



Energy Learning Network  
Rhwydwaith Addysg Ynni



Community  
Energy  
England

# Today's webinar



## *Love Wind! The community power source we've been missing*

- Chaired by: John Taylor, Head of Capacity Building, Community Energy England.

### **Overview of today:**

- Als Parker, Director at Greenstoker
- Louise Daniels, Head of External Affairs at Thrive Renewables
- Q&A
- Dave Green, Development Manager at Sharenergy
- David Tudgey, Co-Founder and Community & Development Director at Community Power Solutions Ltd.
- Stefan Haselwimmer, creator of [VoteWind.org](http://VoteWind.org)
- Wind Working Group info from John



# Community Energy England (CEE)



Community Energy England (CEE) is the national network and representative body for community energy.

- A voice for the sector
- We 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

330+ members

- Community energy organisations, sector stakeholders and other supportive organisations



# The Energy Learning Network (ELN)



- This webinar is part of the ELN, a UK-wide initiative which provides support for community energy organisations.
- Free insights, events, resources and connections for community energy organisations, alongside mentoring and peer learning opportunities.
- ELN is a collaboration between [Community Energy England](#), [Ashden](#), [Centre for Sustainable Energy](#), [Community Energy Scotland](#), [Community Energy Wales](#), and Northern Ireland's [Action Renewables](#).
- Read more about the programme [on our website](#).



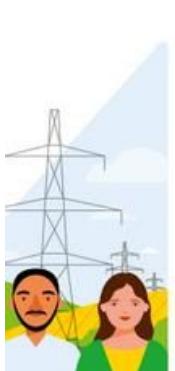
Energy Learning Network  
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# Love the Local Power Plan!



## Local Power Plan

February 2026



# Why community wind?



It's the missing piece of the Clean Power plan!

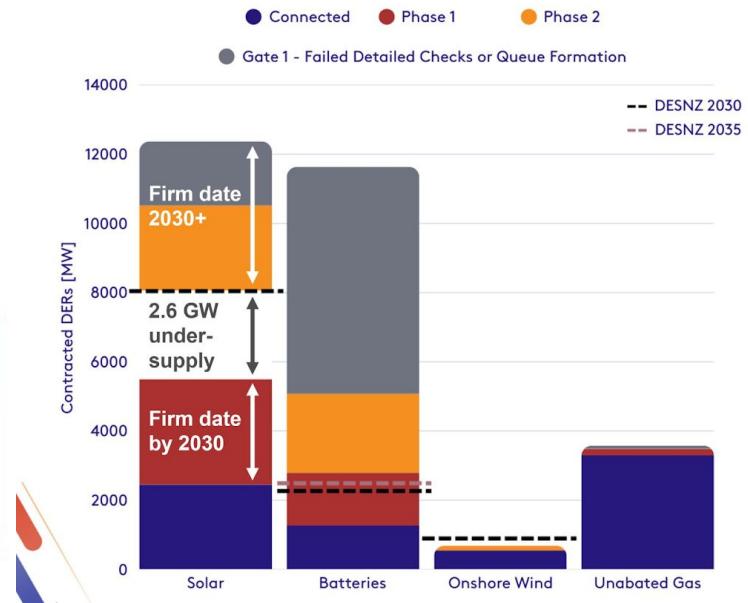
5.1GW capacity available still.  
200MW in the UK Power Networks region

Table 22: Phase 2 MW permitted capacity remaining for onshore wind in England and Wales, and Scotland, for future Gated Application Windows

