



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 2021



INTRODUCTION

In 2021, Community Energy England (CEE) increased our membership to 280, reflecting the continued growth of the sector and support for our mission to support community energy organisations and help the sector grow. With a small but dedicated team, we work hard to engage with our members and stakeholders within, and beyond, the sector. We pursue effective advocacy, networking, partnerships, and initiatives that will help community energy organisations create and implement innovative new projects, and play an active and important role in the transition to a fair, zero-carbon energy system.

| Our Vision | Our Mission |
|--|---|
| A thriving community energy sector integrated into and truly powering a fair, zero-carbon energy system. | To help active community energy organisations implement new projects, innovate, improve and grow. |

We would like to thank members of CEE for your backing and support as we pursue our mission on behalf of the broad, diverse and determined community energy sector. We work to create a unified voice for the community energy sector that can shout loudly to government and other stakeholders. This is only possible with your continued membership and financial support, for which we are truly grateful.

As always, member input is critical to our strategy and activities, so please do share your insights and needs through our feedback form [here](#). We love to hear what you're up to and your ideas for how we can continue to increase our impact.

In this report we will summarise our activities and impact under our two strategic objectives:

| | |
|---|--|
| Strategic Objective One: Make politicians, national and local government officials, network operators & regulators, aware of community energy benefits, needs, opportunities, and policy obstacles, and lobby for supportive policy/regulations | Strategic Objective Two: Help active community energy organisations implement new projects, Innovate, improve and grow |
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2022 will see CEE transition into a new phase in our continued drive to help the community energy sector develop and grow. Read on to our Looking Ahead section for more information on our forward plans and changes to the team structure.

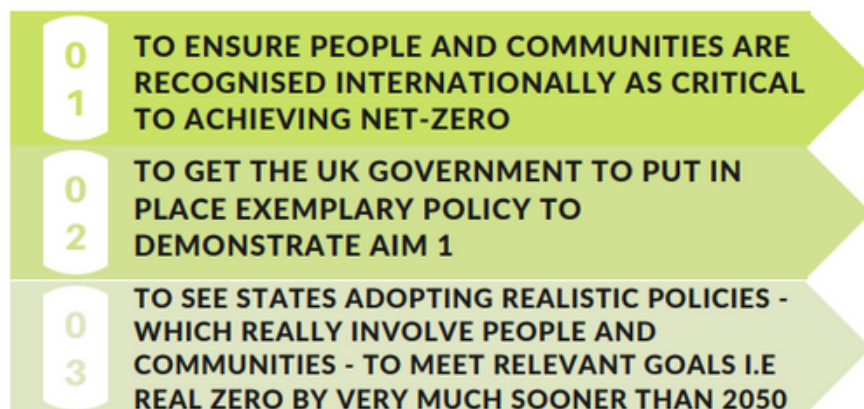
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE ONE:

Make politicians, national and local government officials, network operators & regulators, aware of community energy benefits, needs, opportunities and policy obstacles, and lobby for supportive policy/regulations

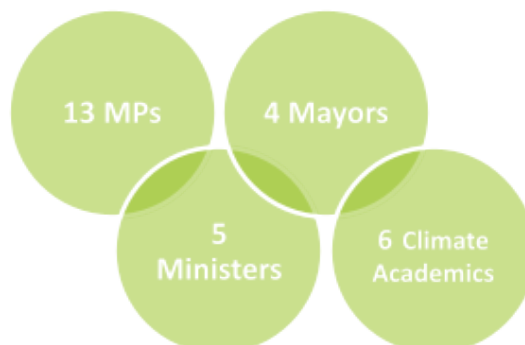
This objective is where CEE acts as the voice of the community energy sector. We gather data on the sector, engage effectively with a wide range of policy makers, and provide input and insight to a range of stakeholders. In 2021, CEE strengthened this area of activity by recruiting a new Policy & Advocacy Intern, Flora Robertson, to work alongside Duncan Law, enabling us to increase our reach and influence, and the strength of our voice on behalf of the sector.

COP26

One of the key highlights of 2021 was the UN Climate Conference (COP26), which took place in Glasgow from October to November 2021. Our aims for COP26 were:



At COP26, CEE coordinated and supported a team of 12 activists from the sector in the Blue Zone negotiation space. Over the course of the two weeks, we interacted with over 65 key stakeholders. This comprised 5 Ministers including Kwasi Kwarteng, 13 MPs including Ed Miliband, several Lords, mayors including Sadiq Khan, and journalists including Robert Peston. Catch up on our reflection event from COP26 [here](#).



