

# Community

# Energy

# Update

October 2017

Monthly news from the  
Centre for Sustainable  
Energy communities team



Visit [www.cse.org.uk/communities](http://www.cse.org.uk/communities) for further support or email [communities@cse.org.uk](mailto:communities@cse.org.uk).

For useful resources, check out [www.cse.org.uk/thesource](http://www.cse.org.uk/thesource).

Sign up for this monthly newsletter at [www.cse.org.uk/communities-update](http://www.cse.org.uk/communities-update)

We have **2,460** followers on Twitter.  
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## OpenLV: could your community produce an energy-use app?

Open LV

[www.openlv.net](http://www.openlv.net)

OpenLV is a new project which aims to make low voltage (LV) substation data – i.e. information on local electricity demand – available for others. This includes community groups who will be helped to design apps that result in energy savings and local substation ‘load management’.

Recruitment will begin in November. For the selected communities, local consultation and app design

workshops will take place in spring 2018, with software development taking place over the summer. Trials of the apps will officially launch in September 2018. Keep an eye on CSE’s twitter feed and the OpenLV webpage ([www.openlv.net](http://www.openlv.net)) for full application details.

Open LV is hosted by Western Power Distribution and funded by Ofgem’s Network Innovation Competition.

## Fuel poverty calculator user survey

We updated our hugely popular fuel poverty calculator last month with recalculated fuel cost and income threshold figures from 2015. We know it’s used a lot, but is it effective? If you’ve used the fuel poverty calculator, we want to know what you think. Please complete this very short survey: [www.bit.ly/2ge7guy](http://www.bit.ly/2ge7guy). If you’d like an updated version of the fuel poverty calculator, please email [communities@cse.org.uk](mailto:communities@cse.org.uk).



## Cheltenham Green Doors Open 'Supa Homes' Saturday 14 October

Three Cheltenham 'Supa Homes' will be open for a focussed look at great energy saving and retrofit ideas. The three homes will be open from 09:30-12:00 and at each home there'll be three 15-20 minute talks at 09:45, 10:30 and 11:15. The home owner will share their own experiences and knowledge of making their homes more comfortable while saving money. The three properties have been part of past Cheltenham Green Open Doors events. See more and register here: [www.bit.ly/2xwR26S](http://www.bit.ly/2xwR26S)

## Exeter Community Energy Community Fund

For organisations in and around Exeter there is a small pot of money available through the Exeter Community Energy's community benefit fund. It's open to town and parish councils, charities, CICs, schools, community groups and others for projects that save energy or alleviate fuel poverty. Deadline, Wednesday 20 October. Details from: [www.ecoe.org.uk/ecoe-community-fund](http://www.ecoe.org.uk/ecoe-community-fund).

**STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS!**

## New solar community energy fund for London

Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan has today (13 October) launched a £400,000, four-year fund to support community energy groups get their projects going. The cash is available for feasibility and planning assessments, stakeholder consultation; permissions etc. For details, see [www.bit.ly/2hF3DdF](http://www.bit.ly/2hF3DdF)



## M&S Community Energy Fund open for votes until 20 October

There's £300,000 of grants available in round 3 of the M&S Community Energy Fund to support renewable energy projects and technologies across the UK. You can have your say in who receives up to £12,000 by simply casting a vote, and spreading the word about your favourite. There are dozens to choose from and perhaps some in your local area (check out the maps). Past fund winners have included groups we've supported such as HartlePower CIC and we think it's a great initiative. Vote before Friday 20 October here:

[www.mandsenergyfund.com](http://www.mandsenergyfund.com).

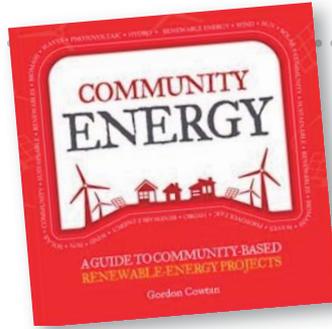
## Community Energy Conference 2017 – highlights and documents

The post event report, presentations and a photo gallery from the Community Energy Conference back in June can now be found online. It's a good point of reference for recent debates and conversations on energy storage opportunities, crowdsourced financing and the impact of Brexit on the energy landscape. Find it all here: [www.bit.ly/2zd8j2f](http://www.bit.ly/2zd8j2f).



## Community energy and hydrogen generation for Orkney

A pioneering new project on the island of Eday in Orkney has just launched converting excess energy produced from their abundant wind and tidal resources into hydrogen for storage. Hydrogen will be shipped to neighbouring Kirkwall to provide energy on demand. For more information, see [www.surfnturf.org.uk](http://www.surfnturf.org.uk)



## Book of the month: Community Energy: A guide to community-based renewable-energy projects

A book by co-founder of Fintry Development Trust Gordon Cowtan which looks at the role of community renewable energy projects in the UK, examining their history and the different types of project that have been successful and unsuccessful. See a review here:

[www.bit.ly/2yDx9Lx](http://www.bit.ly/2yDx9Lx)

## Summer 2017 was 'greenest ever'

The UK has set a new record for clean energy after the National Grid announced that the electricity powering the UK's homes and businesses this summer was the greenest ever. From 21 June to 22 September, around 52% of our electricity generation was met by low carbon sources, compared to around 35% four years ago. See more here:

[www.ngrid.com/2yDSJfZ](http://www.ngrid.com/2yDSJfZ)

## Video of the month: How to use a central heating programmer

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=T81Mte0s\\_h4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T81Mte0s_h4)

As the nights are drawing in and temperatures are dropping, we're all thinking about keeping warm at home. Don't forget that CSE have a suite of how-to videos for all sorts of heating systems as well as bill payments and getting rid of damp and condensation, some with British Sign Language accompaniment.



## Map of the month: How the US generates power

A new energy map from Carbon Brief shows US electricity sources. Interestingly, the south east shows no wind power while South Carolina has gone big on solar and storage technology is just starting to crop up. See [www.bit.ly/2z10kTv](http://www.bit.ly/2z10kTv)