Technology	England and Wales	Scotland	Grand Total
Onshore Wind	5100.7	0.0	5100.7



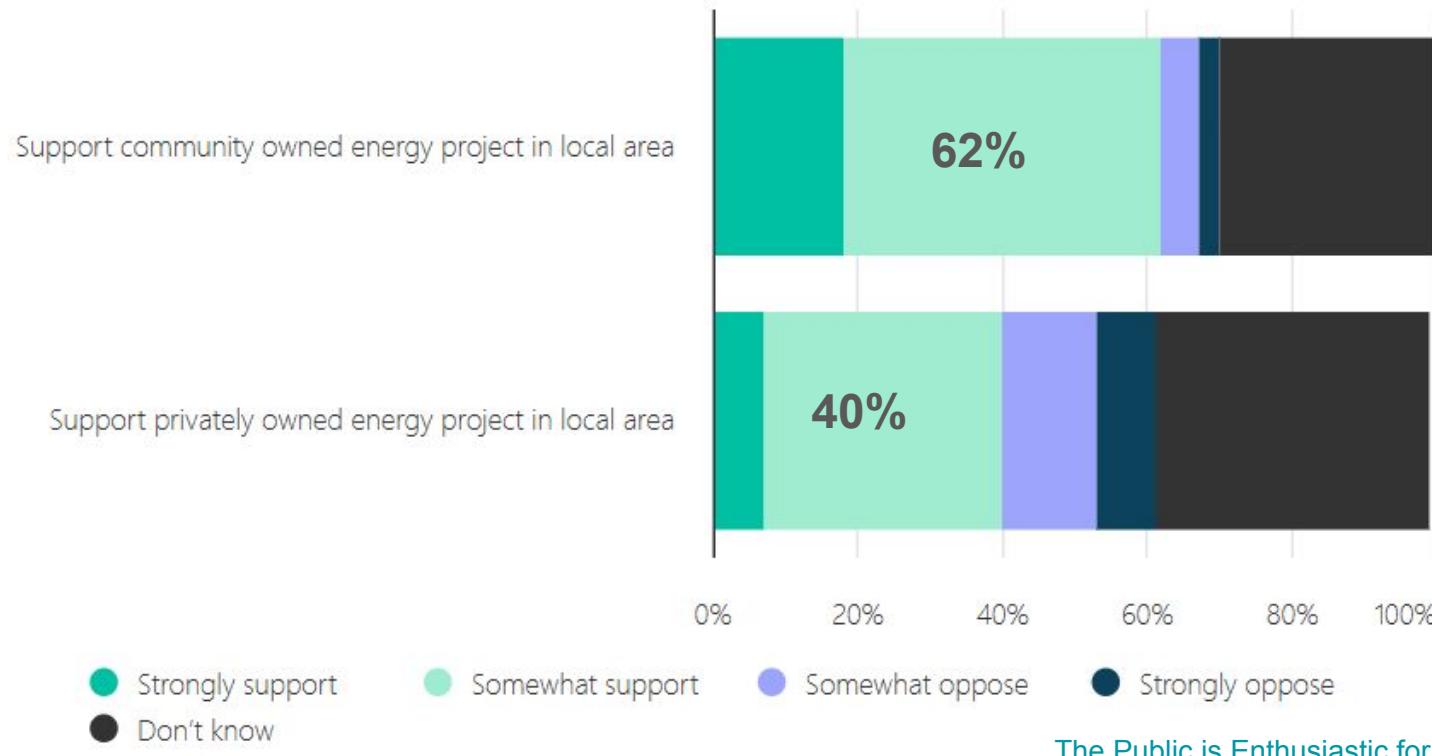
## NESO's Queue Outcome UK Power Networks' pipeline



# Community Energy started with wind



# People LOVE community energy!

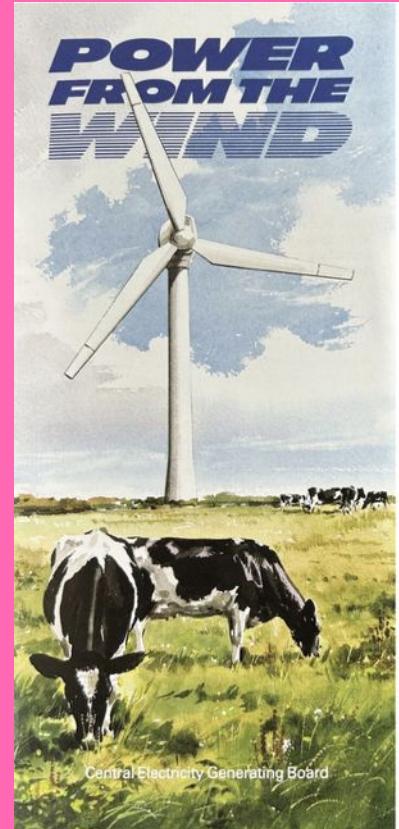




**Greenstoker** is dedicated to tackling the climate emergency. Working with local people & alongside nature to develop impactful renewable generation that benefits society.



