



Living Lab

Economics for Change on Community Level
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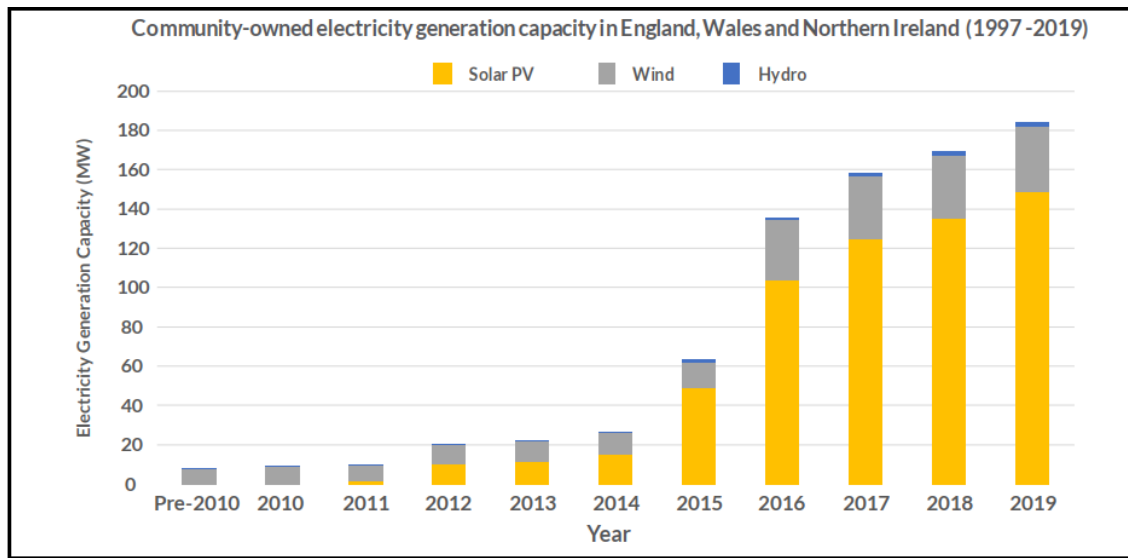
Bristol Energy Co-op – an overview

- Established in 2011.
- Over 1000 members.
- Mission: “Invest in renewables, cut carbon, build community.”
- Raised over £13 million via community share and bond offers, commercial loans, and loans from social funders.
- Owns 9MW of solar PV and 100kW of battery storage.
- Its solar portfolio of 2 solar farms and 13 rooftop installations generates enough electricity to power 3000 typical UK homes.
- Has facilitated over £250,000 of community benefit payments to the local community.
- 4 employees.
- Currently developing hydro, microgrid and solar schemes.
- People invest in BEC for a financial, environmental, and social return.



Community energy in the UK

In 2019 there were over 300 community energy groups across England, Wales and Northern Ireland:



Source: State of the Sector 2020 Report by Community Energy England & Community Energy Wales



Next steps

So, good progress in those last 10 years, and lots of enthusiasm and commitment in the sector.

But... government policy towards our sector has been unsupportive for some time. In 2019 the Feed-In Tariff (FiT) scheme was closed to new applicants. Many community energy groups are now struggling to find a viable business model.

So Boris, give us the tools to do our job!

- Introduce a community FiT scheme or give us access to the Contracts for Difference (CfD) scheme that's currently in place for much larger developers.
- Or require public sector bodies to buy their power from community groups through long-term sleeved/synthetic Power Purchase Agreements.
- Extend the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme that's due to close soon.



Any questions?

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drift for transition



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