mix of UKCEC members, social funders, umbrella groups and grassroots community energy groups. Blog writers included Colin Baines, Investment Engagement Manager at Friends Provident Foundation, Cara Jenkinson, Senior Programme Officer at Ashden and Nadia Smith, Project Coordinator at Communities for Renewables C.I.C. Community Energy Fortnight 2018 also gained traction online; see below for some highlight tweets from the fortnight.



Insights from Twitter

Co-op Energy @CoopEnergy

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

10:18 AM - 22 Jun 2018

3 Likes

Emma Bridge @emmabridge

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/2KfVWul #CEFT18 #CEConf18 #EnergisedCommunities

6:34 AM - 23 Jun 2018

44 Retweets 46 Likes

Plym Energy Co-op @plymenergy

Wow what a line up! #CEConf18 looks set to be an amazing day...great work @CommEng @CoopEnergy... 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

5:01 PM - 16 Jun 2018

4 Retweets 8 Likes

ElectricityNorthWest @ElectricityNW

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! enwl.co.uk/about-us/news/

6:55 PM - 9 Jul 2018

ofgem @ofgem

"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 #CEF18 #energisedcommunities

3:44 PM - 5 Jul 2018

4 Retweets 4 Likes

Community NRG England @CommEng

Our Chair & CEO of @RepowerLondon, @Afshoon_Rashid along with @LeonieGreene of @thesolartrade (& @CEwards18 judge!) were on @Channe4News last night (at 24.30 mins) discussing #communityenergy & energy policy. #speakup #CEF18 bit.ly/2KsZnuS

Afshoon Rashid
Chief Executive, Repowering Ltd

1:22 PM - 28 Jun 2018

14 Retweets 18 Likes

Community Energy Awards 2018



The Community Energy Awards were held on 19 October in Bristol, in partnership with Community Energy Wales and sponsored by Co-op Energy and Bristol City Council. It was a great evening for celebration of the sector, with Jake Burnyeat announced as the Community Energy Champion of 2018.

The Community Energy Awards 2018 marked the culmination of the inaugural Green Great Britain Week; a new initiative from BEIS highlighting the opportunities that clean growth offers the UK.

The week also marked the 10-year anniversary of the Climate Change Act.

As part of the evening's celebrations, Molly Scott Cato, Green MEP for the South West of England and Gibraltar, Robin Webster, Senior Climate Change Engagement Strategist at Climate Outreach, and Tim Lord, Director for Clean Growth at BEIS, shared their thoughts on continued UK leadership on climate change and the role that communities can play.



You can find the full listing of the 2018 Community Energy Award Winners here - <https://communityenergyengland.org/pages/community-energy-awards-2018-2/>*

Thank you to our generous sponsors of the Community Energy Awards 2018:



Membership



Over the course of 2018, CEE welcomed 23 new members from community, corporate and public sectors. CEE welcomes membership from any group or organisation that supports the development of community energy.

CEE is primarily a membership body and members are at the core of all our activities, putting people at the heart of the energy system is our vision. Our strategic priorities are focussed around our mission to support and accelerate the transition to a fair, low carbon and community-led energy system.

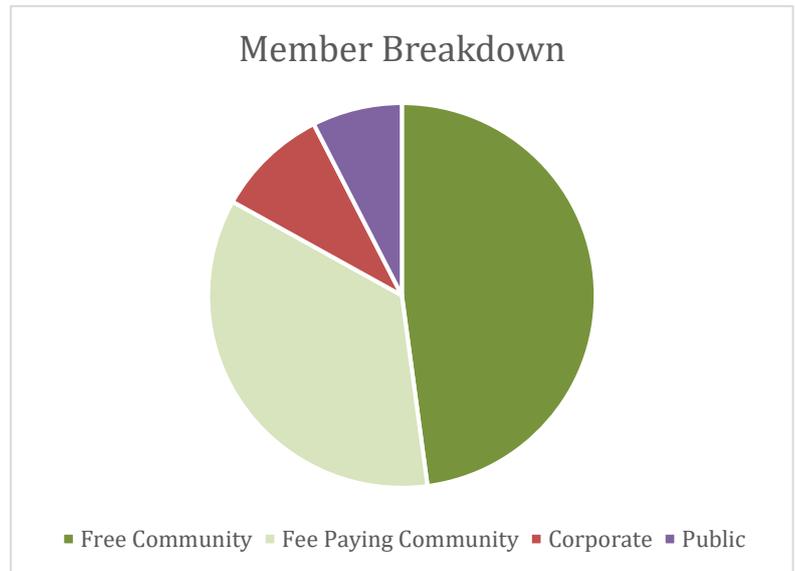
By supporting CEE with membership, organisations help us to continue to host a variety of free events throughout the year, complete projects such as our annual State of the Sector Report and campaign on behalf of community energy from grassroots to government level.

