

**Rt Hon. Ed Miliband MP**  
**Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero**  
**Department for Energy Security and Net Zero**  
**55 Whitehall London**  
**SW1A 2HP**

**CC:**

Rt Hon. Michael Shanks MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Energy)  
Chris Stark, Head of Mission Control for Clean Power 2030

6 November 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing as a coalition of leading organisations in the energy and community sectors, to call on the government to ensure community-owned energy is recognised as a core part of the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan.

We strongly welcome the government's commitment to delivering Clean Power by 2030. This acceleration represents a much-needed step change in our approach to net zero, moving us at-pace towards a more secure, resilient, clean energy system.

We also welcome the government's commitment to unlocking 8GW of local and community-owned energy, including shared ownership, as outlined in the GB Energy founding statement.

Communities across the country are eager to take a stake in renewable projects on their doorstep. Community-owned energy in particular, including shared ownership, can provide distinct social and economic value to people and places. It also increases local and wider public support for net zero by giving people a more direct stake and benefit in its delivery—allowing us to go further, faster on the Clean Power mission.

Given the 8GW commitment and community energy's distinct value, we believe it is critical to recognise this in the government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan.

NESO's advice on the Clean Power Plan has set out what is 'needed' for the 2030 ambition, i.e. how much of which technologies and where. However, since most of the capacity technically 'needed' is already in the connections queue, there is a risk that new community power projects cannot proceed.

We urge the government to designate community energy and shared ownership projects as 'needed' for 2030 and ensure this is recognised in the connections reform process. We would be pleased to discuss how these should be defined with your officials.

By doing so, we can accelerate the net zero transition in a way that unlocks clear benefits for people and communities, building broader support for our shared Clean Power mission in the process.

We would be happy to meet to discuss these issues at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

**Emma Bridge**, CEO, Community Energy England

**Ben Ferguson**, CEO, Community Energy Wales

**Zoe Holliday**, CEO, Community Energy Scotland

**Jake Burnyeat**, CEO, Communities for Renewables

**Stew Horne**, Head of Policy, Energy Saving Trust

**Merlin Hyman OBE**, CEO, Regen

**Dr Ashok Sinha**, CEO, Ashden Climate Solutions

**Janine Michael**, CEO, Centre for Sustainable Energy

**Jon Halle**, CEO, Shareenergy Co-operative and Big Solar Co-operative

