

North West of England

# COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero



**NORTH WEST  
ROUTE TO NET ZERO**



north west  
net zero hub

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR EXPRESSION  
OF INTEREST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE  
TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE FIRST  
ROUND OF FUNDING**



# JAMES JOHNSON

## HEAD OF REGIONAL PROGRAMME



Supported with funding from **Department of Energy Security and Net Zero** and **North West Net Zero Hub**  
The Hub programme supports public engagement through **North West Route to Net Zero**.



A **fairer, stronger, cleaner** Liverpool City Region where **no one** is left behind.

 [liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk](https://liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk)

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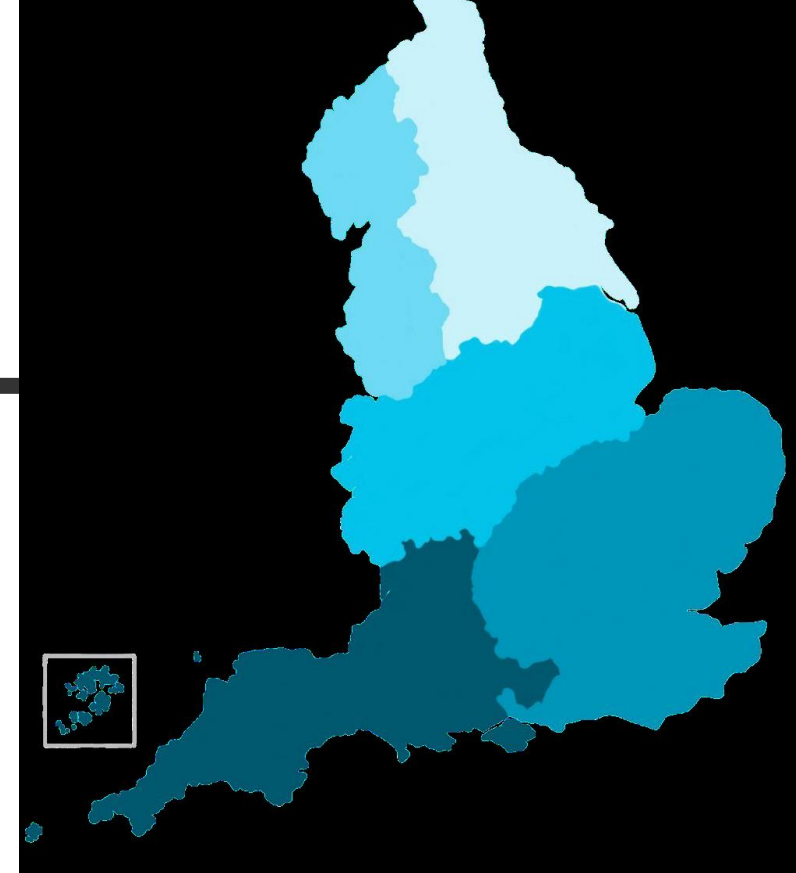




Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

# NET ZERO HUBS

- ❑ Funded by Department for Energy Security & Net Zero
- ❑ Increase the number, quality, and scale of Net Zero projects
- ❑ Develop and support Net Zero programmes like the Community Energy Fund



# COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND

## DISCLAIMER

NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND

- Final Details of the Community Energy Fund for the North West of England are being agreed with the Department of Energy.
- Advice provided in this information pack is subject to change upon the launch of the fund application documents. We are not expecting any significant changes.

1. ABOUT CEF
2. ELIGIBILITY
3. SUPPORT



# COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND

## THE COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND

- Now open for expressions of interest
- Register your interest before 5th January to be included in the first application round** 🔊
- Full application guidance will be available soon
- The first round of application will open in the new year**
- Later rounds are anticipated in the year from April 24-March 25





# COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND

## ABOUT THE COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND

**The national Community Energy Fund (CEF) is a £10million grant scheme for urban and rural communities to develop community energy projects. The North West will administer up to £2million of funding.**

These include local renewable and low carbon energy projects (such as wind farms, hydro power and rural heat networks, community electric vehicle projects (such as electric vehicle charging points and electric car clubs) and energy efficiency retrofit projects (where there is a business model for a sustainable service).

# COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND

## ABOUT THE COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND

- The CEF is for community-based organisations**, that want to develop projects for the benefit of the local community.
- Funding is for **the development of projects from concept to investable scheme**, including the launching approaches to community fund raising.
- It cannot provide capital funding for the installation of projects themselves or revenue funding for the operation of existing projects.**

# COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND

## AIMS OF THE COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND

NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND

- 1. Increase the level of community and locally owned renewable and low carbon energy assets** to make progress towards the Government's net-zero carbon emissions targets
- 2. Support communities by helping them to reduce energy costs or generate income** through community owned energy assets, reinvesting income locally, or services to reduce energy demand.
- 3. Promote growth through the creation of jobs and volunteering opportunities** in the communities where projects are located.

# COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND

## APPLICATIONS

NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND

- Get in touch your Net Zero Hub early on.
- Complete a pre-application form
- Discuss your project idea with the Hub team.
- Strong projects invited to submit an application form with supporting documents in the next funding round.
- You will be notified of decision and then have a maximum of one year to deliver or until March 2025.

**ELIGABILITY**



# COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND

## FUNDING STAGES

### **Stage 1 – up to £40,000 grant funding**

Stage 1 grants can pay for professional support to scope project feasibility:

- Basic technical feasibility assessment, including grid connection
- Landowner agreement (Heads of Terms)
- Community engagement
- Public body stakeholder engagement
- Scoping planning issues
- Scoping need for permits, licences and consents
- Finance and business model development
- Project management
- Sharing learning with other community applicants

# COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND

## FUNDING STAGES

### **Stage 2 – up to £100,000 grant funding**

Stage 2 grants are available for projects that have been found to be feasible, with a good chance of securing planning permission and being implemented, to cover activities such as:

- more detailed investigation of the relevant technology
- planning applications and associated surveys.
- advanced landowner agreements
- development of a robust business case to attract sufficient investment.

# COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND

## APPLICANTS

- Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
- Community Benefit Society (CBS or Bencom)
- Community Interest Company (CIC)
- Co-operative Society
- Development Trust
- Pre-Commencement Society
- Registered Charity (including eligible faith groups, sports clubs, etc.)
- Registered Social Landlord (see paragraph below on local authorities)
- Registered Society
- Town or Parish Council

**Applications must be led by legally constituted voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in England only.**



# COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND

## APPLICANTS

- Applicants must be incorporated as an eligible organisation (see previous slide).
- You must have undertaken some initial community engagement.
- You should have a specific eligible technology in mind.
- For asset-based projects, you should have a specific site(s) under consideration.
- If relevant, you should have had an initial conversation with your Local Planning Authority about your project concept
- You should support your bid with a minimum of three quotes for the work for which you are seeking funding with.

# COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND

## TECHNOLOGIES

- Anaerobic digestion
- Biogas heat network
- Bio liquids/gas/fuels
- Biomass heat network
- Electric vehicle infrastructure (publicly available, incorporating generation/storage)
  - Heat pumps
- Heat pump-fed heat networks (e.g., heat zoning for a village)
  - Hydropower
  - Solar (photo voltaic)
    - Solar (thermal)
    - Wind power
    - Battery storage
- **Other on a case by case basis, please get in touch.**

# COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND

## APPLICANTS

To be eligible to apply to the CEF, applications must be from eligible organisations and projects proposals should ensure at least 50% community ownership, and must benefit the local community in their final project.

For this fund, 'community ownership' should ensure that people living locally to the project have the opportunity to influence decisions about the asset's management and/or distribution of benefits – for example, via an accessible membership that gives them voting rights.

