

# Community energy – progress and possibilities

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Community Energy England

# Community Energy England

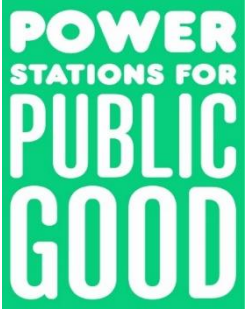
- Founded by the sector to:
  - Create a voice for community energy
  - Support sector development
  - Build cross-sector partnerships
- >200 members
  - 80% community energy enterprises
  - Leading developers, energy suppliers, service providers, local authorities...



# Community energy is...

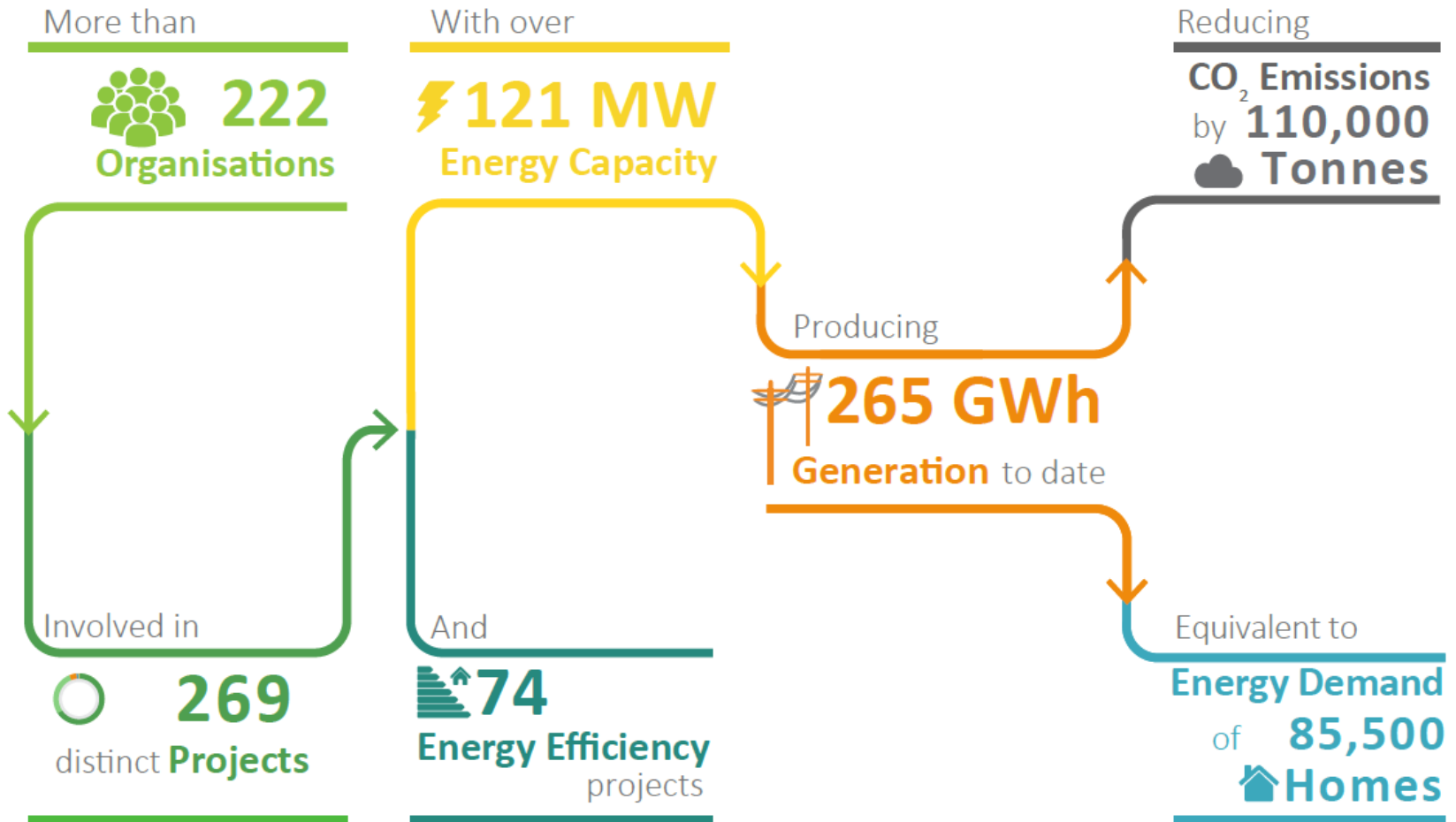


<http://mongoose.energy/community-energy/what-is-it/>



Community Leadership  
Ownership - Control - Benefit

# Community Energy in England & Wales



## More than



**Organisations** *with over*



**Members**

*and*



**Volunteers**

Community energy groups are found throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the success of which is made possible by a large number of staff, volunteers and members. The number of organisations has risen rapidly over the