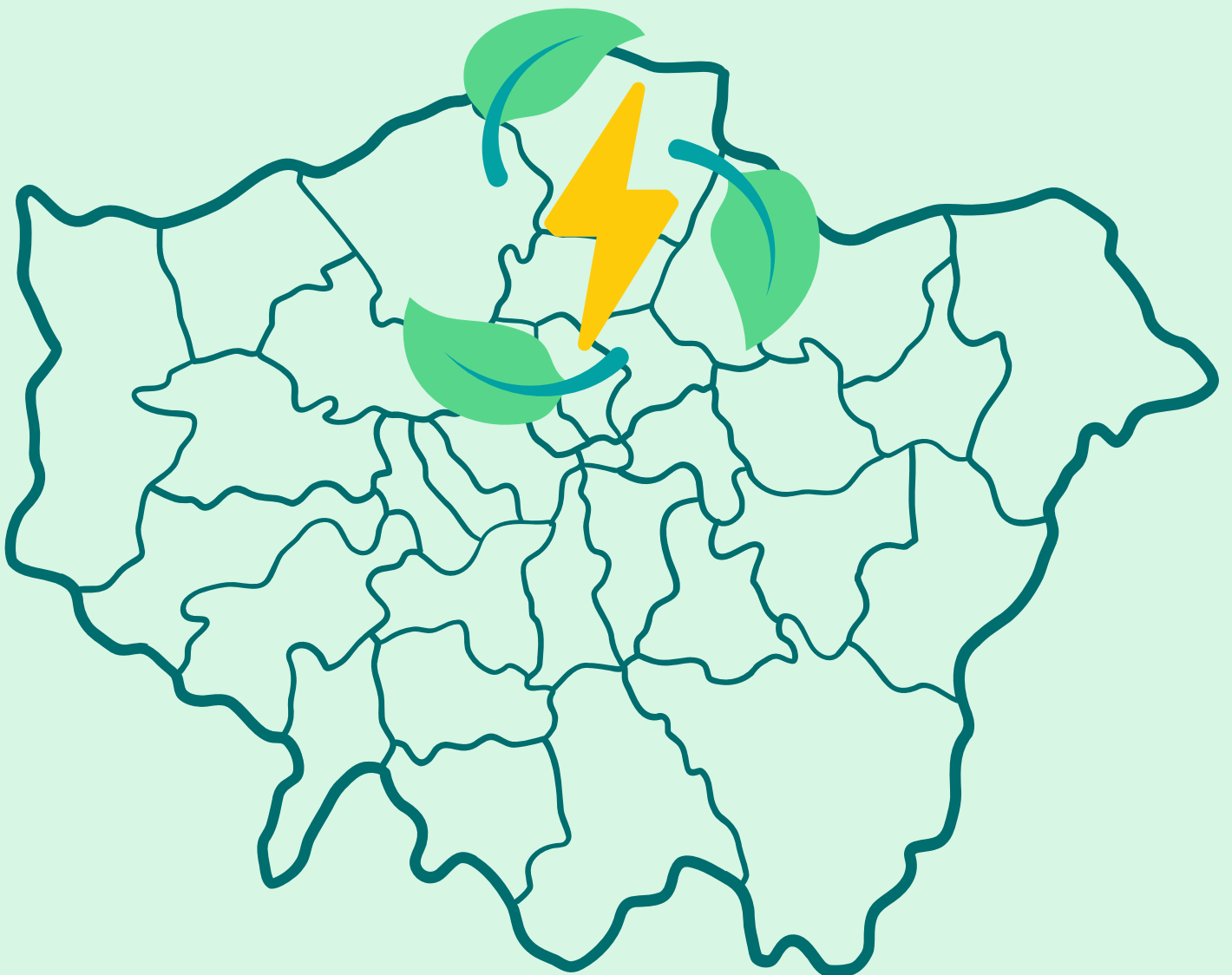


Community Energy Now!