**Devon Energy Collective** is a not for profit community interest company set up to help Devon meet its carbon net zero targets. Aim to see more community-owned generation in Devon and ensure that communities benefit from the low carbon transition



In **1980s**, the CEGB recognised the value of wind power  
**1990s- 2015**, rotten tomatoes and then a defacto ban  
**2024** the ban was lifted, uphill battle to implement policy & enable decisions  
**2026** finally recognised as critical, but barriers to overcome!



Today, most people like & believe in wind power, but also want fairness in return for hosting it nearby



Wind is temporary!  
Small footprint foundation only  
Opportunity for biodiversity net  
gain through the creation of  
wildlife habitats





So let's crack on...

## Requirements

**Land:** wind & a willing landowner

**Grid:** a grid connection..

**Practicality:** access, noise, infrastructure, aviation, ecology, important historic environments, landscapes planning consent & community buy in

## Opportunities & Challenges

Landowners would like the income to diversify but land may be more valuable for other development...

Keep within Transmission Impact to avoid long delays?  
Embedded generation can benefit the system where there is spare capacity at a local level

Shorter blades & smaller generators for UK setting? Opposite of trajectory! - meaning closer to homes and better for access  
Sub 150m so aviation lights may not be required.  
Known impacts to species can be managed and mitigated.  
Opportunity for biodiversity net gain,  
Local supply benefits & shared ownership opportunities.



## The Solution - 1MW ish Wind

- Let's build sub 150m machines
- Embed in 11kV distribution system
- No grid delays, simple upgrades
- No aviation lighting
- Accessible, less wayleaves
- Smaller buffer from homes
- Sourced by the local community, realistic ownership & investment and benefits shared





## Our Ask:

- We need compromises on landscape & heritage designations and OR compromises on noise pollution.
- We need long term certainty of income for the power, a CfD for community renewables?
- Local people local knowledge and local benefits
- Can we solve the offtaker model for LAs & businesses





**Power Allotments (2023)** asked every parish & town council in Devon to identify a site within their local area for either:

- 5 acres or more of land for 1MW solar
- Land for 1 to 3 wind turbines x 1MW wind

10,500 views on our interactive map & 73 sites submitted.

If every parish hosted 3 x 1MW wind turbines this would supply all of Devon's domestic electricity needs!

Income opportunity for re-wilding, retrofitting, addressing fuel poverty, protecting communities at risk of climate change.



**Als Parker** · You  
Director @ Greenstoker Ltd | Impactful Green Power Project Dev...  
3yr · Edited · 9

Our mapping work has identified 102 parishes in Devon that could host a Power Allotment. These are parishes that are close to the National Grid and have some lower grade agricultural land that would benefit ...[more](#)





1258

COUNTRY LIFE—NOVEMBER 16, 1941

she can't  
have one  
without  
the other

Most people want the comfort of modern amenities—but few like the towers that bring the power to work them. What's the answer? Return to lamplight, peat fires and the washing tub? Bury the power lines and do away with the towers altogether? Attractive idea—just possible too, but at 17 times the cost—with its inevitable effect on your electricity bill. The answer is to bury the lines where possible, and to bring them in where they must be anywhere. An Act of Parliament charges the Central Electricity Generating Board with a double duty: to provide an efficient and economical electricity supply, while preserving visual amenity as far as possible. Power lines are planned with forethought—by men who are as anxious as you are to keep this land green, pleasant . . . and up-to-date.

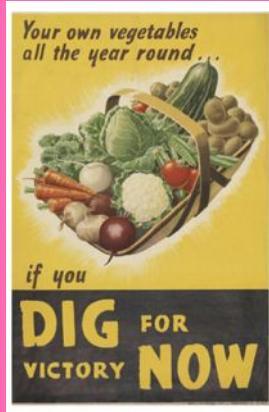


who make and supply electricity to 12 Area Electricity Boards in England and Wales (which re-sell to consumers) and British Railways.