last ten years: the community energy sector is now composed of groups utilising a diverse range of business models and legal structures and includes a range of financing approaches.

- Community Benefit Society (BenCom) ■
- Co-operative ■
- Community Interest Company (CIC) ■
- Charity ■
- Unincorporated ■
- Limited Company ■
- Other Structures ■

## Activities by Type



- Electricity Generation
- Energy Efficiency & Demand Management
- Energy Storage
- Heat Generation
- Transport

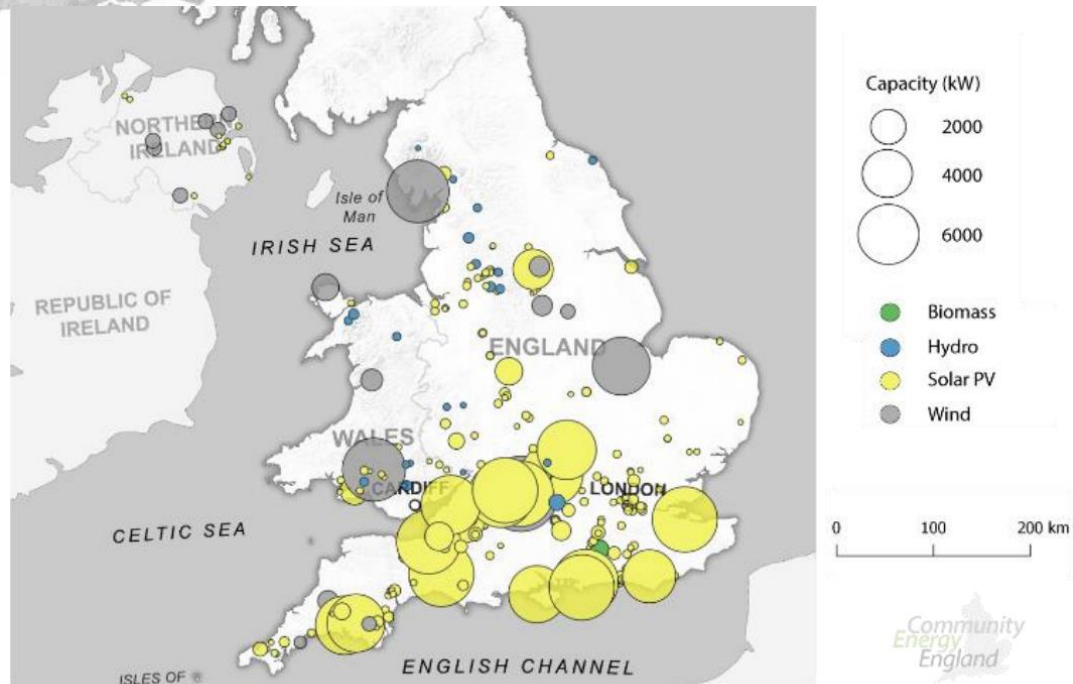
The community energy sector is dominated by energy generation projects (191 projects), often complemented by secondary energy efficiency and demand reduction initiatives.

Energy efficiency and demand reduction projects are considered the primary activity of 40 community energy organisations, with a further 34 organisations undertaking projects secondary to energy generation.

Few organisations are currently actively engaged in low carbon transport or energy storage activities.