CEE is a supportive network of organisations and individuals, whose projects may differ, but whose goal of being part of a successful community energy movement in England is the same. CEE provides support to its members, facilitating events and online discussions so that community energy practitioners have like-minded people to float ideas to, ask for help, or just vent frustrations. CEE provides a great source of inspiration to its members and wider stakeholders through the sharing of good news stories in newsletters, social media and, of course, with the annual Community Energy Awards. Sharing stories is a real motivator, and it can also challenge thinking about ideas, projects or business models. As the membership body for community energy organisations in England, CEE enables this by hosting specialist events such as our *Afternoon of Big Ideas* event, at which case studies and ideas were explored.

CEE shapes its activities and outputs around members and provides them with the opportunity to have their say through an annual survey, to ensure that our activity fits their need. After member feedback from 2017, in 2018 we incorporated a more dynamic events schedule,

spreading events geographically, as well as varying the topics so we could better serve our members.

In 2018 CEE introduced a new membership fee structure. The new fee encourages fairness between membership groups and promotes a better value for money for our members, as well as continuing to help CEE in its aim to be financially independent and solely reliant on membership fees. As we are a membership organisation, we rely on our membership base in order to continue driving forward our shared mission with our members: to support and accelerate the transition to a fair, low carbon and community-led energy system.



We asked our members why they are part of CEE

These were some of the answers we received as part of our annual survey:

[We joined CEE]...to support a body that campaigns on behalf of community energy groups

...To give community energy a stronger voice when lobbying government

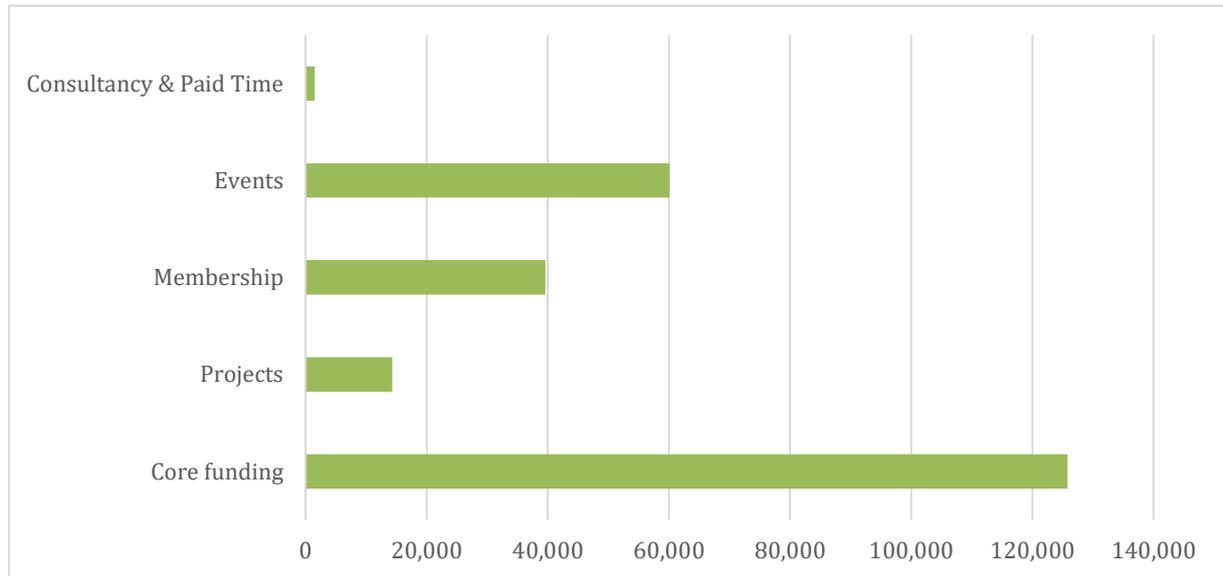
...To be supported and to support the rest of the sector. To raise the profile & effectiveness of community energy and to have a voice

...To support the campaigning work to promote community energy at a national level