Write for a copy of "Powering America" to The Central Electricity Generating Board, 30 Whitehall Street, S.W.1.

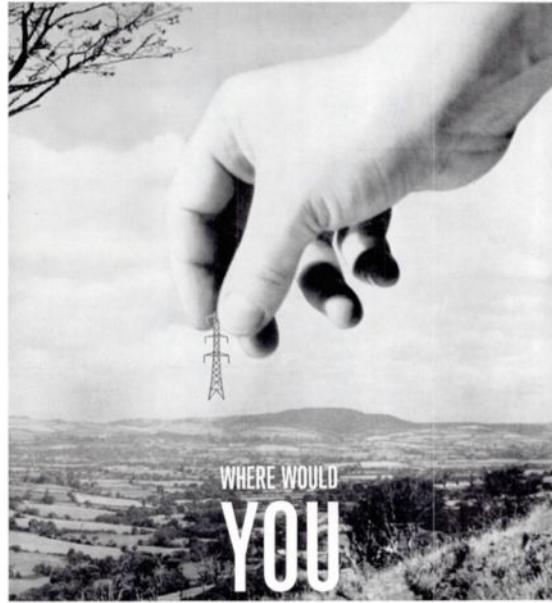
We have hit a decisive  
moment in time, it's  
time to compromise.

A war time mentality?



SUPPLEMENT—22

COUNTRY LIFE—DECEMBER 8, 1960



*They still live by lamp-light up in the hills. Soon, a new transmission line will thread its way along the valley, bringing the people up on the hill the electricity they've been wanting.*

*Pylons down here will mean a better life up there. But how will the people of the valley feel about the pylons? And the people who visit the valley?*

*The Central Electricity Generating Board are just as concerned about this as they are about bringing in the power. For the nation has charged the Board with a double duty. Not only to maintain an efficient,*

*the amenities of the country as they go.*

*Often these duties conflict. Again and again problems arise which seem impossible to solve. But always they seek to achieve a balance. A balance between the need to answer demands for more power and the need to preserve the beauty, the intangible values, of a landscape, a village, the still unspoilt approaches to a town.*

THE CENTRAL ELECTRICITY GENERATING BOARD



LOVE  
WIND

GREEN  
STOKER

LOVE  
WIND

GREEN  
STOKER

LOVE  
WIND

GREEN  
STOKER

LOVE  
WIND

GREEN  
STOKER

An aerial photograph of a large, green, wavy ocean. Numerous surfers are scattered across the water, some on their boards and others in the water. A small yellow boat is visible in the center-left. The overall scene is dynamic and suggests a popular surfing location.

# Contact Us

[als@greenstoker.co.uk](mailto:als@greenstoker.co.uk)

07975 905540

February 2026

# Thrive Renewables plc

Louise Daniels





**Vision:** We believe in the power of together. A world where everyone can be part of the clean energy generation.

**Mission:** Putting money to work building new sustainable energy projects and empowering people to take action to address the climate emergency.

# Who we are

- Sustainable energy investment company
- Over 6,500 shareholders
- £114M assets under management
- Own or funded 45 renewable energy projects over 30 years
- Niche between communities, utilities and infrastructure funds
- Providing collaborative capital, plugging funding gaps and getting new capacity built