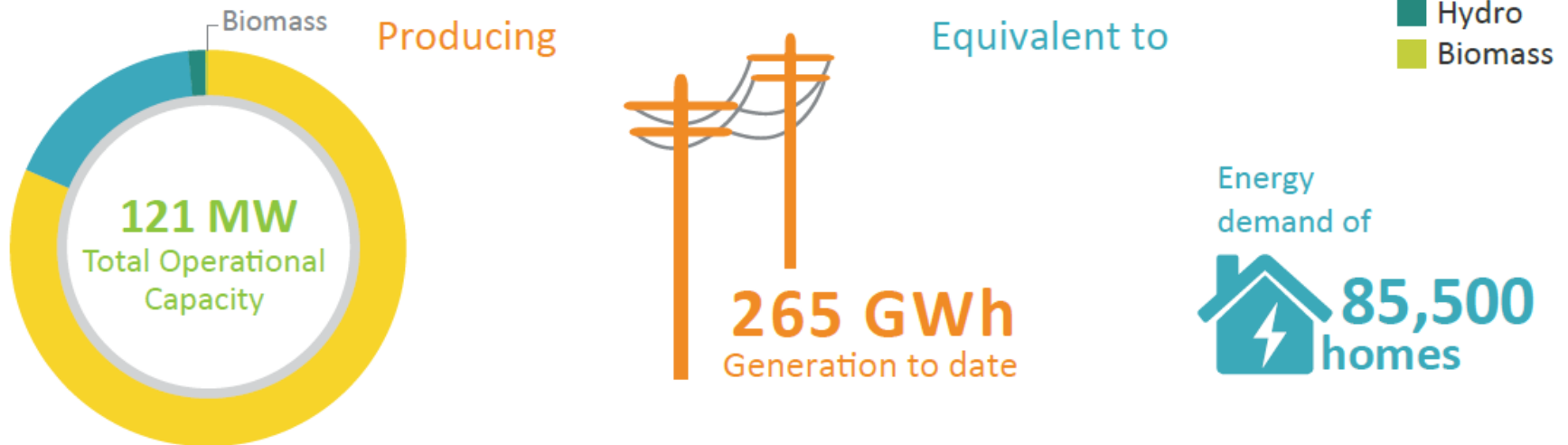


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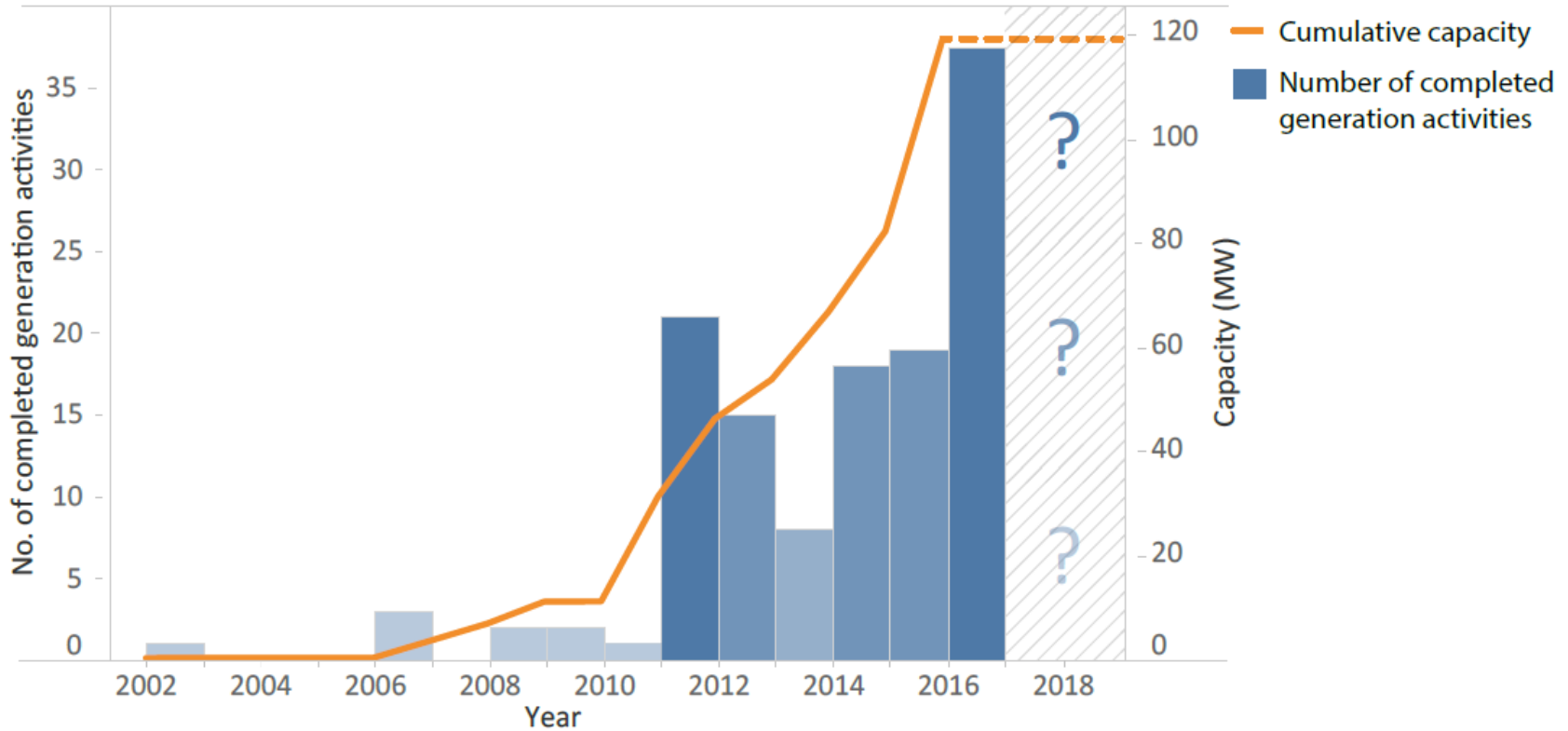
## Capacity by Technology