...To connect with other supporters of community energy

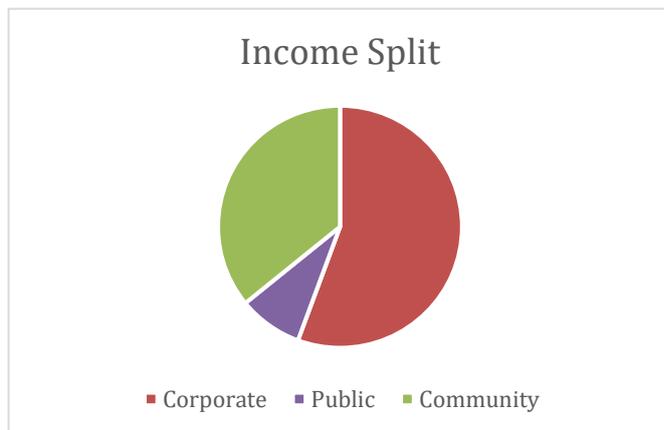
Financial Review

Income



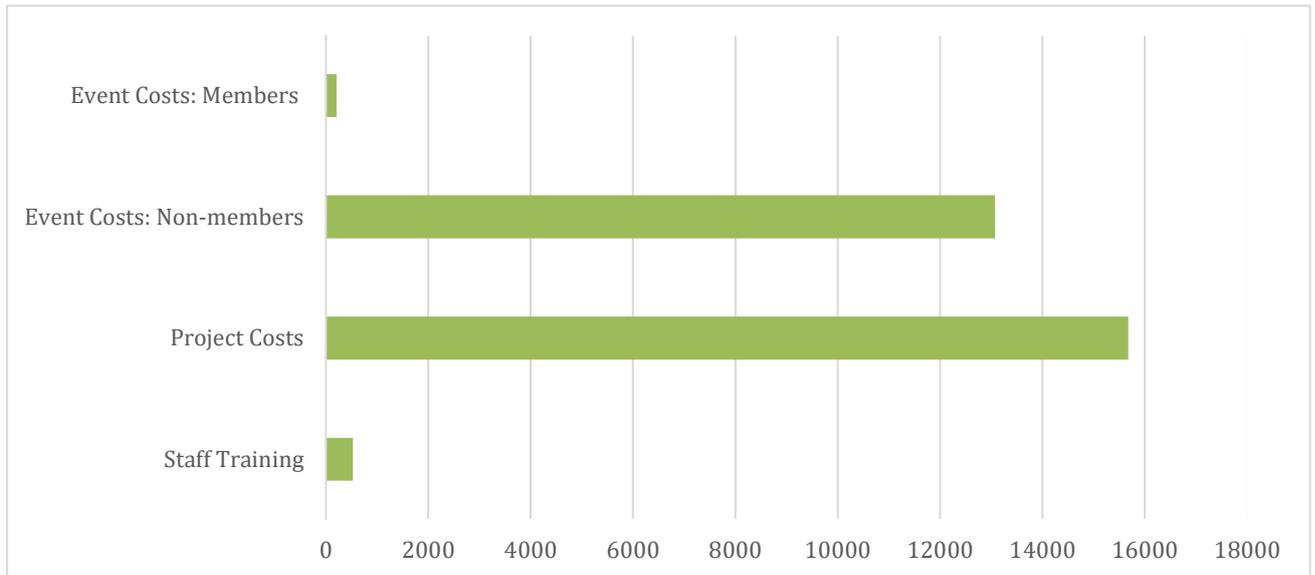
Most CEE’s funding in 2018 came from core funding, followed by events income and membership fees. There was an increase in events income from the previous year due to a more diverse events calendar, but a decrease in membership fees despite an increase in numbers. This was largely due to an uncertain policy and regulatory environment.