*Powering Up **North** London*



REPORT

JULY 2025

Acknowledgements

This report was produced by Syed Ahmed and Katherine Linsley of Community Energy London (CEL) with the support and contributions of Power Up North London (PUNL), En10ergy, Community Energy Barnet, Aldgate Solar Power and Muswell Hill Sustainability Group (MHSG).



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Introduction

As part of [London Climate Action Week 2025](#) (21 - 29 June) Community Energy London (CEL) partnered with its members to host four events across the city to present the significant work undertaken by groups to date. The events showcased the variety of projects delivered by groups to date, alongside their work with local authorities to develop new opportunities for the sector. Also highlighted was the huge potential for community-led action to decarbonise London's buildings, and the wider social and economic benefits community energy can bring.

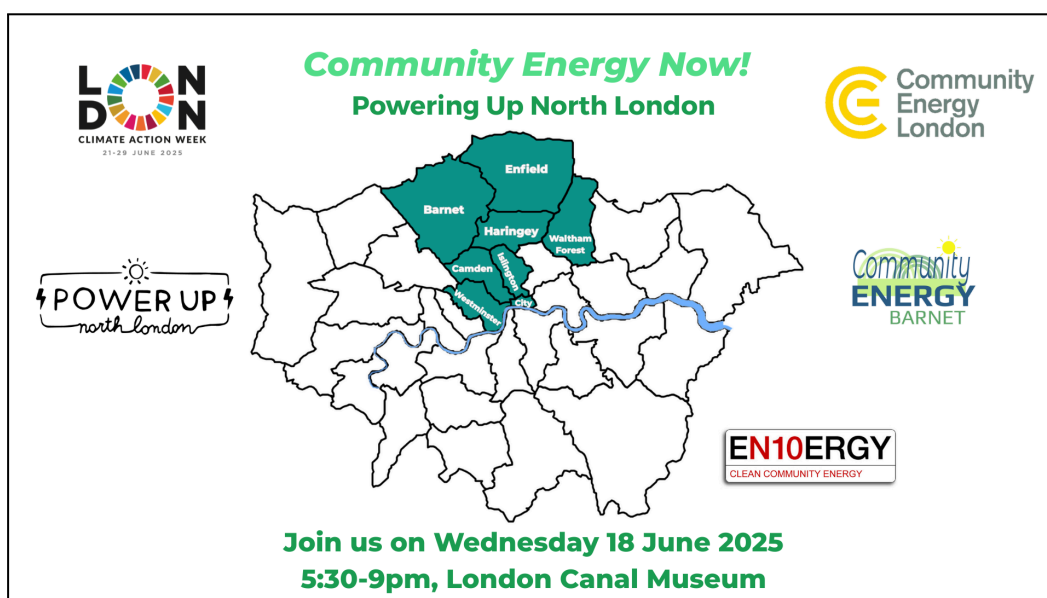
Following these events, ***Community Energy Now! Powering up North/East/South and West London***, four reports have been prepared which set out for each region:

- Case studies of community energy action undertaken
- Analysis on the potential for future community energy projects
- Proposals to policy makers on how to boost growth in the deployment and scale of community energy.

This report focuses on the North London boroughs of:

- Barnet
- Camden
- City of London
- Enfield
- Haringey
- Islington
- Westminster

LCAW EVENT: Community Energy Now! Powering up North London



Speakers:

- Joe Baker, Head of Carbon Management, LB Haringey
- Cllr Adam Harrison, Cabinet Member for Planning and a Sustainable Camden and Deputy Leader, LB Camden
- Cllr Rowena Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality & Transport, LB Islington
- Dermot Barnes, Chair, En10ergy
- Tanuja Pandit, CEO, Power Up North London (PUNL)



Background

The past few years have seen community energy activity grow at pace in London, with renewable energy and energy efficiency projects delivered by an increasing number of groups supporting the delivery of cleaner, more affordable energy in their neighbourhoods.

