



Consultation on changes to Feed-In Tariffs deadlines

Measures to mitigate Covid-19 commissioning delays to pre-registered and pre-accredited installations

Introduction

1. This is a joint response by Community Energy England, Community Energy Scotland and Community Energy Wales who together represent over 700 community energy groups and associated organisations across England, Scotland and Wales involved in the delivery of community-based energy projects that range from the generation of renewable electricity and heat, to the energy efficiency retrofit of buildings, to helping households combat fuel poverty.
2. Our shared vision is of strong, well informed and capable communities, able to take advantage of their renewable energy resources and address their energy issues in a way that builds a more localised, democratic and sustainable energy system.
3. Community energy refers to the delivery of community led renewable energy, energy demand reduction and energy supply projects, whether wholly owned and/or controlled by communities or through partnership with commercial or public sector partners. It delivers large amounts of social and community benefit via community benefit funds and accruing directly from the energy interventions themselves.
4. CEE, CES and CEW have consulted their members with preregistered FiT projects to get feedback on progress and what they need to complete projects impeded by the current Covid-19 crisis. Members and related organisations who reported to us include:
 - **Energy4All (4x hydro)**
 - **Egni Mynydd Cyf (hydro)**
 - **Reading Hydro CBS**
 - **Cwm Cadian hydro**
 - **Energy4All (several projects)**
 - **Brighton Energy Coop (numerous projects)**
 - **Repowering London**
 - **Community Energy North**

- **Peabody (42 projects)**
- **Awel Aman Tawe/Egni (numerous projects)**
- **Community Energy Wales**
- **Community Energy Scotland**
- **Local Energy Scotland (numerous projects, hydro solar and wind)**

5. Their responses are collected and quoted from below.

Question 1

‘We welcome views regarding **the appropriateness of the proposed 12-month extension for hydro** projects with initial accreditation deadlines on or after 1 October 2020, including on whether this proposal could have any unintended or undesirable consequences. We particularly welcome any evidence regarding the potential effectiveness of this proposal.’

6. **Egni Mynydd Galedffrwd hydro**, 250kW, welcomes the proposed 12-month extension to FiT deadlines for hydro projects and considers it is proportionate given they have lost the whole of the 2020 construction season and the scheme cannot now be completed to the existing deadline of Sept 2021. Their hydro is a long build planned to split over two seasons - so they won't be able to fit everything in the 2021 season so a 12 month extension is absolutely necessary to the viability of this project. The covid lockdown has meant they have been unable to progress detailed design work which involved site visits by surveyors, engineers and contractors, the preparation of tenders for contractors or turbine procurement or advance negotiations with potential financiers since February. They were able to work with SPEN to reduce grid connection costs and have just been offered a new grid connection which reduces their overall costs by 15% for a 5% reduction in generation capacity. Recent approaches to lenders suggest the scheme remains attractive but it is anticipated that a further 4-6 months would be required to navigate the post-lockdown financial world and that this is contingent on formal notification of an extension to the FiT deadline. *As they are not able to re-commence work without the security of a formal extension to the FiT deadline they request that this is **notified as soon as possible**.*
7. Whilst **Reading Hydro**, a Community Benefit Society with a planned scheme of 46kW capacity, aims to commission before its original FiT deadline of September 2021, an extra 12 months considerably reduces the risk to the project and its hundreds of local investors. The lockdown pushed the project build further into the riskier winter months and quotes have risen due to Covid risk, so any risk relief thanks to FiT deadline extension would be greatly welcomed.
8. **Cwm Cadian hydro** is confident now that the scheme will be up and running before their original FiT deadline of 30th September 2020, so won't be needing that extension after all but are grateful that one has been proposed.

