



**Community Energy England and Community Energy Wales proudly present
2016 Community Renewable Energy Project Award winner,
Awel Aman Tawe.**



Award sponsored by



Awel Aman Tawe, a community owned wind farm in the Upper Swansea Valley of South Wales, is perhaps the epitome of persistence, having originated in a 'Local Agenda 21' meeting organised by the local Council in 1998. With a high level of community interest and involvement, they have been responsible for a number of community projects and workshops; including Egni - the first solar co-op in Wales.

18 years on, they are now building a 4.7 MW wind farm with the assistance of a community share scheme - Awel Coop is an exciting and much needed venture for an area suffering from lack of opportunities and under-investment over the years. They are hoping to raise £2 million through their share offer, having raised almost £1.3 million so far.

Awel have ensured benefits remain in the community. They have trained 10 local unemployed people in consultation techniques and then employed them for a year. Several went on to other employment and one continues to work for Awel. In order to build functionality into the project, the tracks built to service the turbines are dual purpose, being used for cycling and horse riding access as well as essential maintenance.

It is testament to their strong will and tenacity that this project is now being built and will be the largest Community Energy Project in Wales once complete. Dan McCallum, Director of Awel Coop said "We're really honoured by this Award and would like to thank all our existing members for their support, and encourage more to join us."

www.awel.coop



Community Renewable Energy Project Winner - Awel Aman Tawe with award sponsor The Naturesave Trust and Naturesave Policies Ltd

Community Energy England and Community Energy Wales teamed up to deliver the Community Energy Awards 2016 to honour the organisations and individuals that have done the most to advance the sector over the last year and to celebrate their achievements. The ceremony took place on 3rd September in Oxford following the [Powering Forward – rebooting the UKs community energy sector Community Energy Conference 2016](#).

About Community Energy England

Community Energy England (CEE) was established in May 2014 to provide a voice for the community energy sector primarily in England. Membership totals over 200 organisations. The majority of the member organisations are from the community energy sector but the membership extends across a wide range of organisations which works with and supports the community energy sector. Further details can be found on the CEE website at www.communityenergyengland.org

About Community Energy Wales

Community Energy Wales (CEW) wants to put sustainable energy schemes at the heart of communities in Wales. Communities can become stronger, more resilient, and self-reliant by generating their own energy, using it efficiently, and directing the net income to regenerate their communities. CEW help to bring about this change by inspiring, empowering, and influencing people, policies and practices across Wales. They bring together a network of practitioners who work with and within the communities of Wales to develop renewable energy generation and energy efficiency schemes. Further details can be found on the CEW website at www.communityenergywales.org.uk

About Naturesave

We are immensely grateful for Naturesave generously sponsoring this award. The Naturesave Trust has, over the past 20 years, tirelessly supported the growing community renewable energy community through small start-up grants and shares, that have assisted these organisations in realising their objectives. From grants to assist with start-up costs including the production of share prospectuses and through advice from its insurance arm Naturesave Policies Ltd, they have funded in excess of £275,000 of funds which have directly and indirectly helped community renewable energy organisations achieve their aspirations.

www.naturesave.co.uk