Lobbying for Change

Chair: Paul Monaghan, Co-operative Energy
Speakers: Robert Proctor, Community Energy Wales
Kathy Smyth, Community Energy England
What’s happening in Wales?

– Slow start (Planning, Grid Connections, Licensing, Resources)
– Currently 2.5 MW installed capacity from 19 projects 8MW by end of 2016.
– Over £5 million raised in share offers last 3 years
– Around 90 groups actively developing projects
– Additional barriers now exist in the reduction to the Feed in Tariff and removal of Tax relief.
Community Energy Wales

• What do we need in Wales
  – New smart grid.
  – Clean energy from 1000s sources.
  – Not reliant on importing fuel
  – ”Ferraris for Qatars”.
  – Keep money local.
  – Opportunities for skilled long term jobs.
  – Strengthening communities.
  – Protect Welsh Culture and Language
  – Cheaper energy bills essential to engage mainstream.
Community Energy Wales

• The Holy Grail
  – Connect community owned renewable energy generation to a DIRECT reduction in household energy bills.
  – Feldheim in Germany buys electricity @13cents.
  – Berliners pay 23cents.
  – Bethesda Energy Local Trial Ynni Ogwen – Members will pay @8pence for energy generated locally
  – Find out more at our conference in Bethesda on Thursday 15th of September - https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-energy-new-horizons-tickets-26559281526
As members of Community Energy Wales we want to see

- Targets for community energy in Wales
- A right of local supply
- Easing of the planning process for Community Renewables
- Measures to address grid constraints
- A community right to buy in Wales
- Co-ordinated and co-designed support for Community Energy in Wales

Ynni Cymunedol Cymru Rydym eisiau gweld

- Targedau ar gyfer ynni cymunedol yng Nghymru
- Hawli i gael cyflenwad lleol
- Llacio’r broses gynllunio ar gyfer cynlluniau Ynni Adnewyddadwy Cymunedol
- Mesurau i fynd i’r afael â chyfyingiadau’r grid
- Hawli cymunedol i brynu yng Nghymru
- Cefnogaeth wedi’i chydlynu a’i chyd-gynllunio ar gyfer Ynni Cymunedol Cymru
Still challenges ahead

- Welsh Government – All flagships no ships?
- Local Authorities
- A lot of powers are not devolved
  - OFGEM regulations
  - FITs etc.
  - Tax relief
- How do we engage the public on this issue?
Alan Simpson, former MP turned Community Energy Advocate, sums up the situation in Wales perfectly. It relies on all of us standing up to demand something different.

Full film can be watched here [https://youtu.be/9aTjFGCKKHE](https://youtu.be/9aTjFGCKKHE)
If you are interested in becoming a member or would like further information please contact

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Community Energy – the last 12 months

Highlights

At least £27M of equity raised for English based Community Energy Projects in the last 12 months

😊
Community Energy England
- the past 12 months

Feed in Tariff and Tax Relief dominate the second half of 2015 and early 2016.....

• Fall out from the announcement of the end of pre-registration and suspension of pre-accreditation in September 2015 and rate reduction in January 2016

• Removal of SEIS and EIS on short notice – CE threatens legal action
2016

- Severe delays at OFGEM processing 1500 community energy applications for pre-accreditation and pre-registration
- Planning policy – Resilient’s test case in High Court on community benefit and planning heard in April and is lost
- Consultations include one on the Renewable Heat Incentive and another on Heat for Homes (the new “Eco”) aimed at those in fuel poverty
- Recently new issues emerge such as new business rates for rooftop solar
- Meanwhile many Community Energy groups concentrate on building out pre-accredited and pre-registered schemes.
Going forward. – in the short term i.e. next 12 months

• Outlook looking bleak for CE – evidence is just beginning to emerge of fall off in levels of activity

• Main problem seems to be that current FITs rates don’t provide viable return for many of the projects groups want to tackle – do you agree?

• But we need to be realistic – Government and civil service are rather distracted by other things!
Quick and Easy Policy Asks

• for electricity generation side - single most useful policy change – reintroduction of pre-registration for sub-50kW rooftop CE schemes? – won’t cost Government any money and doesn’t require primary legislation

• for heat especially district heating – pre-accreditation needed for CE schemes at all scales

• for energy-saving/carbon reduction – hope is that CE groups will be allowed to participate in new ‘ECO’ scheme pilot but OFGEM currently opposed
Let’s use this time to look and plan ahead
What new policy or policy changes do you need to kick start new projects?