For example, across the city, community energy groups are helping schools, cultural venues, places of worship and other community and public buildings to generate their own green energy and reduce both their carbon footprint and running costs.

In 2023 CEL created a [Community Energy Potential Map for London](#). Working with the Greater London Authority (GLA), who provided access to their extensive datasets and mapping tools in relation to building energy consumption and rooftop solar power potential, CEL combined data from the GLA's [London Solar Opportunity Map](#), [London Heat Map](#) and the [London Building Stock Model](#) to:

- Match up this energy data to existing community buildings across the city
- Allow for this data to be explored by administrative areas (borough, Parliamentary constituency, and council ward) or for London as a whole.
- Estimate the potential of solar PV capacity that could be deployed across these community buildings.

Using this data CEL developed an innovative map that can support community energy groups to identify potential projects in their areas, as well as providing policy makers a tool to visually explore the potential of community energy in their area..

In summary:

- We identified 20,849 community buildings in London of the type which may be of interest to community energy groups
- Up to 85% of these buildings have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating less than C. Hence, all of these buildings will need to be retrofitted if London is to achieve its Net Zero goal

- 11,508 of these community buildings could host solar PV projects, which amounts to a total capacity of 1,126MW. This level of electricity generation is equivalent to powering about 350,000 homes (around one-tenth of London homes) and would save over 200,000 tonnes of carbon annually.
- As of mid-2025, there are over 200 community energy projects in London, the majority of which are recorded on a separate [projects map](#) on CEL's website.

On the basis of our findings Community Energy London has set an [ambition](#) to have 1,000 community energy projects in place across the city by 2030 - an approximate fivefold increase over the current level of projects.

This can also be viewed as 30 projects in each of London's 33 boroughs by 2030.

"I am determined to unleash the power of community energy across the country. Through Great British Energy's Local Power Plan, this Government is supporting local authorities and community energy groups to help build local clean energy projects – from community-led onshore wind, to solar on rooftops and hydropower in rivers. The profits generated from these projects could then be reinvested into community projects or take money off people's bills."

Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP, Secretary of State, Department of Energy Security and Net Zero

[Power in Our Communities](#), Labour Climate and Environment Forum (LCEF) x Co-operative Party, June 2025

Community Energy In London

CEL was founded with the aim of facilitating collaboration among London-based groups to exchange experiences, resources, and knowledge, while also encouraging the formation of new groups and advocating for greater public sector support for community energy initiatives.

The past few years have seen community energy activity grow at pace in London with an increasing number of projects delivered by a growing number of groups and practitioners. The sector has been supported by the Mayor through the London Community Energy Fund (LCEF) alongside a number of boroughs who have established their own Community Energy Funds (CEFs).

Considerable work is now underway to help accelerate the deployment of projects including:

- Phase 2 of the Mayor's **Community Energy Task Force** which will bring together representatives from community energy groups, London boroughs, the finance and business sectors and other key institutions to unlock structural barriers to the sector's growth and identify routes to securing additional funding.
- Two projects by **London Councils' Community Energy Working Group**:
 - The development of a **Community Energy Toolkit (LCCET)** to help support the case for community energy to officers within local authorities and provide officers with a practical set of tools, resources and evidence that support their work on community energy.
 - A **community energy mapping study**, being undertaken by the Mayor's Zero Carbon Accelerator (ZCA) programme, will produce an individual report for every London council on the potential for community solar generation projects in their borough.
- Most importantly, the development of the Government's **Local Power Plan**, which *"will work with local communities to empower people to generate their own energy, save money on their energy bills, and reinvest the savings where they are most needed"* and is a key output of the Government's publicly owned company, GB Energy.

The Potential For Community Energy In North London

For North London boroughs, CEL's Potential Map sets out the following opportunity in terms of the PV solar capacity identified across community buildings. These include sites such as community centres, educational institutions, leisure centres, museums, art galleries and libraries, theatres, concert halls & cinemas and places of worship.

