



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

What we are doing in the Community Energy Space

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Head of Community Energy

3 March 2015



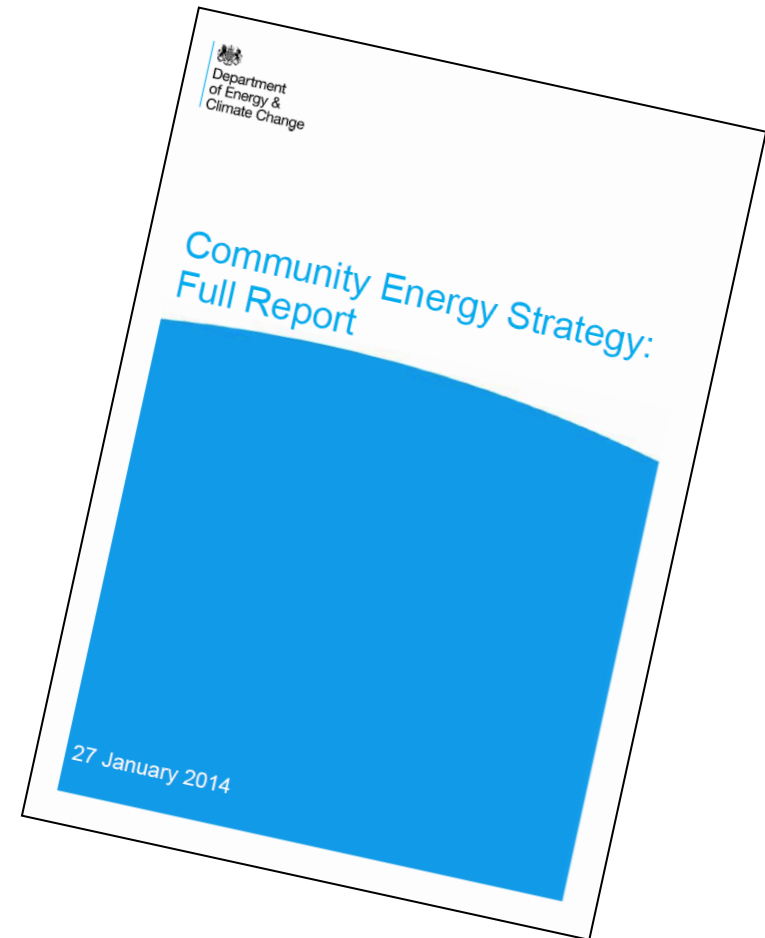
“Nothing less than a community energy
revolution”

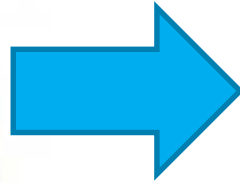
Rt Hon Ed Davey MP, 2013

Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change

Community Energy Strategy

- UK Government's first ever community energy strategy: **generation, purchasing, managing and reducing**
- Launched 27 January 2014
- In less than 6 months became most downloaded document
- Aims to tap into the enthusiasm and commitment of community groups