9. **Morvern**, 1.6MW (Original FiT pre-accreditation deadline date: September 2021). The community has just achieved financial close with Triodos and EIF. Financial Close was delayed with the closing of the Land Registrar due to Covid-19, and therefore the project programme. There are concerns around getting on site, building out and meeting the FIT deadline. This is a concern for the funders. A 12-month extension would ensure headroom in there are further delays in the programme from Covid.
10. **Raasay**, 137 kW (Original FiT pre-accreditation deadline date: September 2021). This is a 137kW community hydro project on the Isle of Raasay, off Skye being progressed by the local community. Registered for FIT March 2019 with 2.5 years build out time, commissioned by Sept 2021. They are concerned that delays in quotes (turbine, control, pipeline etc) and regulator feedback (Ofgem cables runs, DNO export upgrade costs) seem to be occurring due to remote working/staff shortages. Share offer was due to launch in July/Aug 2020 but due to the fact a share offer is essentially a community engagement exercise, fundraising is now not likely to begin until late Autumn 2020. This is when construction was due to start. Construction timelines and availability of contractors and materials will be impacted and the shortened window for construction is now extremely challenging.
11. **Rhiconich/ Kinlochbervie**, 200 kW (Original FiT pre-accreditation deadline date: September 2021). Community hydro project in Kinlochbervie, Sutherland. We expect delays in quotes (turbine, control, pipeline etc) and a funding delay which will have a knock-on effect for the rest of the project programme. Additional delays are expected in relation to 3rd party property negotiations due to staff shortages. Construction timelines and availability of contractors and materials will be impacted and the shortened window for construction could now be extremely challenging.
12. **Sleat**, 34kW, Sleat, (Original FiT pre-accreditation deadline date: September 2021), the Isle of Skye. A community project developed on community owned land. We expect delays in quotes (turbine, control, pipeline etc) and regulator feedback and a funding delay which will have a knock on effect for the rest of the project programme. Share offer was due to launch in May 2020 but due to the fact a share offer is essentially a community engagement exercise, fundraising is now not likely to begin until Aug / Sept 2020. This is when construction was due to start. Construction timelines and availability of contractors and materials will be impacted and the shortened window for construction is now extremely challenging.
13. **Buchanan**, 100kW, (Original FiT pre-accreditation deadline date: September 2021). Community hydro project in Balmaha, Loch Lomond. The site is owned by Forestry and Land Scotland. They expect delays in quotes (turbine, control, pipeline etc) and a funding delay which will have a knock-on effect for the rest of the project programme. Additional delays are expected in relation to 3rd party property negotiations due to staff shortages. Share offer was due to launch in May 2020 but due to the fact a share offer is essentially a community engagement exercise, fundraising is now not likely to begin until Aug / Sept 2020. This is when construction was due to start. Construction timelines and availability of contractors and materials will be impacted and the shortened window for construction is now extremely challenging.

14. **Glenahulish**, 540kW, (Original FiT pre-accreditation deadline date: September 2021). Pre-Accredited hydro project in Ballachulish, Highland that the local community are purchasing. Registered for FITs March 2019. Currently only 2 years to build with March 2021 deadline [Private developer pre-accredited the project initially before offering the scheme to the community]. Currently progressing legal agreements with the developer regarding payments and ownership. Also doing financial modelling and working on tasks surrounding the share offer. Covid-19 impacts including delay to share offer launch, being able to get on site etc.
15. **Littleton Burn & Feorline** The Littleton Hydro scheme is located in Perthshire. An application for pre-accreditation to the Feed in Tariff was made on 5th February 2019 with a stated capacity of 180kW. The Feorline Hydro scheme is located on Loch Fyne to the south of Strachur. An application for pre-accreditation to the Feed in Tariff was made on 5th February 2019 with a stated capacity of 99.9kW. There have been delays to the construction of Littleton Burn due to Covid-19 and while this project should be completed before its FiT deadline, any slippage in the works schedule on Littleton Burn will have a knock on effect with Feorline since they are both being installed by the same contractor.