North London Boroughs	Number of Community Buildings	Total Solar Capacity/kWp
Barnet	574	53,198
Camden	388	34,811
City of London	134	13,993
Enfield	399	45,445
Haringey	314	29,614
Islington	304	27,574
Westminster	443	40,314
Total:	2,556	244,949

Table 1

However, community energy extends far beyond just solar, with groups taking a holistic approach to decarbonising buildings. Community energy organisations are delivering cleaner and cheaper energy for South London in a wide variety of ways. CEL's members are working in partnership with local authorities, businesses and the third sector, whilst securing funding from grant-giving organisations and programmes such as the Energy Redress Scheme, and raising millions of pounds of investment through community share offers.

A few example case studies follow below.

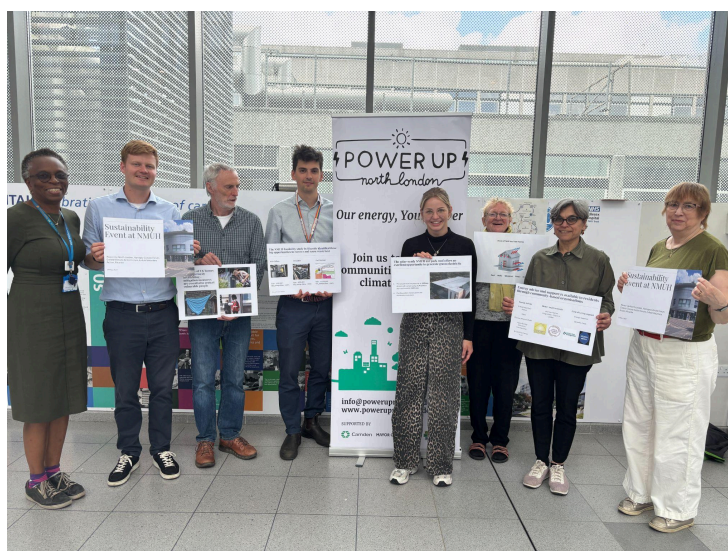
CEL Member Case Studies

Case Study 1: Power Up North London (PUNL)

Power Up North London is a non-profit organisation powered by volunteers and committed to tackling climate change through community action. We support community organisations by delivering rooftop solar, LED lighting and renewable heat projects. We also identify 'routes to decarbonisation' for community sites and provide advice to local residents to help reduce their energy bills.

PUNL has just delivered a Community Energy Fund (CEF) funded waste heat recovery feasibility study at North Middlesex University Hospital. The technical study conducted by Ricardo identified three potential opportunities to recover waste heat, all of which could significantly reduce carbon emissions, though each would require substantial capital investment.

The most promising option involves extracting waste heat from chillers in the hospital's PFI building using a water source heat pump. This recovered heat would be reused within the hospital's heating system, cutting gas use by 10% and delivering an estimated 6,681 tonnes of annual carbon savings — the equivalent of heating 3,100 homes. On a purely financial basis the three opportunities are more expensive than the current gas boiler systems. However, when the social cost of carbon saving is taken into account, two of the three opportunities are lower in cost than continuing to use gas within the hospital.



Open-Day at NMUH on 19th May 2025 with CEO Nnenna Osuji

Alongside the technical study, PUNL engaged local communities through a series of events focused on overheating, renewable energy, and energy advice — reaching diverse resident groups, hospital staff, and interested

stakeholders. The project also strengthened collaboration between PUNL and its partners, Haringey Climate Forum and Enfield Climate Action Forum. PUNL plans to build on these relationships to support further community-led climate action in the area.

<https://www.powerupnorthlondon.org/>

Case Study 2: Community Energy Barnet

Community Energy Barnet Ltd, was established as a community benefit society at the end of 2024 by a group of Barnet residents. The organisation works in partnership with Repowering London, who also provide support to several community energy groups across London. We have completed feasibility studies on three Barnet schools and are currently working on reports for five further sites in Barnet. We intend to apply



to the newly launched Barnet Community Energy Fund for at least two sites if we can get to the required stage before the deadline of 1 August.