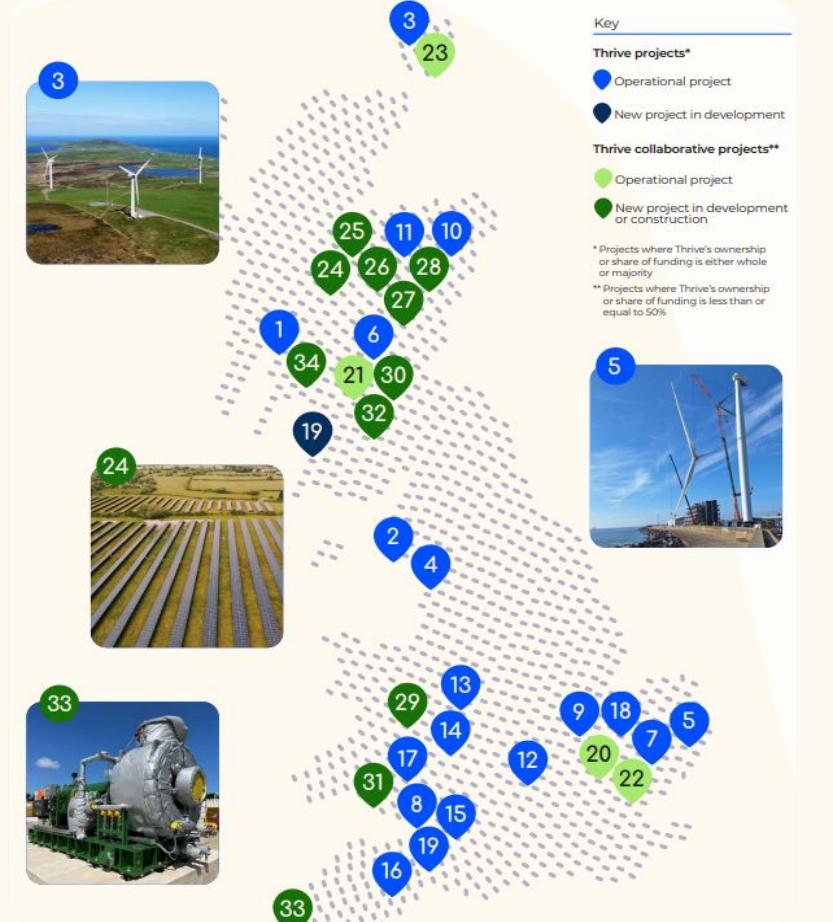


# Portfolio overview

175MW owned or funded by Thrive (operational and in construction)

Owned portfolio of majority wind, plus hydro, solar, battery & geothermal

Invested over £20 million in six community energy projects



# Impact - approach

We bring people together to get new clean energy capacity built and operational.

Across our portfolio of clean energy projects, we aim to balance the needs of people with those of the planet. Because without the support of the majority, we cannot tackle the climate crisis effectively.



# Enabling Community Energy

## Funding

- Community Energy Catalyst – £40M Joint Venture with Better Society Capital
- Thrive Community Energy Funding Bridge - 20MW funded across 6 projects
- Senior, mezzanine, short and long term loans
- Supported by commercial and procurement experts

## Shared ownership

- First wind farm, built 25 years ago included one turbine owned by a local community group
- First commercial battery owner to offer stake to local community
- Pledged to offer community ownership to all new development projects (80MW)

# Community wind projects

- Haverigg – one turbine owned by the community for 20 years
- Mean Moor – first commercial scale wind farm to transfer to community ownership
- Ambition Community Energy – England's largest wind turbine
- Forest of Dean



# Case Study: Kilbirnie

- Project developed by Radio City Association, Kilbirnie, Garnock Valley
- 2.5 MW capacity
- £4M invested
- Scotland's first subsidy free, 100% community onshore wind turbine
- Construction complete – awaiting commissioning



# Recognition

- Responsible investor of the year – Reuters Global Sustainability Awards 2025
- ESG Investor of the Year – UK Green Business Awards 2023 & 2025
- Sustainable Finance Team of the Year – Global Good Awards 2025
- Net Zero Developer of the Year – Green Energy Awards 2025
- Highly commended 'Best in Class' - British Renewable Energy Awards 2025
- Recertified as B Corporation – top 3% of UK B Corps





Thrive Renewables plc  
Deanery Road, Bristol BS1  
5AS

Tel. 0117 428 1850

Registered in England and Wales 2978651



10 minutes of questions for  
our first two speakers.



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Shropshire & Telford Community Energy have worked on the Bishop's Castle Wind project for four years with Lightfoot (a local charity) and Shareenergy (community energy specialists).

We now have planning permission for a 900kW turbine that would be around 54m to the hub (80m to the tip.)

The site is W of the Conery just off the B4385 to Lydbury North





What3 words //treetop.joins.shadows

# Viewpoint 1 From public way by Colebatch



The Town Council and County Councillor supported the scheme  
Shropshire Hills Management Partnership did not object.

There has been strong local support, there were a handful of  
objections on the planning portal, but none of them were local.