Question 2

‘We welcome evidence on the **extent to which projects that benefited from the extension have been able to progress**, and on **whether the 6-month extension remains sufficient in the current circumstances**. We welcome **evidence that would justify a further extension**, and **on how long any further extension would need to be**. We also welcome views on whether a further extension would have any unintended or undesirable consequences.’

16. Many projects report that the 6 month extension to the completion deadline has been sufficient to enable projects either to be completed or to be on schedule to be completed with large amounts of pledged capital, renewable capacity and prospective community benefit secured. They universally welcome the pro-action and initiative shown in providing the extension.
17. A sample of these projects include, Wales: **Awel Aman Tawe/Egni**: 90kW on Caerleon Comprehensive; 500kW on Geraint Thomas Velodrome in Newport - the largest rooftop solar array in Wales and another expected 410kW of solar on schools and community centres. (total 1MW)
18. However nearly all projects report **ongoing Covid-19 related difficulties**, including difficulties contacting key stakeholders, getting the attention of site managers, getting access to sites, getting contractors mobilised. Energy4All, for instance, reported that they could get almost no response from DNOs and a number of other key stakeholders from mid February onwards. Some of these difficulties have knock-on effects and compound other difficulties which may mean missing windows of opportunity, such as installing solar on school roofs during truncated school summer holidays.

19. A significant number of projects report that they are still in danger of not being able to meet the 30 September 2020 completion deadline due to those difficulties. Some propose 3 or 6 month extensions, in some cases as an insurance policy to make sure projects nearing completion don't fall victim to unforeseen delays and impediments. But the majority who specified a time-frame requested a 12 month extension for the following reasons. A shorter extension is very likely to have to be reviewed again as many of those projects are likely to still be thwarted, especially if we suffer a second wave this winter as is looking increasingly likely from reports this week. If extended for three or six months school projects (a large proportion) that fail to install during this summer holiday would only have the winter holidays as a difficult installation window, including a very short bit of the Easter holidays. Winter is a bad time to be putting workers on roofs under pressure to meet deadlines (whilst observing Covid-19 health and safety constraints). A year's extension gives the whole of the Easter and summer holidays to install.
20. We do not consider this extension would have any **unintended or undesirable consequences**. Indeed it will increase build-out of local renewable energy, increasing the resilience of community organisations. It will also bring long term community benefit and ensure the continued engagement of passionate and expert community energy activists in the urgent energy transition. **Engi** points out that they will be able to install a further 1MW by end Sept taking them to 3.4MW of community owned capacity. Given a 12 month extension they can realistically install another 3MW. Much of this supports Welsh Government targets for the public sector to be carbon neutral by 2030¹.
21. We list below **Covid-19 related problems cited by members** as endangering the timely completion of projects. We divide them into England, Wales and Scotland because there are some local factors that affect the situation. Where relevant we put the respondent's name in brackets after the comment. Some apply across the board - we have tried not to duplicate too much but have quoted as closely as possible the submissions we received.

England

- 22.
- DNOs effectively ceased operating in mid February
 - Many other key stakeholders have been impossible to contact or very slow to respond since late February, early March.
 - Schools have been particularly difficult to work with in recent months. This is likely to continue given the pressures they are under for a full return to school in September.
 - Indoor Leisure Centres are still closed so access to the site is limited or impossible.