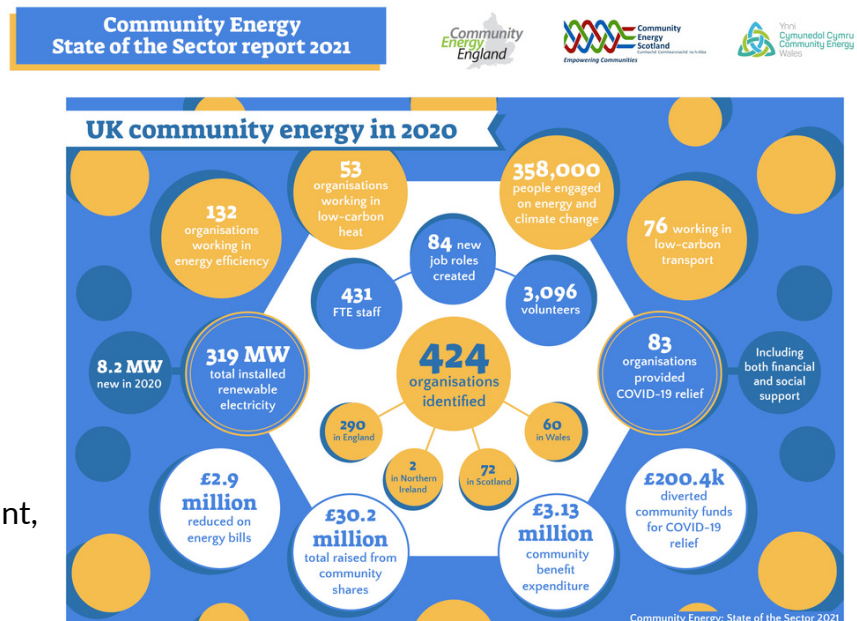
POLICY ACTIVITIES IN 2021



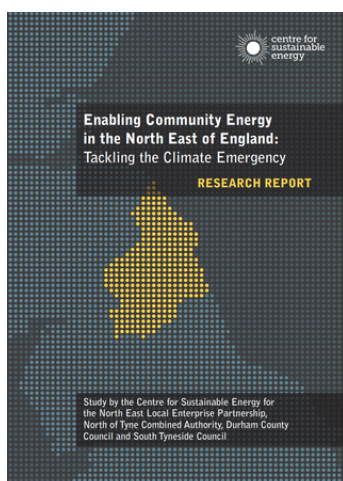
COMMUNITY ENERGY STATE OF THE SECTOR REPORT 2021: WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS NET ZERO

The annual State of the Sector report is a flagship document for the sector, and for the first time in 2021 the report provided data on all four nations of the UK. The report provided the most comprehensive and detailed review of the sector, drawing on information from over 420 community energy organisations. Thank you to all of the organisations that contributed to the report and our partners Community Energy Scotland and Community Energy Wales. State of the Sector has a wide reach and impact - it has been downloaded over

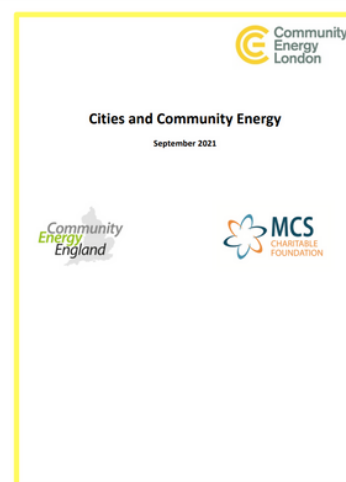
1100 times, was referenced by several MPs in parliamentary debates about the Local Electricity Bill and the findings of the Environmental Audit Committee's enquiry on community energy, and was picked up by numerous press articles. Data from all community energy organisations is very important, no matter what stage your group is at.



OTHER SECTOR REPORTS



This report from Centre for Sustainable Energy, with CEE input, looks at why North East England has fewer community energy projects and how more communities could become engaged.



