

State of the Sector 2022 - Frequently Asked Questions

What's different this year?

We listened to your feedback on the survey. In response, we have:

- Simplified the survey to make it as short as possible
- Used SurveyMonkey, a platform we think will be more straightforward
- Further refined questions to make them as clear as possible
- Tested a draft survey with a focus group of community energy organisations
- Planned to make the survey questions available to download so you can prepare your answers/data before you need to input them to the survey

Why is State of the Sector important?

Gathering data on the community energy sector is vital to enable our work representing and supporting our members. Last year's report has been used by the Environmental Audit Committee, was cited in the government's Net Zero Strategy and has been referenced by numerous MPs, such as in debates about local supply/the Local Electricity Bill.

The more accurate and comprehensive our data, the more effectively we can explain the sector's impact and potential to policy makers and stakeholders.

We completed the survey last year, why do we have to do it again?

The survey is carried out annually so that we can monitor how the sector is changing over time, so even if you completed last year's survey, we still need to know what you've been up to in 2021.

Do we have to answer all the questions in the survey? Some of the questions are not relevant to us.

The survey covers a wide range of activities but you only need to tell us about what is relevant to you – the vast majority of questions are not compulsory.

The community energy sector has significantly diversified over the past 10 years and is no longer just about supply-side energy generation projects - please also complete the survey if you're involved in:

- energy storage
- demand-side activities, e.g. offering advice and practical assistance in saving energy or installing energy efficient technologies
- low carbon transport projects such as EV car sharing, EV charging projects or e-bike rentals

We didn't start anything new last year, should we still complete the survey?

Even if you haven't completed a project yet or didn't start anything new in 2021, your response is still valuable.

Even if you are only in the early stages of developing a project, you can help us to understand who is helping to fund these as well as the finance mechanisms and business models that are being used.