¹ <https://gov.wales/welsh-public-sector-be-carbon-neutral-2030>

Wales

23. In Wales **Awel Aman Tawe/Egni** report that Swansea Council are keen for them to install 1MW over the summer but they don't think this will be possible due to covid impacts. The same applies to Ceredigion and Cardiff Councils. They join with Community Energy Wales in recommending a twelve month extension to September 2021 to ensure that schools projects in particular can be safely carried out in school holidays.
24. Welsh projects reported the following problems which may threaten successful completion on a number of projects.
- March 31st – 31st May installs theoretically possible on construction sites in line with UK/Welsh Govt guidance. But in reality, lockdown was complete. Pembrokeshire council would not allow roof-work and still hadn't given permission to re-start as of 22/6/2020.
 - There is particular difficulty working in schools and maintaining social distancing on solar installs.
 - Very limited number of contractors available due to widespread self isolation. It is taking time for installers to re-engage with work, their subcontractors and order equipment. There are still many and unforeseeable delays.
 - Similarly complementary industries such as scaffolding had no availability. Availability is now improving.
 - Difficult and more time consuming to speak to DNO about grid connections, especially on sites needing half hourly data/meter installs. All non-essential site visits for upgrading metering were stopped by Meter Operators until mid June. We still don't know how this issue will resolve over the coming months.
 - Getting Covid Risk Assessment Method Statements (RAMS) agreed with Councils for schools is proving difficult. Schools themselves have limited time and staff to engage with projects.
 - Shortening of school summer holidays from 6 to 5 weeks: 27th July – 1st Sept². This had not been confirmed by Welsh Government as of 22/6/2020 but the uncertainty means we have to be cautious about planning work on school sites. Cardiff council website has 20 July³ and Swansea website still has 16th July⁴ as the end of the summer term so it may be that the Welsh Govt hasn't yet confirmed the extension.
 - Announcement of the reopening schools in Wales on 29th March forced us to delay some installs till the summer holidays as there was insufficient time to safely complete them. We were planning 200kW of install on two Archdiocese of Wales schools in Cardiff (Mary Immaculate Comprehensive and St Illtud's) while schools

² <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-52895374>

³ <https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/resident/Schools-and-learning/Schools/School-term-dates/Pages/default.aspx>

⁴ <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/50941/School-term-and-holiday-dates-20202021>

were in lockdown and no children on site – they have been delayed till the summer holiday with the consequent impact on other potential installs.

- Coordination with Local Authorities on leases is more difficult and technical sign off more time consuming than previously.
- Some community organisations have had to furlough their own staff which has meant they have not been able to take the project forward during this period.
- Installers are under significant time pressure to complete installations by the end of September 2020 and are suggesting lead in times of 6-8 weeks before they are able to start work on projects in parts of Wales.

Scotland

25. In Scotland the lockdown was particularly strict and restrictions on construction have only recently been eased.
26. **Local Energy Scotland** reported on behalf of 10 projects across 15 sites that have FiT pre-registration, progressing to install over 400kW of solar PV. All projects were scheduled to complete by the March deadline and are still endangered by Covid-19. In addition, Local Energy Scotland are supporting a 900kW community wind project called Bespoke near Falkirk.
27. The projects would benefit from an extension in case of future lockdown and because there is a risk of insufficient time to install by end September due to the time lost and time it's taking for easing of lockdown, restrictions remaining at the moment and the volume of work with limited capacity to get through before end September (December for the wind project).
28. The solar projects were all working to install by the end of March. The extension to September was very beneficial in allowing project teams and installers to stop work and be compliant with Government guidance. An extension to the end of March 2021 is requested to provide time to ensure all projects complete as mobilisation has been impacted by.
29. Local Energy Scotland cited the following problems, all Covid related:
 - Installers coming out of furlough in July and continuing to have limitations in capacity and backlog of work. They are needing time to prepare and get back up to speed.
 - Restrictions remain for indoor works preventing completion of install.
 - A three phase meter installation was cancelled by an electricity supplier and this work is yet to be rescheduled. When it's done, the local DNO needs to do work on the local grid, which requires a road closure. The Council need a minimum of a month's notice to give permission for this. The PV was installed in March but can't be fully commissioned for the FiT without the meter and the grid connection work.
 - Delays in councils being able to make decisions and support community energy projects installing solar on Council buildings due to committee meeting being suspended and staff being diverted onto other front line essential work.