This report from Community Energy London and CEE, supported by MCS Charitable Foundation, focuses on opportunities for greater collaboration of mayors and councils and community energy organisations.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO:

Help active community energy organisations implement new projects,
Innovate, improve and grow

EVENTS



Community energy conversations,
online webinar, 27 April



Community Energy England AGM,
online, 22 June



Community Energy Fortnight, 14 - 27
June



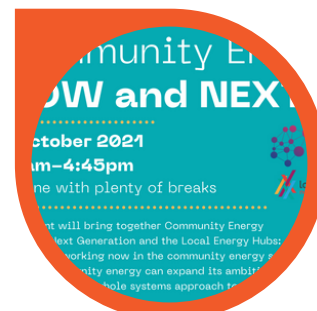
Community energy & Ofgem
information sharing event, online
webinar, 28 January



Community Energy Innovation
Conference, online webinar, 14 June



Community Energy State of the Sector
2021 launch event, online, 24 July



Community Energy: NOW and NEXT,
online webinar, 7 October

COMMUNITY ENERGY FORTNIGHT 2021

Community Energy Fortnight is the annual opportunity to celebrate the sector and connect community energy organisations around the country. It's a great opportunity to engage people in your local area, inspire people to take personal actions around energy, and engage MPs in becoming champions for community energy and policy change in parliament. The theme of CEF21 was *We The Power*.

14-27 June 2021



Headline achievements from CEF21 included:



Videos from many of the online events that took place over CEF21 can be found on our Youtube channel [here](#) and a review of the fortnight with links to blogs and much more can be found [here](#). Thank you to the generous sponsors of CEF21:

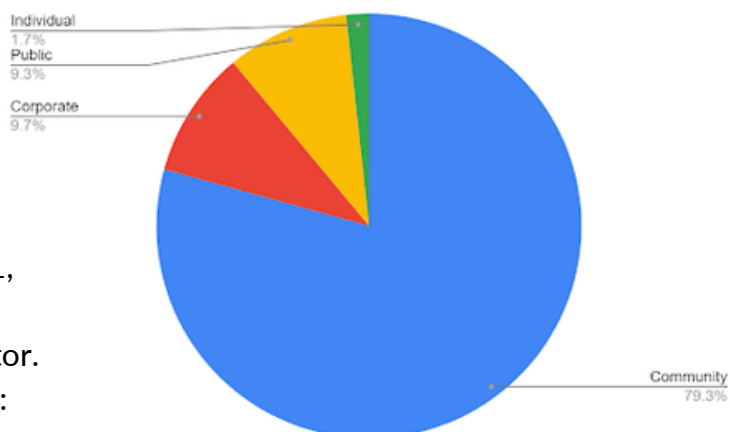


Patagonia supported Community Energy as part of their We The Power campaign. We thank them for their support for both the community energy movement and CEE's work helping the sector grow.

Thrive Renewables is a renewable energy investment company. They're powering the UK's transition to a sustainable energy future by helping people connect with clean energy projects.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is core to all of CEE's activities. CEE is the only organisation dedicated to supporting and facilitating community energy organisations and the broader sector in England. Membership grew steadily over 2021, and we are pleased to be able to connect more participants in the sector. In 2021 our member breakdown was:



CEE's position as the recognised representative body for community energy in England is founded on our status as a membership body. Members give us credibility and increase the strength of our voice when seeking to influence government, regulators and other policymakers in line with the interests and needs of the sector, and when our staff and directors sit on strategic and working groups. We are grateful to our members for their support over 2021. **Find out more about membership of CEE and how to join [here](#).**

PARTNERSHIPS

We are proud to work with a range of other membership associations, public bodies and charities so that as many groups and individuals as possible have the opportunity to engage in and benefit from community energy. We also work together to ensure that efforts are not duplicated.



ENGAGING THE SECTOR

CEE Practitioner Forum

The CEE Practitioner Forum, hosted on Loomio, is a vibrant online network for community energy practitioners to engage, network, share stories of progress and help each other overcome barriers.

The practitioner forum held 82 discussion threads in 2021

We encourage practitioners associated with all our community members to engage with the forum, which applies Chatham House rules and allows practitioners to explore ideas and challenges in a safe space. Please register via our website [here](#) if you are associated with a community member organisation and would like to join the practitioner forum.

CEE Newsletter

We disseminate sector news, funding opportunities, events, job vacancies and other updates in our regular newsletters to members.

We sent 23 member newsletters in 2021

Our newsletter reaches 650 people every fortnight

CEE Website

The CEE website is a great resource, providing information to both new entrants and experienced practitioners in the community energy sector.

The website received over 120,000 views in 2021

The How To section of our website provides information, advice and resources about a wide range of topics related to community energy. The aim is that How To will provide guidance to people just starting out on the community energy journey and will help more experienced groups with governance, new technologies and business models, along with guides for stakeholders and supportive organisations who want to get involved with community energy.