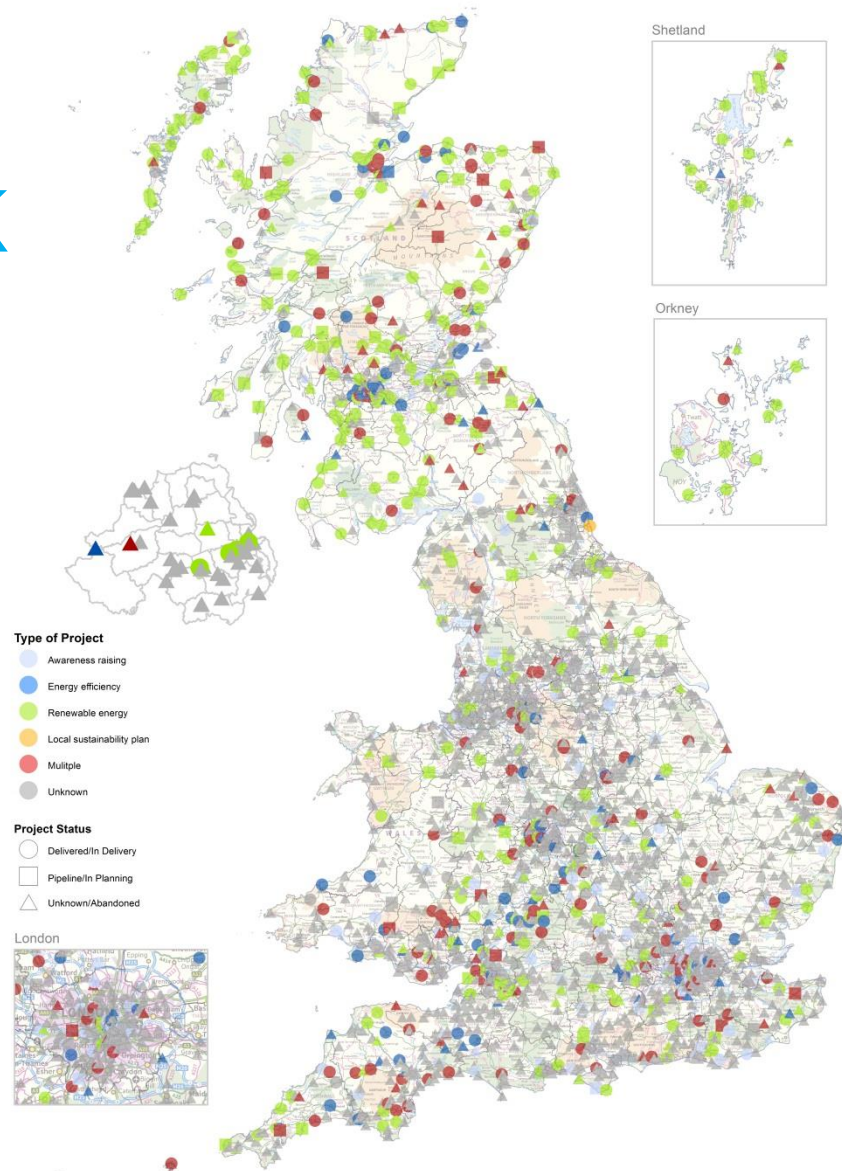




Community energy in the UK

- At least 5,000 groups active in the UK since 2008
- Greater proportion of people in rural areas involved, particularly in Scotland and South West England
- Currently focused on electricity generation

Community Energy Projects Database
All Community Projects





Stats: Community Energy

- Approximately 70 MW in England, 360 MW in Scotland (27% increase in last 12 months), Wales 60MW, Northern Ireland ?
- Potential of 3GW generation by 2020
- Pipeline of projects from Rural Community Energy Fund c.50MW

Rural Community Energy Fund

£15 million

Stage 1: £20,000 grant
Stage 2: £130,000 loan

Distributed over
£1 million, supporting 50
projects

1/3 heat

Excellent geographical
spread





Urban Community Energy Fund

£10 million

Stage 1: £20,000 grant

Stage 2: £130,000 loan

First round in January 2015 approved 11 projects and
£150,000 distributed.

Administered by Centre for Sustainable Energy and Pure
Leapfrog



Shared Ownership

It will be the norm for communities to be offered the opportunity of some level of ownership of new commercially-developed onshore renewable projects (5-25%)

Voluntary Framework published November 2014

First 6-month review due April 2015



Community Energy Saving Competition

- Over £250,000 awarded to 17 community energy groups wanting to test innovative approaches to saving energy and money.
- Evaluation produced by June 2015
- Hope to inform development of the new Community Energy Efficiency Working Group



Heat

- UK's first college cooperative heat project launched 28th Feb, Hinckley, Leics.
- Community heat conference: 10th March 2015, Birmingham Town Hall
- Community biomass guide published
- Aim to produce community heat toolkit



Feed In Tariff

- 1GW from community sector of 3GW total (Ofgem stats)
- Registered charities will be able to claim from 1st April 2015
- Preliminary accreditation has been extended by six months for all technologies
- Two projects can now share a single grid connection
- FIT review 2015



Peer Mentoring

- £500,000 DECC/Cabinet Office programme in 2014, supported 12 projects.
- Report due end of March.



Community Energy Hub

- An online hub which will hosts guidance, information and other useful resources for the sector
- It will help community groups spread best practice and knowledge to others in the sector
- Committed £150,000 to seed-fund, launched imminently



Social Investment Tax Relief

- SITR provides tax relief to organisations that have a social purpose.
- Extended SITR in December 2014 to include project debt.
- DECC working closely with FCA to produce guidance on co-ops, bencoms and cic.



Looking ahead...

- Community Energy Update published 19 March (including response to Working Groups)
- The continuing community energy challenge (efficiency, local supply, evidence, analysis, evaluation)
- 7 May - ?
- Community Energy Unit will closely monitor the sector – survey in 2016
- Best practice programme developed in partnership with Bristol City Council



Any questions?

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