- Delays in finalising legal documents (for citing PV on third party roofs) due to legal staff being furloughed.
- Community buildings on which solar PV to be installed still closed.
- Staff working for community groups have been furloughed preventing work from progressing.
- Risk assessments and new procedures for safe working on site are being prepared and need to be signed off by PV companies and by external agencies such as building owners.
- PV projects that are planned on new build constructions have delays compounded and these are more prolonged.
- Projects on schools have to plan installations to coincide with school holidays. Time is tight for doing them in the summer holidays meaning extensions are required.

Feedback from specific groups requesting extension.

English projects

30. In England **Brighton Energy Coop** has around 500KW of pre-registered projects that were stalled by Covid-19. They have been contacting a number of the potential sites to progress projects with them but decision making is very slow as the majority are schools and colleges which obviously have had much disruption and uncertainty recently. Getting senior management attention at these organisations will be difficult over the summer due to Covid procedure changes, and then there is the 6 week summer break where they are likely to be on holiday. They request a six month extension to the end of March 2021. This would allow the FIT extension to close within the same financial year as present, and also give sites, predominantly the educational establishments, time to bed in their new working procedures and welcome back students in September, subject to there being no second wave or other unforeseen delays.
31. **Energy4All** has completed a number of projects that were stalled by Covid-19. However, due to the fact that the DNO effectively stopped operating in mid February and they could get no response from most of the other key stakeholders from shortly after that, there are 3 sites in Hastings that without an extension of 6 months are unlikely to go ahead.
32. **Repowering London** expected to be able to install in July with the easing of lockdown measures but the Government has not yet given the go ahead for indoor sports facilities. As a result the 49kW installation on the Westway Sports Centre is once again on hold. It is not clear when indoor sports facilities will be open and it is difficult for us to assess the situation or take steps towards installing. This does not leave much time until the end of September. Given the uncertainty, **Repowering and North Kensington Community Energy** would welcome a further extension of 6 months until March 31.

33. **Community Energy North** has two 50kW pre-registered projects delayed by Covid-19 which would become viable with a 12 month extension.

34. **Peabody Trust**, 536kW PV, 42 systems

All sites have been successfully installed, and pre-registered before 31st March 2019. Peabody is requiring checks, and risk assessments to be undertaken before contractors visit sites which is adding delays. They should be starting on site again soon. We are still hoping to complete by 30th September 2020. However, concerns over resident, staff and contractor safety is of paramount importance. Unforeseen delays, a second wave of Covid-19, or limited access could make it difficult to obtain the final information to get these sites over the line. These projects would benefit from an extension to ensure that good projects are not spoiled by inability to get data from sites before the September deadline.

Welsh projects

35. **Egni** The current extension has enabled them to install 1MW of solar PV that would not have been completed due to Covid 19 if the 6 month extension had not been put in place. However, there is a further 3MW of pre-registered rooftop solar that could be installed if there was a further extension.

36. **Ynni Ogwen** have 30kW of rooftop solar pre-registered. Their staff that have been developing this project have been furloughed so unable to take the project forward during this period. They are now back in work but the installers have a 6-8 week lead time so there is a risk that the project will not be completed in time for the end of September.

37. **Egni Mynydd** are developing a 250kW hydro (see question 1 above)

38. **Ynni Twrog** are developing 4 roof top solar sites with a capacity of 30kW. This project has been impacted by Covid 19 as the community organisation is very small and volunteer led and has not been able to progress these projects under lockdown conditions. If there were to be a further extension of 6 months for Solar PV projects then they would be able to develop these sites.

Scottish projects

39. The majority of the projects reported by Local Energy Scotland could probably complete given a March 2021 deadline. They include the following:

40. **West Kilbride Community Association, 33kW Solar PV** (FIT pre-registration Reference: C003244)

- Community Building still closed to public but contractors are welcome on site however must adhere to current SG Covid-19 Guidance
- Installer is ready to install once deposit is received and Building Warrant (BW) complete (within next 2 weeks).
- Covid-19 led to delays with North Ayrshire Council finalising permission for the install to go ahead (due to capacity constraints at the council).