We now have three years to get the turbine build started.

We're looking to fit a 2<sup>nd</sup> hand Enercon E48, the same turbine as being  
used by Ynni Teg

And we're setting up a new CBS to own & run the turbine, Lightfoot  
Community Energy.

The original idea for the turbine was to supply electricity for a heat network supplying the centre of the town plus SpArC and the Community College

We were very encouraged by the interest shown in the network and in the 50 plus expressions of interest that were signed.

However, at the moment the heat network is not viable, so we are proceeding with the turbine as a stand-alone project and are looking for a new direct purchaser for the electricity.

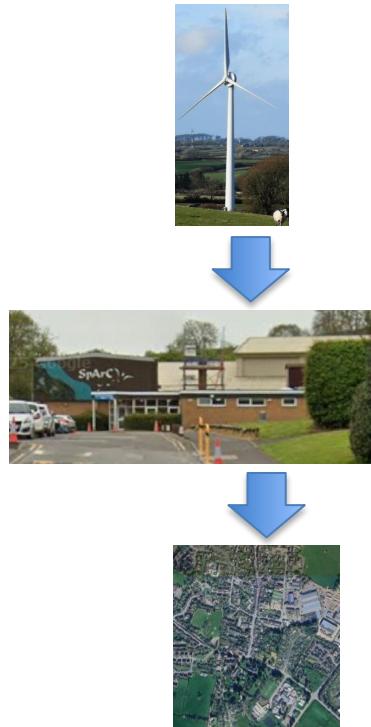




The current plan is for the turbine to provide the SpArC leisure Centre with electricity, the centre should use around 25% of the turbine's annual generation. SpArC will be going fully electric over the coming year with heat pumps replacing the current oil heating. A discount of around 15-20% should be available for the energy produced by the Wind Turbine.

Any electricity not used by SpArC can be exported to the local Grid.

## Additional Options Summary



- 1, Supply College by Direct Wire
- 2, Supply College or other large energy users indirectly
- 3a, Set up an Energy Local Club
- 3b Encourage Heat Pump Take Up
- 3c, Signpost Heat Pump Loans
- 3d, Encourage Home Batteries

There are two issues that need to be sorted for the turbine to connect to SpArC.

1, the new grid connection needs to be able to cope with the exporting of any electricity not used by SpArC

*(we already have DNO agreement in principle for connecting 900kW to the grid, but they had suggested a new underground cable from the substation by the fire station to supply our heat pumps and turbine).*

2, agreement with Shropshire Council to include in the agreement with the company that will run SpArC from August 2027 that some of the electricity supplied will come from the turbine.

We trust that there should not be an issue with this as significant savings will be available which will make the contract more attractive, but the details of how that electricity will be charged for and at what rate will need to be agreed.

Contact, [dave@shareenergy.coop](mailto:dave@shareenergy.coop)

or [info@lightfootenterprises.org](mailto:info@lightfootenterprises.org)

[www.lightfootenterprises.org](http://www.lightfootenterprises.org)

[www.stcenergy.org.uk](http://www.stcenergy.org.uk)



lightfoot

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De-risking community owned  
onshore wind energy - David Tudgey Community Power Solutions Ltd.



# The opportunity to transform communities



COMMUNITY  
POWER  
SOLUTIONS

A community-owned wind turbine is more than just a source of clean energy...  
It's a catalyst for real change!

- Decades of local revenue
- Control over developments
- Investment in local priorities
- A just energy transition
- Pride in the achievement!

# Ambition Lawrence Weston

- 100% community owned
- 4.2MW wind turbine
- Constructed in 2023.

CPS technical delivery team from initial project conception through to final construction.