<https://www.communityenergybarnet.org/>

Case Study 3: En10ergy

En10ergy is a social enterprise set up in 2009. It currently manages four solar arrays in the London Borough of Haringey. In 2018 it installed 150 solar panels (50kWp) on Woodside School in White Hart Lane, N22. The panels were funded by a local community share offer organised by En10ergy and enables the school to save money from its energy bills. Some 15% of the school's electricity use is provided by the sun, and over the next 20 years the school will save around £30,000 in bills. At the same time, En10ergy helped the school replace much of its lighting with LEDs, thus saving more money from the energy bill.



<https://en10ergy.org.uk/>

Case Study 4: Aldgate Solar Power

Aldgate Solar Power (ASP) is a community benefit society established in 2020 by local residents of the Middlesex Street Estate in the City of London, with support from Community Energy London member Repowering London. ASP was born from a desire by estate residents and a City of London councillor to develop community-led renewable energy in the area.



In April 2022, ASP installed a 36kWp solar PV system on the Middlesex Street Estate, consisting of 92 panels. The project is estimated to save approximately 140 tonnes of CO₂ over 20 years. Around 85% of the electricity generated is sold to the City of London Corporation for use in the estate's communal areas, with the remainder exported to the grid. The profits from electricity sales are used to create a community fund projected to distribute over £10,000 to local initiatives over the next two decades.



The project was funded through a blend of sources, including £17,334 from the City of London's Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund, £15,570 from the London Community Energy Fund, £2,500 from the roofing contractor, and over £11,000 raised via a community share offer.

Community engagement has been central to ASP's approach, with regular residents' meetings, workshops, and events helping to build local support. Although Covid-19 initially disrupted activities, ASP successfully rebuilt its volunteer base, expanding from three directors to eight directors and five active volunteers in 2022. These efforts were supported by a collaboration with a local organisation to deliver energy



advice sessions and creative community workshops.

Building on this success, Aldgate Solar Power is now working on additional solar projects across the City of London and beyond and plans to expand its community impact by replicating this model elsewhere.

<https://www.repowering.org.uk/aldgate-solar-power>

Case Study 5: Muswell Hill Sustainability Group

MHSG came into existence in 2008 when a group of local residents wanted to take action on sustainability in the area. In 2009 the group, together with Haringey Council, put in a bid to the Greater London Authority to take part in a Low Carbon Zone project. Funds were made available to involve local residents, businesses and community organisations to reduce their carbon emissions through a number of initiatives. Projects included a 100 Homes Study – looking at energy use in homes and trying out improvements, DIY workshops on draught-proofing, setting up and administering a Low Carbon Buying group and holding regular talks on topics ranging from smart-meters to the future of the oceans.

Later that year another grant application to the then Department of Energy and Climate Change, resulted in money for solar panels on the local Marks and Spencer store and Muswell Hill Methodist Church. Enl0ergy was set up to manage that project.

MHSG holds regular stalls at community events, and has campaigned to get local retailers to reduce their dependence on packaging, especially plastics, and more broadly to reduce other forms of waste, with a public petition. The group is a member of the Haringey Climate Forum, and has frequently contributed



to conversations with the Council on policy issues concerning the environment and planning, especially carbon reduction measures, and the delivery of its vision for a sustainable environment in difficult times for local authorities. The group has also held annual weekend discussion and exhibition events, under the title 21st Century Homes (Green Open Homes) to enable and support residents in making sustainable home

improvements—an idea borrowed from the Highgate Society’s Sustainable Homes Group (and with their invaluable co-operation). Several members regularly open their homes to the public to demonstrate what can be done to improve the efficiency and sustainability of domestic buildings – things within our individual control – and to help and encourage others to do the same.