Over 121 MW of electricity generating infrastructure has been installed by community groups in England, Wales and Northern Ireland since 1997, generating 265 GWh, equivalent to the energy demand of over 85,500 homes.

The UK community energy sector has a combined generating capacity of over 188 MW, including Scottish community renewables.

## Activities and Cumulative Capacity in the Community Energy Sector

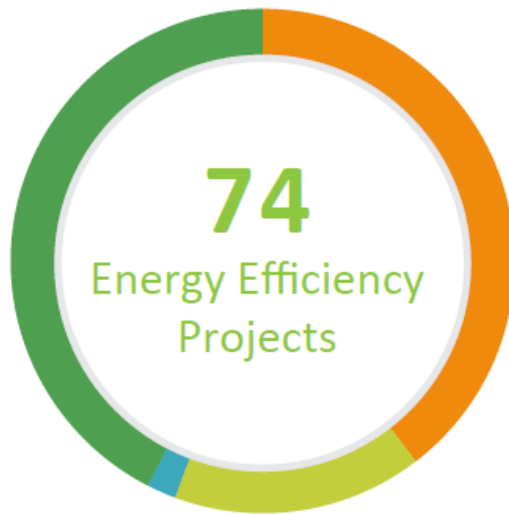


The community energy sector has grown rapidly in the past 20 years. Increasing project numbers from 2011 onwards have been a result of the introduction of the Feed-in Tariff.

A slowdown in the sector will soon become evident as the last schemes accredited before the 2015 cuts are installed. Many communities stated that a lack of subsidy support is limiting their ongoing and future energy ambitions.