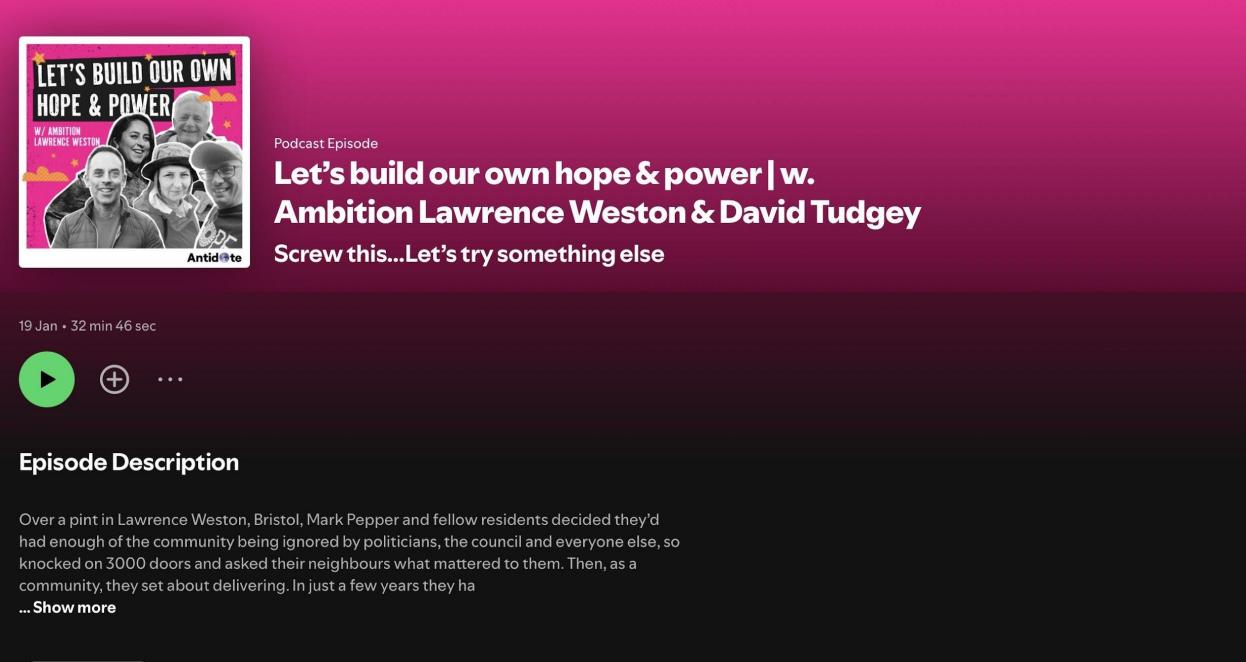
COMMUNITY  
POWER  
SOLUTIONS



# The SIFFFT™ Process



# Media: Inspire your community



Podcast Episode

**Let's build our own hope & power | w. Ambition Lawrence Weston & David Tudgey**

Screw this...Let's try something else

19 Jan • 32 min 46 sec

...

**Episode Description**

Over a pint in Lawrence Weston, Bristol, Mark Pepper and fellow residents decided they'd had enough of the community being ignored by politicians, the council and everyone else, so knocked on 3000 doors and asked their neighbours what mattered to them. Then, as a community, they set about delivering. In just a few years they ha

[... Show more](#)

# Turbine ready sites

CPS can provide shovel-ready turbine sites, managing the whole process for you, from site identification through to fully ready to build turbines.





## De-risking community owned onshore wind energy



[www.communitypowersolutions.org](http://www.communitypowersolutions.org) [www.SIFFFT.com](http://www.SIFFFT.com)

Contact Commercial Manager to get involved!

[iain.beverage@communitypowersolutions.co.uk](mailto:iain.beverage@communitypowersolutions.co.uk)





WE  
WIND

A large, bold, black text 'WE WIND' is positioned in the center of the image. The letter 'E' is partially obscured by a large red heart shape. The background is a photograph of a wind farm in a rural landscape with green fields, a forest, and a road.

Stefan Haselwimmer, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026

# we want wind.org

April 2024

Problem: Where is nearest suitable wind turbine site to me?



## OpenWind.energy

May 2025

Problem: How to make **wewantwind.org** site selection process fully open source so everyone can use same criteria?



## VoteWind.org

July 2025

Problem: How to turbocharge community onshore wind across UK?





# VoteWind.org

WE ❤️  
**WIND**

Demonstration...



The charity supporting people and organisations across the UK to tackle the climate emergency and end the suffering caused by cold homes

Donate

Need energy advice?



?

