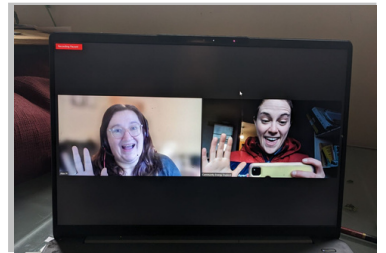
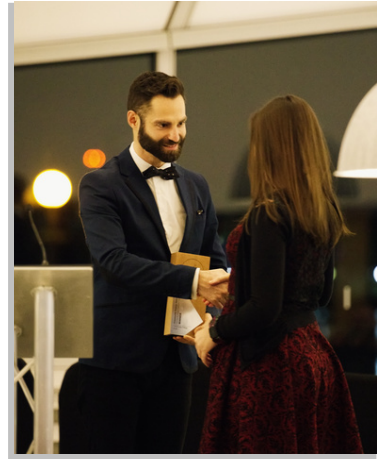




ANNUAL REPORT 2022



a year's overview

WHERE WE ARE NOW



2022 was a year of significant change at CEE and in the development of the ways we support our members and advocate on their behalf. Our chair, Afsheen Rashid, and chief executive, Emma Bridge, both began maternity leave early in the year. Philip Coventry and Duncan Law stepped up as acting co-chief executives for a year, with interim chair, Helen Seagrave, and the board supporting them and continuing to oversee the organisation.

We welcomed three new team members, who drove expansion of the CEE network and forged new connections and support across the sector. Shannon Jackson led our external outreach, supported by Kim Woodcock's events and communications, and backed up by increasing member engagement from Lisa West after she joined in the autumn. This included welcoming a varied range of new members, and introducing new monthly member meetings with a wide range of speakers and updates.

Our successful COP26 work concluded at the beginning of 2022, and attention then turned to responding to the government's increasing focus on local authorities for funding and collaboration; we launched a funding database to help members find information about central government and other funding sources.

Our other big focus in 2023 was helping our members engage with and support the rapidly-increasing numbers of people struggling to get by within our existing energy system. We facilitated training (funded by Power to Change) and made energy efficiency and advice the focus of Community Energy Fortnight. We initiated an energy efficiency working group, which has helped foster sharing of expertise and the significant contributions to local communities that our members are making in this area.

Duncan and Flora Robertson continued our effective policy and advocacy work throughout 2022 by maintaining our strong connection with BEIS, responding to numerous consultations and sending letters to government on behalf of the sector, meeting with MPs and Ofgem, and joining with a range of partner organisations to influence government policy and support for community energy. We also launched a popular new national map of community energy sites and projects to help policy makers and other stakeholders find where community energy is.

We were delighted to return to bringing the sector together in person for the first time since 2019 at our summer conference in Bristol, repeating this with our Awards celebrating the inspiring and ambitious sector, postponed to January 2023. Discussions at the conference led to the initiation of a low-carbon community heat working group, and we also started an ethical sourcing working group to help drive discussions about how the sector responds to the ethical challenges of renewable energy supply chains.

All of our work is intended to support active community energy organisations and help them to grow and succeed. We exist for the benefit of our members and remain grateful for their support, engagement, guidance and membership fees, and continually inspired by the incredible determination of the sector and its outsized impact on our communities and the drive towards a fair, low carbon energy system.



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.

A year in review



Ethical Sourcing Working Group

Energy Efficiency Working Group

Two new working groups



10 meetings



13 meetings with BEIS Officials



11 asks to government



5 consultation responses

Activity

7 joint letters to government



3 meetings with MPs



9 letters to ministers



Data and resources

229 responses to UK State of the Sector survey

12 news pieces on policy developments

New funding database

Community wind potential map





Provide opportunities and mechanisms for active community energy practitioners in all parts of England to connect, learn, share business models and help each other overcome obstacles.

A year in review



Launched

3 cohorts of
NEA training
24 participants
completed

40,000+ views
of national map

5
Monthly
Member
Calls

Experienced
Practitioner
Group
14 members



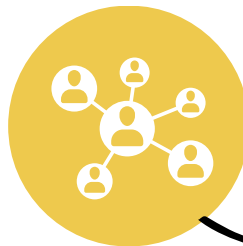
Members



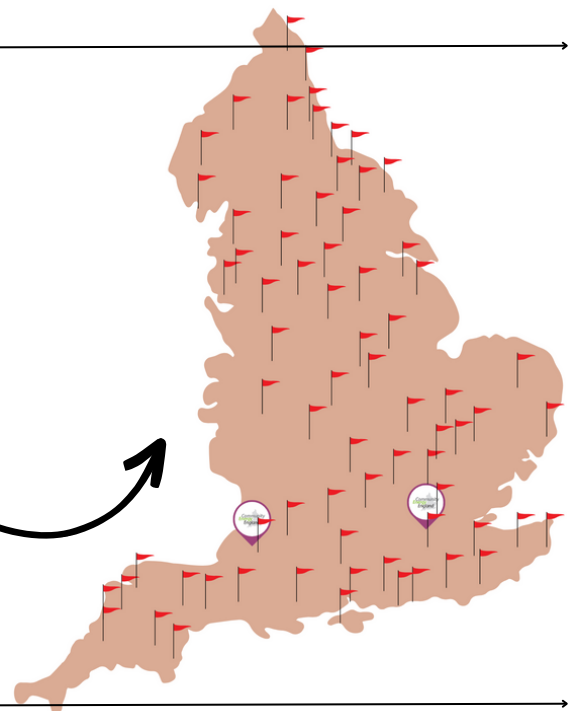
7
member events



7 Principal
Supporters



56
new members



Comms

4,800+
twitter followers

171,000
web page views

44
newsletters

96
threads on Loomio
practitioner forum



2023

LOOKING AHEAD



The community energy sector continues to grow in size, ambition and impact, despite, and indeed in response to, significant challenges. The breadth, complexity and scale of the activities that our members undertake are also increasing and CEE must ensure that we respond accordingly. We are ready for this and are already working at strategic and operational levels to increase the support we give to our members over the next year, building upon our new working groups and facilitating even greater sharing of learning and expertise. We will explore new ways to work with our members to increase the scale and impact of community energy. We will also build on existing partnerships and create new ones to amplify our voice and leverage new investment and funding into the sector. Community energy is ready now to power a fair, zero-carbon energy system; we must work together to make that happen and the team at CEE is dedicated to leading and supporting that collaborative effort across our sector.

THANK YOU

We are grateful to all of our members for their input, letters to MPs, speaking at our events and all other efforts supporting our work throughout 2022. We are also grateful for the membership fees paid by members, which form an important part of our income.

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 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.



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