## Energy Efficiency Services

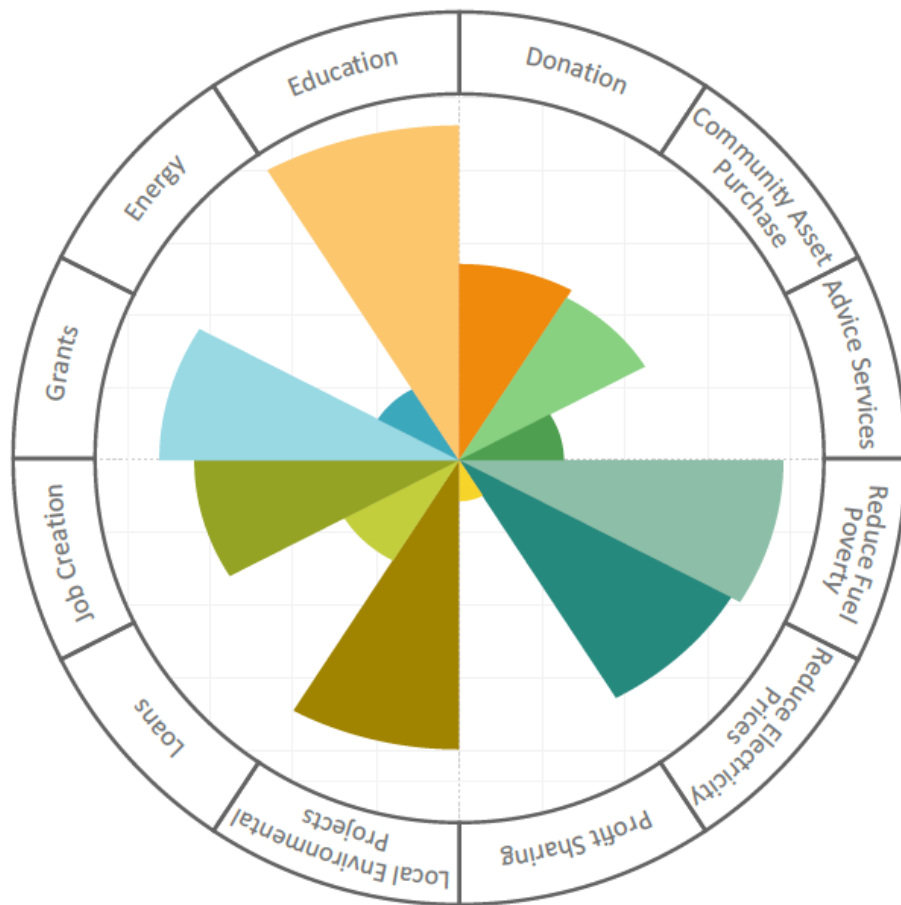


74 community organisations were identified as providing energy efficiency or demand management support to members of their community - ranging from advice and support to services and funding.

46% of all energy efficiency or demand management projects were considered secondary activities, building upon existing energy generation projects.

Services	Energy audits Energy efficient lighting Retrofit assessments Infrared camera audits Insulation
Advice & Support	Energy switching Energy cafés Awareness raising
Demand Management	Heating control Smart meter provision Energy monitoring
Funding	Grants Loans

## Social Benefits - Response Frequency



Reducing  
CO<sub>2</sub>e Emission by  
**110,000  
Tonnes**

Community organisations were found to have a range of motivations and objectives relating to their activities.

A number of projects directly contributed to energy cost reduction or fuel poverty reduction or aimed to support further initiatives in this area. Softer approaches to local development included education and awareness, as well as investment in job creation to stimulate the local economy.

At a non-local scale, communities were found to have reduced over 110,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e since 2002.