Search

Research & Consultancy

My community

My home

Resources

About us

News

Retrofit services

Low energy homes



Home > Resources > Identifying suitable areas for onshore wind development

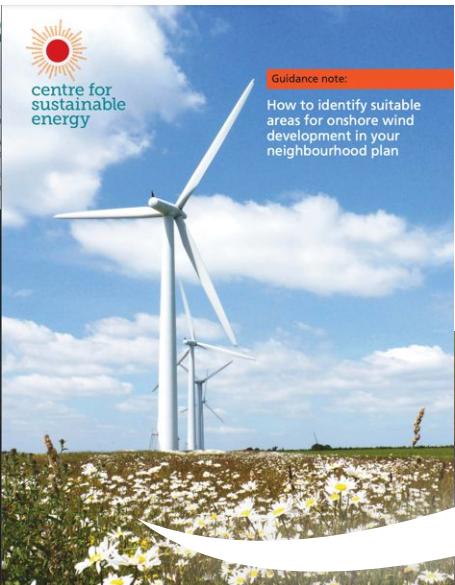
## Identifying suitable areas for onshore wind development

Guidance  
By CSE  
2016



Guidance note:  
How to identify suitable  
areas for onshore wind  
development in your  
neighbourhood plan

Where  
for app  
Step-by  
their Ne  
Include  
recomm



**data.openwind.energy**

Datasets Organizations Groups About Search

Groups

What are Groups?

You can use CKAN Groups to create and manage collections of datasets. This could be to catalogue datasets for a particular project or team, or on a particular theme, or as a very simple way to help people find and search your own published datasets.

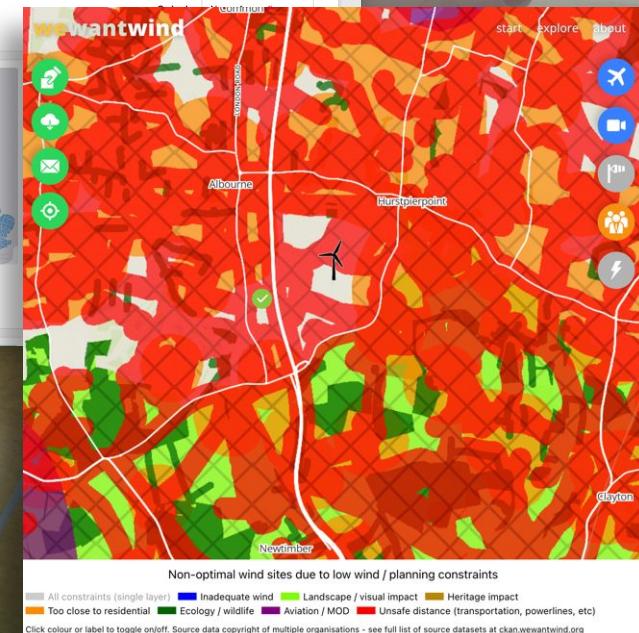
Add Group

Search groups...

12 groups found

Custom configurations 6 Datasets

Administrative Boundaries 2 Datasets



# Open Data Methodology

WE WIND

# On the horizon...

- What **DNO energy datasets** would community energy groups like to see on the wind maps?
- Apply **OpenWind.energy** methodology to other assets like solar through **OpenSite.energy**
- Create **AI-powered platform** to speed up development of community energy projects - but in a way that's robust, resilient and fully open.
- To discuss potential collaboration, contact **[stefan@openwind.energy](mailto:stefan@openwind.energy)**



I ❤️ RAMPION

stefan@openwind.energy

# Q&A



10 minutes of questions for  
our speakers.



Energy Learning Network  
Rhwydwaith Addysg Ynni



# New! Wind Working Group



- The purpose of the working group (webpage link [here](#))
- First meeting: 11th March 11:00-12:00
- Any CEE member can join
- Complete the [Google Form](#) by 9th March to join (we will email this out)



# It's time to fall back in love with wind!



# Thank you! & feedback survey



- Thank you to our speakers and thank you all for attending!
- We'll email follow-up information: Wind Working Group, slides, recording and resources.
- See our events webpage [here](#).
- Please fill out our feedback survey.