- Should there be any extension to lockdown or changes in Scottish Government (SG) Covid 19 guidance meaning that the installer cannot go ahead or complete the install ahead of 30th September 2020 this project would benefit from a further extension.

41. **Strathmore Community Hub**, 12kW Solar PV (FIT pre-registration Reference: C002602)

PV was installed before end March but three phase meter replacement was cancelled by the electricity supplier. Meter installation and grid connection work needs completing and this needs Council permission for a road closure, which needs at least a month's notice. The meter installation has yet to be rescheduled and the electricity supplier has given no indication of when this can take place despite considerable engagement by the community.

Strathmore Community Hub are experiencing delays through suppliers which are outside their control. Strathmore Community Hub have successfully installed their solar PV panels and paid for these in full, however due to Covid-19 set-backs are now unable to install their necessary 3 phase meter which was due 24th March. EDF have cancelled this service due to Covid-19 protections. This has also affected their new cable connections with SSEN and necessary road closures involved in this which are no longer possible to progress. If SSE were still able to carry out the cable works and road closures (as yet unconfirmed) without the export meter Strathmore Community Hub would be left without an electricity supply as their existing supply would need to be removed at the same time as the new supply is installed. It is the community hub's intention to keep the building open for any necessary community resilience work relating to Covid-19. Therefore the Hub is currently operating on its existing supply without the input of the solar PV panels which have been installed and paid for in full.

42. **Aberfoyle Memorial Hall**, 4kW Solar PV (Pre-registration Certification Reference: C003049)

The project was due to install 24/03/2020) and scaffolding went up but installer had to self isolate with covid 19 symptoms.

Project current status is;

- Solar PV now installed however under current SG Covid-19 guidelines internal works have not yet been able to go ahead
- Plan for internal works to go ahead asap when guidance allows
- Should there be any changes to SG Covid-19 guidelines meaning that the internal works cannot complete before 30th September 2020 this project would benefit from a further extension.

It is essential to ensure that the contractor is not under pressure to install to meet a September deadline if it is not safe to do so.

43. **Glasgow Community Energy**, 129.28 kW Solar PV, Glendale Primary School, Ashton Secondary School, Garthamloch and Craigend East Parish CoS

The Bencom is looking to install ~120kWp across 3 sites owned by Glasgow City Council and Church of Scotland respectively. Much of the work that needed to happen during the 6 month extension has not yet been able to be completed, mostly related to agreeing final designs, electrical layouts and legal agreements with the property owners. With lockdown restrictions prohibiting key site visits needed for finalising designs, staff furloughed from the project's appointed installer and from the Church of Scotland, and Council staff resources diverted to essential services, much of this is only starting to be progressed as of early July, and still with delays due to related issues. On top of this the two Council sites are schools and will need to be completed before pupils return from school holidays as installations during term with schools operating under physical distancing and other Health & Safety restrictions will not be possible.

Only a 12 month extension would guarantee the safe completion of installations on schools.

44. Islamic Learning Centre Glasgow, 10kW Solar PV

ILC Mosque/IQRA Learning Centre, located in East Renfrewshire. A local faith and community centre open to all which hosts regular community events and activities.

The project's appointed installer was furloughed which has delayed finalising PV designs.

Project has all legal works in place to go ahead with install.

Install is now planned for September but there is a risk this could be delayed should there be any changes to SG Covid-19 guidance. This project would benefit from a further extension to help the community manage this risk.

45. Braehead, Broomridge & District Community Development Trust (26-30kw ground mounted solar).

The FiT extension has allowed the project to revisit its planning application and pay its grid connection fee after changes to the required scheme design were identified and needing addressing.

Legal and operational requirements for install to go ahead have been delayed due to capacity restrictions at Stirling Council.

The programme is now very tight and should there be any changes to SG Covid-19 guidance which would further delay the planning and grid application process and ability of the installer to complete ahead of September 2020 this project would benefit from a further extension.