# Barriers



due to

Capital Finance

National Opposition

Engineering Issues

Feed-in-Tariff

Local Opposition

Lack of Expertise

Planning Process

Attracting Volunteers

Volunteer Motivation

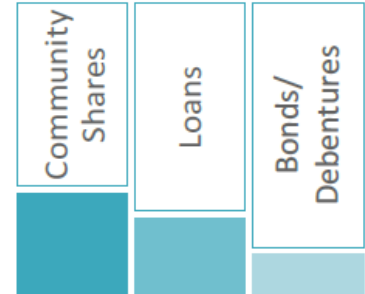
Supported by

Early Stage **Funding**  
 **£1.9M**

Leveraging

 **£190M**  
further **Investment**

Through



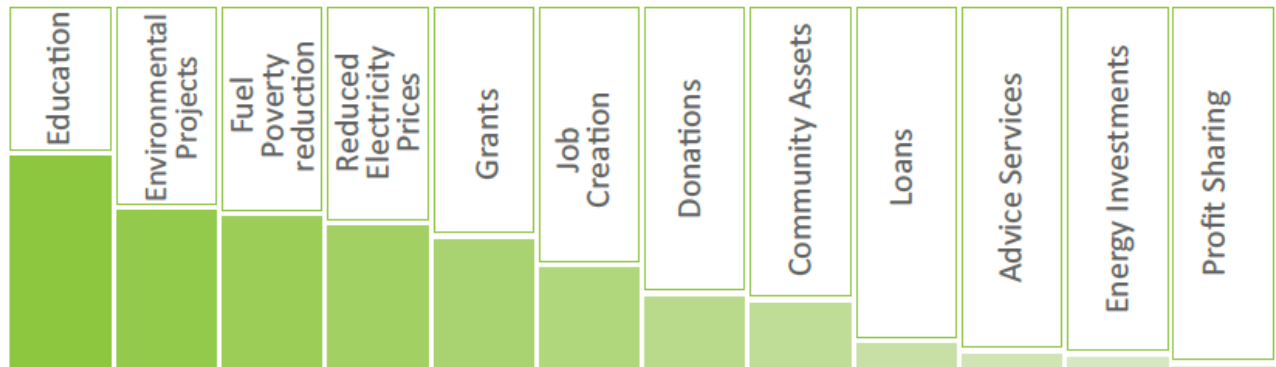
 **269**  
distinct **Projects**

Delivering over

**£620K** last year in  
**community benefits**

 **127**  
full time **Staff**

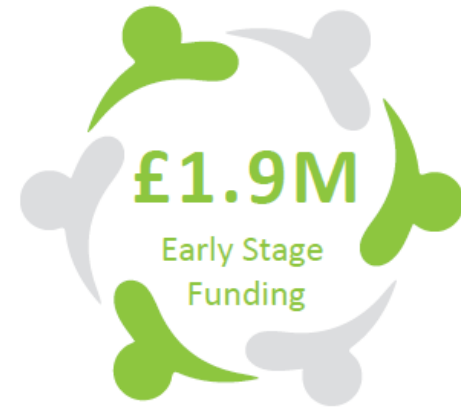
Helping to fund



## Early Stage Funding

Development funding supports a wide range of activities from initial feasibility assessments through to formal consents, such as planning permissions and resource licences.

33% of surveyed organisations are using, or have previously used, grants from UCEF, RCEF or Ynni'r Fro to progress their project development to a total of £1.9m across the sector.



- Government Funding
- Other Development Funding

**£409 K**



Urban Community  
Energy Fund (UCEF)

**£353 K**



Rural Community  
Energy Fund (RCEF)

**£237 K**



Ynni'r Fro

**£846 K**



Other Development  
Funding

## Investment Types

Overall it was reported that £190 million has been invested in financing projects across 108 community energy projects.

Though a large number of organisations source finance through loans – similar to many commercial developers – the bulk of investment has been raised from individuals through share offers, both locally and at a national level.



**£63.5 M**



Community Shares

**£47.5 M**



Loans

**£25.1 M**



Bonds/Debentures



# Funding options

- Community investment
- Debt and equity
- Subsidies?
- Grants
- Impact investing
- Services



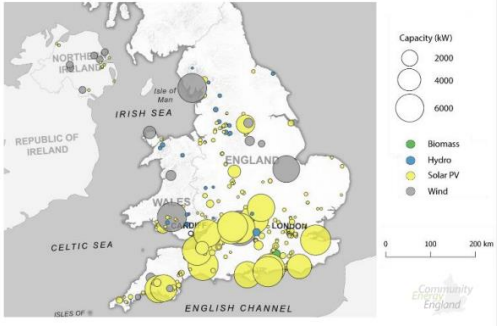
<https://communityenergyengland.org/pages/funding-opportunities-2>

# Policy

Decentralisation, Democratisation,  
Digitisation, Decarbonisation?

- National, regional, local
- Energy, industry and people
- Party politics
- Climate change
- What happens from 2019?

# The future of community energy



# CEE activity

*“Putting people at the heart of energy”*

- Advocacy – Communications – Building Capacity
- Events
  - Community Energy Afternoon of Big Ideas, 26.3, London
  - Energy Efficiency in Your Community, 19.4, Birmingham
  - Summer conference, 23.6, Manchester
  - Community Energy Fortnight, 23.6-8.7
  - Community Energy Awards, tbc, Autumn



# State of the Sector survey

- Community Energy England and Community Energy Wales are collecting data for the second State of the Sector Report, the first of which set a benchmark for annual community energy generation, energy savings and CO2 reduction projects in England, Wales and Northern Ireland up until the end of 2016.
- The State of the Sector Report is crucial in helping us to decide how to influence government policy over the next 12 months and in raising awareness of the value of community energy. It is therefore very important for us to get an accurate view of activity across the community energy sector.
- Please take the time to submit data on your organisation's activity
- Deadline for responses is **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

<https://communityenergyengland.org/pages/state-of-the-sector-report-2018/> \*





## Emma Bridge Community Energy England

[www.communityenergyengland.org](http://www.communityenergyengland.org)

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