<https://mhsgroup.org/>

Council Support For Community Energy

In addition to the Mayor's London Community Energy Fund (LCEF), which has seven rounds of funding to date and supported around 200 projects across the city¹, a number of boroughs in London have introduced specific funding programmes to support the growth of community energy activity in their area. These funds are typically financed by carbon offset payments collected from developers through Section 106 (s106) legal agreements which are required to be paid under Council planning policy where applications fail to meet required carbon reduction targets set by councils' Local Plan. The relevant s106 agreements require that the contributions must be used to reduce carbon emissions. A short profile of each of these is set out below.

Islington Community Energy Fund

In 2016, Islington Council established the Islington Community Energy Fund (ICEF) from recommendations at the Islington Council Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee. The ICEF is part of the council's goal to become carbon neutral by 2030.

Six rounds of ICEF have been undertaken to date, with a seventh round anticipated to be launched later in 2025.

Organisations with charitable aims can apply for a grant from the ICEF to spend on projects that:

- Generate energy or save energy
- Benefit the community, particularly the fuel poor
- Either use new or existing technology in a new way, or use new methods for delivering the project

Groups can apply for either:

- Feasibility funding: 100% funding up to £10,000 for developing a business case, feasibility studies, and preparing a project for financing
- Capital funding: up to 50% of the capital value of the project, up to a maximum of £50,000 per project

¹ See -

<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/environment-and-climate-change/net-zero-energy/london-community-energy-fund>

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/advice/voluntary-and-community-sector/funding-support/islington-community-energy-fund>

Camden Climate Fund

From 2021 to 2024 the Camden Climate Fund provided over £200,000 to support projects. For the latest round of the Camden Climate Fund we are increasing the amount and range of support to help accelerate our work to help address the climate crisis.

The latest round, Phase 4, of the CCF was launched in February 2025 will increase the maximum grant amount available to households and provide greater assistance to small businesses and voluntary and community sector organisations.

In addition the CCF is increasing the amount that can be applied for by community energy organisations and have broadened the reach of the community energy fund to support energy efficiency measures such as lighting upgrades and insulation.

- Feasibility funding: Funding of up to £5,000 to support groups to obtain advice on an energy efficiency or renewable energy project: this includes elements such as consultancy fees, business case assessments or pre-application planning advice and retrofit assessments for flat blocks.
- Capital funding: Funding of up to £50,000 to cover 50% of the costs to support with capital costs associated with installing an energy efficiency or renewable energy project, this can include purchasing materials and technologies.

Phase 4 funding will close on 1 November 2025, and Phase 5 is to open in January 2026.

Further information can be found here:

<https://camdenclimatefund.commonplace.is/>

Haringey Community Carbon Fund

Applications for the fourth round of Haringey Community Carbon Fund closed on 5 January 2025. 10 organisations were successful in getting funding for their decarbonisation projects. The total amount of funding awarded is £103,205.59. A total of 36 projects have been funded in the first 4 years.

The Haringey Community Carbon Fund (HCCF) supports the delivery of community-led decarbonisation projects that benefit Haringey residents. A total pot of £300,000 was available in the first 4-year community funding programme. In April 2025, the Haringey Cabinet approved the extension of the HCCF for another 4 years with more funding – £400,000 will be available in grants for years 5 to 8. Following community feedback the annual pot has been increased to £100,000 per year.

Further details will be provided when the year 5 bidding period opens in September 2025.

Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/environment/climate/haringey-community-carbon-fund>

Barnet Community Energy Fund

A new Barnet Community Energy Fund was launched this year that can be used for innovative community-led energy projects in the borough.

The fund aims to support projects that can:

- Reduce carbon emissions in the borough with demonstrable impacts
- Increase the amount of renewable energy generated in Barnet
- work in partnership with communities in need to tackle climate change and have impacts beyond the project itself
- Lead to long-term change and support the growth of Barnet's community energy sector and projects

- Help to tackle fuel poverty and reduce energy demand in Barnet through innovative approaches

There are three streams of funding available:

- Stream A – Feasibility and business case development grants of up to £5,000 per project supported
- Stream B – Project implementation and delivery of grants of up to a third of the capital value of the project, capped at £15,000 per project supported
- Stream C – Training, events and engagement grants of between £500-5,000 per project supported, depending on size and impact. These can be used by community energy groups to provide training and engage with new community groups. They must demonstrate carbon reduction and value for money

Applications opened Monday 19 May 2025 and runs to Friday 1 August 2025.