# SHAPING YOUR PROJECT





# COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND

## THE NEW COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND

- Urban areas and groups in towns and cities are now eligible.
- Groups can undertake their own project management internally.
- Groups can undertake pieces of technical work paid for by CEF if they have the appropriate skills and can demonstrate a fair market rate. This will be subject to review and assessment by the Hub on a case by case basis.
- More open to innovative technology and business models (i.e. grid flexibility services, car clubs) BUT please discuss with your Hub before applying.

# COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND



The **North West Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF)** Programme ran from to Autumn 2019 to March 2022. **Lancashire County Council** managed £1.5 Million of funding for rural community groups to develop projects from feasibility to commercialisation.

**22 projects were supported in total.** The programme supported projects in every part of the North West.

# COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND

# COMMUNITY ENERGY PATHWAYS

NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND



Alongside the Community Energy Fund, the North West Net Zero Hub provides a programme of support to local government and community groups to inform them about key aspects of the community energy sector.

# TOP 10 GUIDE TO GETTING STARTED

CREATED BY

Lancashire  
County  
Council



COMMUNITY  
ENERGY  
SOUTH



Community  
Energy  
England

COMMISSIONED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

MIDLANDS  
NET ZERO HUB

north west  
net zero hub

Greater  
South East  
Net Zero Hub

South West  
NET ZERO  
HUB

north east & yorkshire  
NET ZERO HUB

Community  
Energy  
England

Please be aware that most of the resources in this guide are free to access but some are available only to members of Community Energy England. The Guide is collated by Community Energy South and Net Zero Hubs who recognise the importance of CEE as the national voice of the sector. Membership begins at £28 / year, to help groups get started. See the CEE website for more information.





# COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND

## CONGOLTON HYDRO CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON



A Micro-Hydro System using the energy produced by the Weir to generate Electrical Power. Havannah Weir will enable the generation of approx. 250,000 kilowatt hours per year, enough to sustain about 60 homes. Operated and maintained by professionally qualified volunteers.

# COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND

# CHIPPING COMMUNITY HEAT

LANCASHIRE



Chipping is a Lancashire village of around 300 households which is off the gas grid and so domestic heating is mainly from oil, LPG, direct electric and coal. A group of volunteers is investigating the opportunity for ambient loop ground-source heating systems as a viable lower carbon solution.

COMMUNITY  
ENERGY  
FUND

# Ynni Newydd/Bretton Hall Solar

CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON



With the potential to become the largest community owned solar farm in the UK. 30MW scheme Bretton Hall Solar Farm a submitted a planning application in May 2022

## community energy fund

A new **Community Energy Fund** (CEF) Programme has been announced by Government to begin in early Autumn 2023.

[Communities at the heart of new fund to boost local growth and energy security - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

North West Net Zero Hub will manage our share of the national £10Million funding as regional programme for community groups to develop projects from feasibility to commercialisation.

The funding will support eligible community groups to consider options, design schemes and overcome barriers to investment. *It should be noted that it will not provide a grant for capital investment in the projects themselves.*

**Further details on the programme will be published here within the next few weeks.**

In the meantime, if you would like to express initial interest in the funding, please email [NWNZHub@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk](mailto:NWNZHub@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk). We will be in touch with programme guidance and application forms when published.

The Net Zero Hubs in collaboration with Community Energy England has published a **Top Ten Guide to Getting Started** for groups embarking on new projects. You can also register your interest in the Hubs wider work to support communities on their net zero journey. [NW Route To Net Zero | Join – NW Route To Net Zero](#)



# NORTH WEST ROUTE TO NET ZERO



north west  
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Contact the **North West Net Zero Hub**

**Email**

[NWNZHub@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk](mailto:NWNZHub@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk)



**Linkedin**

[www.linkedin.com/company/north-west-net-zero-hub/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/north-west-net-zero-hub/)

**Route to Net Zero = Join Us**

[NW Route To Net Zero | Join – NW Route To Net Zero](#)