



Western Power Distribution Community Energy Newsletter

Quarterly news on support available to community energy organisations

July 2022 | Issue 2



Welcome to the latest quarterly update from Western Power Distribution (WPD) on community energy. In this edition, you will find news from across the sector, new funding opportunities and changes to look out for here at WPD.

We enjoyed catching up with many of you at our in person Net Zero Communities Forums in Cardiff and Nottingham in June, where discussions focused on the opportunities for community projects to connect to the network, ideas for innovation projects and how WPD can help facilitate partnerships between community energy groups and local authorities.

We hope that you found the updates and opportunities for networking useful, and we will be following up on many of the actions that came from those sessions over the coming months.

If you missed the forums and want to catch up on the presentations from us, along with Awel Aman Tawe and Welsh Government Energy Service you can watch the recording of the Cardiff event [here](#), and presentations from Nottingham Energy Partnership, Sharenergy and Community Energy England in Nottingham [here](#).

Our next in-person events will be in the South West and West Midlands in the autumn: look out for more details shortly.



Net Zero Communities Forum, Butetown Community Centre, Cardiff – 9th June 2022



If you have missed any of the previous Net Zero Communities Forum sessions, you can watch a recording of previous sessions [here](#).



Community Energy State of the Sector 2022

Community Energy England, Wales and Scotland have launched the 2022 State of the Sector report, which gives an annual overview of the community energy sector across the UK, describing how the sector is changing, examining barriers to projects, and providing an evidence base to advocate for community energy locally and nationally. Highlights from the last 12 months include:

- 18 new community energy organisations being formed across the UK;
- an estimated 217,489 people being engaged with by the sector;
- and 7.5 MW of new renewable energy capacity being installed, bringing the total to 331 MW of community owned capacity in the UK.

You can read the full report [here](#).

Local energy policy paper

Power for People, the campaigning organisation behind the Local Electricity Bill which aims to give electricity generators the right to become local suppliers, have published a policy paper setting out alternative proposals for local supply.

This includes mechanisms such as a Community Electricity Export and Supplier Services Guarantee, designed to support community energy and local electricity markets.

You can read the policy paper [here](#), while Power for People are currently pushing for an amendment to Energy Security Bill in the House of Commons.



Other news from us

Our name is changing

From September, Western Power Distribution will be known as National Grid. You don't need to do anything differently – we're the same people dedicated to keeping the electricity on in your local area, and you should still call 105 to speak to us if there's a power cut.

WPD at Stithians Energy Group conference

On 28th May, WPD was invited to speak at the Stithians Energy Group seminar in Cornwall, as part of our commitment to accelerating net zero in communities across our region. We discussed the support available through the Community Energy Engineer and focused on the future of the network and grid capacity in Cornwall, with 94 people in attendance at the event.

If your community is hosting an energy themed event and would like your DNO there, get in touch.



WPD appears at Historic England conference

We were also invited to speak at the Future of Heating in Historic Buildings conference in London on 28th June. The electrification of heat is key to reducing reliance on fossil fuels in historic buildings on our way to Net Zero.

WPD gave a perspective on how consumers could be turned into 'prosumers' and how the flexibility services we offer could be delivered by communities. We also discussed the commitments we have made to our communities as part of our RII0-ED2 Business Plan.

Spotlight on innovation

On 30th June, WPD's Innovation Team held the #28toZero event in London, focusing on the value of energy efficiency to WPD, other DNOs and customers, and how vulnerable customers should be protected in the energy transition.

We also presented the work that has been done to analyse how suitable current energy market structures are for achieving a fair net zero, along with further talks on decarbonising heat and flexibility in heating.

You can read more about WPD's innovation projects [here](#).



Funding

Energy Redress Funding

Energy Redress Scheme remains open to community groups, with grants over £20,000 to support local net zero projects and fuel poverty work. You can register your organisation.

You can find more details, and apply for funding [here](#).

Fast start innovation funding competition

Small businesses that have not previously received Innovate UK funding can enter the Fast Start: Innovation funding competition and apply for grants up to £50,000 for innovative ideas in net zero. The competition closes on 26 July.

You can find out more details about the scheme [here](#).

Get in touch

If you have any community energy news you would like to share through this newsletter, please email fcchanda@westernpower.co.uk. You can find more useful information and resources on the **Community Energy** page on our website including how to **book an appointment** with one of our network planners to discuss your community energy project.

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