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/sustainability-barnet-zero/working-our-communities/barnet-community-energy-fund>

Westminster Community Energy Fund

The fund provides financial support to projects that contribute to the decarbonisation of Westminster and promote environmental sustainability. The fund is particularly focused on areas such as energy generation, retrofitting, low-carbon heat, behaviour change, and feasibility planning.

There are four categories of funding including 'Community Energy and Retrofit' which supports:

- Community-led energy reduction and retrofit schemes
- Aims to reduce energy bills, promote local energy ownership, and support organisational resilience in the voluntary and community sector

The fund supports pre-implementation studies to help organisations plan high-impact decarbonisation or energy generation projects. Grants are capped at £50,000.

Further information:

<https://www.westminster.gov.uk/fairer-environment-hub/take-environmental-action-organisation/westminster-climate-fund>

Why Support Community Energy?

Many community energy groups' first projects involved the installation of solar PV on rooftops, responding at the time to the Government's Feed in Tariff (FiTs) incentive. The FiTs programme closed in 2019, and over time, as groups delivered more projects and increased their knowledge around different energy solutions, they have diversified their skills in areas such as energy efficiency advice, building retrofit, LED installations, heat pumps and fuel poverty alleviation projects.

Groups continue to innovate and deliver projects which:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Re-connect people with how energy is generated and consumed - supporting wider behaviour change
- Lowering energy bills and helping support programmes to help tackle fuel poverty
- Return benefits to the local economy

Community energy groups can support local organisations - including councils - by:

- Providing project development support to helping identify carbon reduction solutions
- Host energy and climate change advice and training workshops for residents
- Secure funding through routes not always open to local authorities (e.g National Lottery Climate Action Fund, Ofgem Redress Funding, etc)
- Raise finance through issuing community share offers.
- Supporting local businesses involved in the building and retrofit sector
- Develop and install renewable and energy efficiency projects
- Inspiring communities and maintaining enthusiasm around climate and energy issues

Routes To Support The Growth Of Community Energy

Councils can support the growth of community energy activity in their area - and help accelerate the deployment of projects via a number of routes. These could include:

1. Setting out clear commitments within council climate change action plans to develop local community energy activities exploring options such as providing start up support to community energy groups, shared staffing, access to councils skills
2. Collaborate with groups to identify site opportunities for potential projects, including on council assets; connecting community energy groups with potential site owners/ leaseholders/ occupiers; leveraging the Council's contacts, standing and endorsement
3. Examining the potential for utilising carbon offset funds, or Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) (as LB Wandsworth did [earlier](#) this year) to accelerate the deployment of local community energy projects (also see CEL's '[Setting up a Local Authority Community Energy Fund](#)' guidance document for further details)
4. Developing partnerships with community energy groups in any funding applications the council may be applying around retrofit, such as Government Warm Homes Plan programmes
5. Promoting and supporting community energy group projects - including share offers - to the wider community and introductions to local businesses
6. Develop documentation and processes to support community energy project developments - such as leases, licences and grant claims across departments including Procurement, Housing, Property and Legal
7. Providing spaces for community energy groups to support local capacity-raising opportunities and workshops for residents on energy issues.

Conclusion

Community energy is at a pivotal moment with increasing levels of interest from communities to businesses to policy makers wanting to support the deployment of projects. However, groups remain constrained by a lack of resources, access to development sites, and the absence of a policy framework for the sector. Forthcoming outputs by the Mayor, and London Councils, should help, but the Government needs to set out their ambition for community energy in their Local Power Plan as soon as possible.