

Policy and Advocacy Highlights 2022



CEE met with **Greg Hands**, the then **Minister of State for Climate Change, Clean Growth and Energy** at BEIS to urge the government to extend and expand the Rural Community Energy Fund to include urban, heat, retrofit and energy efficiency projects. We met with **Graham Stuart, Climate Minister**. Our letter writing campaign with members resulted in a “deluge” of letters from MPs to Ministers. Lord Callanan, the minister responsible for community energy made a filmed speech for our summer Conference.

Duncan met with Labour front bencher MPs **Ed Miliband** and **Olivia Blake**, and made a pitch for strong support for community energy. Ed Miliband visited Sheffield Renewables and made a short film pledging support from Labour. Campaigning work with the Coop Party for a National Community Energy Fund, has led to collaboration on policy development for Labour’s manifesto.

We met with BEIS officials 13 times. We met with 3 MPs. We engaged with Peers to speak and table amendments on the Energy Bill, Energy Prices Bill and Subsidy Control Bill. We met with Chris Skidmore to input to the Net Zero Review which urged the government to ‘turbocharge community energy’.

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We wrote to the Chancellor twice, the Secretary of State and Ministers 7 times, signed **7 joint letters** including joining forces with major retailers in an open letter to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, urging the government to enable investment in renewable and community energy. We got community energy as a key ask in the Climate Coalition **11 asks to government** and held a stand at their Westminster Climate Solutions Fair. We secured one oral parliamentary question and supported the MP to write to the Secretary of State.

We responded to **5 consultations** during the year including our submission to the Net Zero Review. We wrote a news piece to guide members through Ofgem's Call for Evidence on DNO's ED2 Business Plans. We submitted a consultation response to the call for evidence which included a table ranking each of the DNOs according to their approach to community energy. We submitted a response to Ofgem's Local Institutions and Governance call for evidence urging people and communities be put at the heart of the energy transformation.

We joined with Possible and other NGOs in a joint letter to object to the wind ban and the previously planned solar ban.

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We created a **Community Wind Potential Map** which showed 190 community energy organisations active within 10kms of good wind potential. We engaged members via a survey. We prepared members to respond to government consultation on wind.

We published a **Funding Database** focusing on government funding channeled via Local Authorities and publicised and hosted briefing events on the Energy Redress Fund. We worked with Community Energy London on an event to promote collaboration with councils. We did a workshop for council officers at the APSE Energy Summit and for Councillors at the Labour Coop Party Conference.

We created a dedicated **Energy Efficiency/Advice Working Group** which met ten times during the year, made 2 proposals to BEIS for funding, collected and began the process of collecting evidence on the benefits of community energy businesses delivering energy efficiency advice and lobbied for more funding for community groups. We got funding for a Working Group coordinator and to train 24 energy advisors and 2 trainers for the sector. We have worked to identify and develop an effective CRM for the sector.

We convened the **Ethical Sourcing Working Group** which met four times during the year and collected information for an interactive resource on ethical sourcing for the sector and began wider campaigning on the issue.