

# People participation in the future of energy

 COMMUNITY ENERGY  
PATHWAYS



**Community Energy Pathways is a multi-award-winning organisation that is enabling communities throughout the UK to play a leading role in the transition to net zero.**

Starting out in 2013 as Community Energy South, we have grown from a hub in the south-east to working nationally under our new name, Community Energy Pathways.

Our vision is for every district, borough or unitary authority to benefit from a community energy group that can provide professional net-zero services including renewable energy, energy efficiency and retrofit project development.

*“Community Energy South (CES) has been awarded the 2023 Sector Support Award in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the community energy sector. CES has demonstrated exemplary efforts in sharing their skills, knowledge and expertise with other organisations and individuals in the community energy workforce.”*

Community Energy England

We currently work with:



# What we offer

Through tailored programmes, we help communities to develop skills and build capacity to work alongside local authorities to implement net-zero strategies.

We provide expertise in training, mentoring and relationship-building, which enables everyone to play a part.

*“Since 2020, Essex County Council has collaborated with Community Energy South to foster a thriving community energy sector in Essex.”*

*Councillor Peter Schwier,  
Climate Czar, Essex County Council*





## Community energy strategy

Our first step is to engage with local authorities and communities to understand any existing community energy projects and gauge their potential.

Through creative collaboration with local partners and with reference to our previous work, we design a detailed delivery plan.

These eight steps are key to navigating a pathway to develop community energy.

# Capacity building

Our structured programme helps to build the foundations of a local community energy network – bringing together people and organisations with a broad range of knowledge and skills.

By sharing our expertise through workshops and seminars on business planning, governance and developing local share offers and grant applications, we help bring the community energy strategy to life.

Since 2021 we have supported 48 community energy groups across 15 localities.

**48**  
community  
energy  
groups

**15**  
localities





## Powering down

Our “powering down” programme supports communities to deliver impartial and trusted local energy advice. This helps people make their homes more comfortable and efficient, saving money and reducing carbon emissions. The key to this programme is training local energy champions, whilst building markets for retrofitting homes and creating green jobs.

Since 2023, we have leveraged over £2m to enable community energy groups to employ local people and recruit volunteers. Our target is to facilitate the delivery of 24,000 energy-advice sessions across the country by early 2025. This includes assistance with community engagement, planning, funding and development.

**£2m+**  
support for  
groups

**24,000**  
advice  
sessions

# Planning for decarbonisation

Councils across the country are keen to put in place Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs). If these are to be successful, it is essential to work closely with communities. Our decarbonisation plans are community-led and designed to complement LAEPs or function as a standalone process that gives communities an opportunity to deliver clear, actionable steps on the pathway to net zero.

Through a combination of engagement, data gathering, project scoping and industry partnerships – with the support of experts – LAEPs will enable locals to be active participants in creating cleaner and greener communities.





## Powering up

We provide professional support for communities that want to develop their own renewable energy projects.

We identify the projects that are most likely to be feasible – and work with community groups and local authorities to make them happen.

We can support at every stage: pre-planning community engagement, funding, governance and development.

## Shared ownership

Partnerships between developers and communities are fast becoming a reality. Community Energy Pathways enables communities and developers to jointly develop, deliver and finance renewable infrastructure projects.

As a result, people get a say in, and a share of renewable energy in their communities. At the same time, developers get to unlock complex projects through structured local support and advocacy.



## Training for climate literacy

Our one-day training for residents, organisations or businesses is certified by the Carbon Literacy Project. It gives participants the confidence to act insightfully and effectively when they are working on strategies for dealing with a changing climate and navigating the pathway to net-zero. While designed through the lens of community energy, it can be tailored to participants' needs.

## Training for energy champions

Energy champions are pivotal to providing advice on local energy – and they often become the first paid employee of a community energy group. We have trained dozens of energy champions over the past ten years, and operate a rolling training programme online and in person. Our training includes sharing expertise on installing solar PV, dealing with scams and applying for grants.



*"The course was brilliant – good interactive group sessions combined with different teaching techniques to ensure the inclusion of all learning styles."*


Lewes participant




## Get in touch with us today

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