Breakdown of membership fees by organisational type



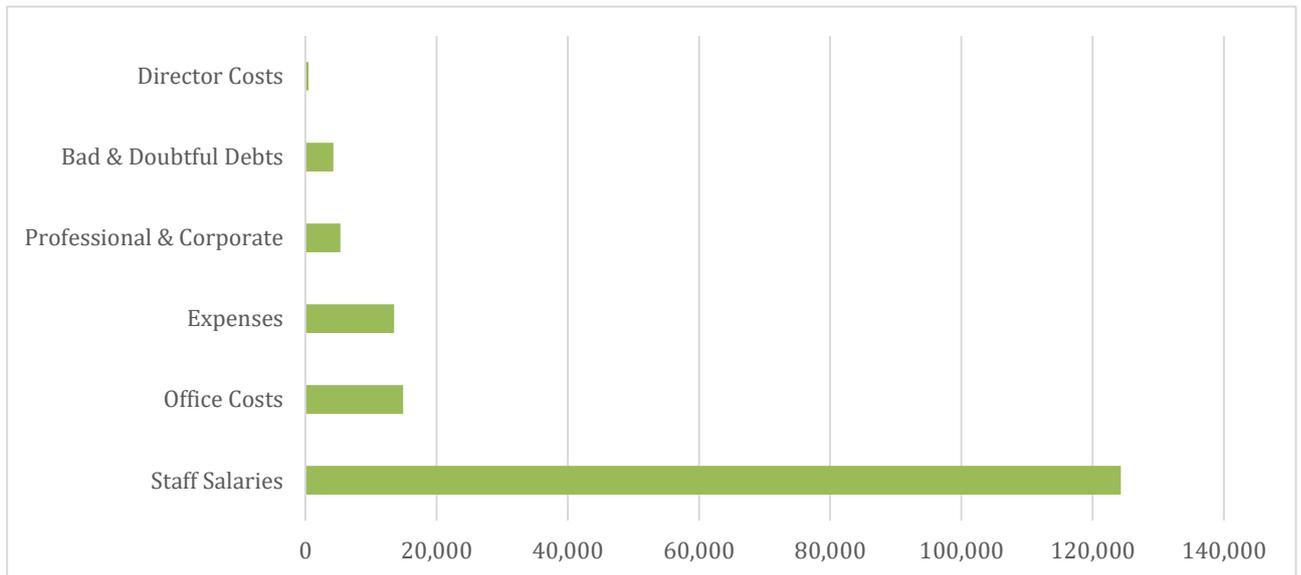
CEE retains the ambitious target to become self-sustaining through membership fees, however, we recognise the challenges in the sector and that our members require support irrespective of fees paid. CEE is proud to support community energy organisations and supports through all stages of development; this is reflected in our fees structure. CEE encourages all members to pay a small voluntary fee, however, we aim to be as inclusive as possible.

Expenditure – cost of sales



Project costs made up the highest cost of sales in 2018. This consisted of online costs relating to the Community Energy England website and the Community Energy Hub, and costs relating to the State of the Sector report. The second highest cost of sales was event costs: non-members, which increased due to the expansion of our events calendar.

Expenses



Remuneration of Directors

No remuneration was paid to any member of the Board of Directors. Travel and accommodation expenses were paid, totalling £504.65.

Staff Pay and Recognition

As a not for profit which works for the benefit of its members, CEE recognises the importance of transparency and accountability when reporting on our finances. We must use the money we

receive from members, funders and sponsors wisely, however; we must also ensure that staff are paid fairly, and that CEE recruits the best candidates that bring with them the skills we need to fulfil our mission.

Statement of Income and Retained Earnings 2018

COMMUNITY ENERGY ASSOCIATION (ENGLAND) LIMITED			
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)			
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS			
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018			
	Note	2018 £	2017 £
Turnover		122,041	96,060
Cost of sales		(31,179)	(44,002)
Gross profit		90,862	52,058
Administrative expenses		(168,869)	(143,381)
Other operating income	3	96,111	75,201
Operating profit/(loss)		18,104	(16,122)
Interest receivable and similar income		15	-
Interest payable and expenses		-	(622)
Profit/(loss) before tax		18,119	(16,744)
Tax on profit/(loss)	5	(3,442)	3,983
Profit/(loss) after tax		14,677	(12,761)
Retained earnings at the beginning of the year		1,544	14,305
Profit/(loss) for the year		14,677	(12,761)
Retained earnings at the end of the year		16,221	1,544

The notes on pages 6 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

Overview

The results for the year ended 31 December 2018 include a profit, this is due to the way the core grant funding has been allocated. This can lead to fluctuations year on year.

Thank you

CEE was set up by the sector, for the sector. Without our members we would not exist, so we would like to thank all our members, especially those who attended our 2018 AGM, other events over the past year, supported the State of the Sector 2018 report and Community Energy Fortnight 2018.

Additional thanks go to the community organisations, corporate and public partners who provided us with much needed funding through membership fees and sponsorship of events. We would like to especially thank our Principal supporters and funders for their additional support and partnership, without which much of our achievements in 2017 would not have been possible.

Principal Supporters



Funders



Fair economy. Better world.

Join Us

CEE is a membership organisation established to provide a voice for the community energy sector in England. CEE works closely with partner organisations to help create the conditions within which community energy can flourish.

CEE advocates for supportive policies at regional and national levels, works to increase the profile of community energy, supports the development of projects and encourages new entrants and collaboration with public and private sector organisations.

You can help CEE to achieve its mission to support and accelerate the transition to a fair, low carbon and community-led energy system by joining. Membership of CEE is inclusive and is open to any organisation that is committed to the development of the community energy sector in England.

Contact us

 www.communityenergyengland.org

 Comm1nrg

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