46. Edinburgh Solar (Four sites: Edinburgh road services – Bankhead Depot; Craiglockhart leisure centre (gym hall); Craiglockhart leisure centre (tennis court roof); Sighthill Recycling Centre.) Some of these are pre-registered at 50kW.

The Council is requiring checks on risk assessment measures, which is adding to time required, but they should be starting on site again soon. They still hope to complete by September 30th but there is still a long way to go and an unforeseen delay could endanger the whole project. These projects would benefit from an extension to ensure sufficient time to safely install these community projects.

47. **Bespoke Community Development Company**, 900kW Community Wind project (The preliminary accreditation number is: P01273WDSC)

Project has Notice of confirmation of extension to the preliminary accreditation validity period under Article 9(8A) of the Feed-in Tariffs due to community status.

Project validity period started on 01 January 2019 with the original pre-accreditation validity period ending on 30 June 2020.

As the validity periods for all preliminary accreditations expiring between 1 March and 30 September 2020 were granted a 6-month extension to their validity period due to Covid Amendments, the project has a validity period until 31st December 2020.

Although of benefit, it is apparent with this particular project, that this extended validity period has not mitigated the impacts of Covid on the project programme. This is mainly associated with delays due to being unable to engage with statutory bodies such as Scottish Water and SPEN and the impacts upon the grid connection process and working around water utility infrastructure.

Recommendations

From feedback we have received from practitioners and projects, especially those affected by the FiT extensions we recommend that

1. **The proposed 12-month extension for hydro projects** with initial accreditation deadlines on or after 1 October 2020 should be implemented. We consider it highly appropriate and timely and welcome BEIS's pro-action in listening and responding to the BHA's request (which Community Energy England endorsed). We do not think it will have any unintended or undesirable consequences. We think it will be highly effective in enabling a large portfolio of hydro to build out. Any less and at least one of our community hydro projects would not be able to proceed.
2. The existing 6 month extension to 30 September 2020 **should be extended by a further 12 months to 30 September 2021**. This will enable all the pre-registered projects stalled by Covid-19 to build out. Whilst a number, perhaps the majority of projects have used the extension to complete, a significant remainder are still critically impacted and endangered. The best, safest, least bureaucratic solution (which won't need to be revisited even if circumstances change) is a full year's extension to Sept 2020. That will give schools particularly the security of an easter and summer holiday to complete.

3. We do not envisage any unintended or undesirable consequences. As it is only open to re-registered projects directly affected by Covid-19 it will not exceed budgets. It will result in an increased build-out of local renewable energy, increasing the resilience of community organisation. It will also bring long term community benefit and ensure the continued engagement of passionate and expert community energy activists in the urgent energy transition. As the minister said on 13 July ““If we were going to get to Net Zero we're going to need more local engagement”

Contacts

Emma Bridge, Chief Executive, Community Energy England

Email: emma.bridge@communityenergyengland.org

Duncan Law, Policy & Advocacy Manager, Community Energy England

Email: d.law@@communityenergyengland.org Tel: 07958 635811

Robert Proctor, Business Development Manager, Community Energy Wales

Email: robert@communityenergywales.org.uk Tel: 07805 924558

Address:

Community Energy England, The Workstation, 15 Paternoster Row, Sheffield, S1 2BX

Community Energy Wales, 17 West Bute Street, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF10 5EP

FURTHER INFORMATION

Community Energy England (CEE) was established in 2014 to provide a voice for the community energy sector, primarily in England. Membership totals 250 organisations. Many of the member organisations are community energy groups, but membership extends across a wide range of organisations that work with and support the community energy sector.

www.communityenergyengland.org

Community Energy Wales (CEW) is a not for profit membership organisation that has been set up to provide assistance and a voice to community groups working on energy projects in Wales. We want to help create the conditions in Wales that allow community energy projects to flourish, and communities to prosper.

www.communityenergywales.org.uk