Over 11,000 How To page views in 2021

LOOKING AHEAD COP26 LEGACY

Whilst COP26 was one event, at CEE we believe that it can be springboard for the sector. We have worked to follow up on the connections we made at COP26, including meeting with Greg Hands to discuss how the government can enable the sector to thrive. We also hosted a COP26 Legacy event in February 2022 to map out a legacy for the sector, featuring voices from those involved in our COP26 work and bringing practitioners in to shape our next stages of action. The event recording is on YouTube [here](#) for those who were unable to attend and our review of COP26 can be found [here](#).

Reflecting on COP26, it was agreed that COP26 and Government inaction have triggered desire for public action and solutions using different approaches. In this, community energy has much to offer as an opportunity for action, solidarity and hope. Following enthusiasm from the attendees, we are setting up a Community Energy Advocacy Network to bring the sector together around advocacy priorities and opportunities.



2022 EVENTS

CEE Events Calendar

Our [events calendar for 2022](#) is well underway, with successful Spring Series of three events in April and our first in-person conference since 2019 to be held in Bristol in June. We shape our events in response to the needs of the sector, and present and future opportunities and obstacles - more 2022 events will be coming soon.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsoring CEE events is an excellent way to show your support for community energy, build trust in your brand and services, and give confidence to organisations within the community energy sector you wish to approach. Information on sponsorship packages and opportunities can be found [here](#).

INTERNAL CHANGES IN CEE

New Interim Chair for CEE

We are delighted that Helen Seagrave will be taking on the role of Interim Chair during Afsheen's absence; Helen's commitment to CEE and her experience on the board means she will provide stable and balanced stewardship of our organisation. Helen joined the board in 2019 and has chaired the CEE board's governance committee since 2020. In this role, Helen has overseen a thorough review of CEE's governance arrangements, a HR audit, and subsequent development of our internal policies.



Helen has worked in the environmental and energy sector in the North West for over 20 years. She specialises in community energy as the Community Energy Manager at Electricity North West (ENWL), where she is responsible for developing and delivering their stakeholder-led Community and Local Energy Strategy.

Before joining ENWL, Helen worked for a regional environmental sector development organisation, Envirolink, for over 10 years leading the development of their work to support the growth of the renewables sector in the North West. This included a secondment to the North West Regional Development Agency, where Helen was responsible for developing the North West regional strategy for development of the energy and environmental technology sector. Following this, Helen worked with the Greater Manchester and Cheshire and Warrington Local Economic Partnerships (LEPs) through the Environmental Services Technical Advice project to provide expertise to the LEPs to prioritise action on the environment within their funding programmes.

Since joining ENWL in October 2017, Helen has been responsible for leading an engagement and support programme for the community and local energy sector in ENWL's area, with the aim of supporting individual projects as well as developing the sector. This includes delivering the Powering our Communities fund and Zero Carbon Communities engagement workshops. Helen is a Chartered Environmentalist and has previously been on the board of the Manchester Climate Change Agency.

To find out more about Helen's role as Interim Chair, please join us at our AGM in the summer. To keep updated about our AGM, see our events page [here](#). You can also find out more about our board [here](#).

Changes in the CEE team structure

During our Chief Executive's maternity leave, the role will be shared between Philip Coventry and Duncan Law as Acting Co-Chief Executives. Many of you will know Philip and Duncan already from their previous roles at CEE. They will be supported in this new role by our board and the [CEE team](#). In 2021 we also welcomed Flora Robertson, Policy & Advocacy Intern, and Henry Bettley, COP26 Community Energy Mobiliser, to the CEE team, and said goodbye to Jon Hall, Communications & Partnerships Officer.

THANK YOU

We are grateful to all of our members for their input, letters to MPs, speaking at our events and all other enthusiasm and efforts supporting our work throughout 2021. We are also grateful for the membership fees paid by members, which form an important part of our income.

We would especially like to thank our Principal Supporter members; their additional financial support and partnership has helped us achieve greater impact core to our mission of supporting and accelerating the transition to a fair, low carbon and community-led energy system. Our Principal Supporter members are:



Additional thanks go to our grant funders, who have provided us with essential income that enables us to continue our work. We recognise their commitment to the growth of the community energy movement and we are grateful for their ongoing support.



JOIN US

We would encourage any practitioner or organisation that supports community energy to join us and make our collective voice for the sector stronger. Please feel free to contact us [here](#) with any queries. or find out more on our website [here](#).

CONTACT US



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