



**Community Energy England and Community Energy Wales proudly present  
2016 Community Energy Saving Award winner  
Brighton & Hove Energy Services Cooperative**



BHESCO are a not-for-profit social enterprise bringing together the community of Brighton and Hove to develop renewable energy projects, improve energy efficiency, reduce fuel bills and tackle fuel poverty.



*Kayla Ente*

Kayla Ente is the driving force behind BHESCO and their work around energy savings initiatives in Brighton & Hove. As a champion for the Big Energy Savings Network, for the past three years, Kayla has established over 15 regular 'Energy Advice Desks' around the city, helping the community save more than £5,000 last year by switching energy tariff and tackling fuel debt, advocating on behalf of customers in dispute with their energy supplier. In one case, she saved a vulnerable single mother of three an estimated £660 on her annual energy bill, registering her for the Warm Home Discount, bringing her total savings up to £800 for the year.

In January 2016, BHESCO successfully secured grant funding as a consortium with Citizens Advice and Money Advice from the British Gas Trust to launch their "Warmth for Wellbeing" project. Combined with an interest free loan from Social Enterprise Assist, BHESCO launched Brighton & Hove's first home Energy Saving Service, making two of their volunteers into two full time paid energy advisors. These advisors have been awarded the NEA "Heat Heroes" Award, which will be presented to them at Westminster by Brighton MP, Dr. Caroline Lucas. Since the service was launched BHESCO has visited over 100 households suffering the impacts of fuel poverty. The visits result in the production of Energy Savings Reports for which, with the customer's consent, BHESCO installs the recommended energy savings measures, taking steps to lower these customers' fuel bills. BHESCO expects to exceed their target of 200 homes by this winter. The service has also generated 10 paid for energy assessments, with expectations that it will grow as its benefits become better known. The paid for service is intended to supplement the free service to combat fuel poverty. A partnership with local LED supplier and installer, Lightfoot LED, is helping to spread the word about the service to local estate agents and small businesses.



*BHESCO bikes*

Kayla Ente says “It is an honour to receive this award from Community Energy England and Community Energy Wales. We are grateful for the recognition from our industry colleagues for the work that we are doing in the local community to make a difference in people’s lives. We appreciate the support that we receive from them, to ensure that our government recognises the impact that community energy can make to bringing fairness, equity and long term affordability to our energy industry. We encourage everyone to vote for our M&S Energy project – Solar for Hollingdean”



*Community Energy Saving Award winner -  
Kayla Ente of Brighton & Hove Energy Services Cooperative  
with Ramsay Dunning of Cooperative Energy*

[www.mandsenergyfund.com/projects/solar-for-hollingdean](http://www.mandsenergyfund.com/projects/solar-for-hollingdean)

[www.bhesco.co.uk](http://www.bhesco.co.uk)

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](http://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](http://www.communityenergywales.org.uk)