

# GM Community Energy Action Plan



## What is Community Energy?

**Community energy initiatives deliver renewable energy and energy efficiency, owned and led by local people for the benefit of communities and businesses.**

Community energy can play a key part in delivering Greater Manchester's climate change targets, whilst building energy security and boosting training and employment in this growing sector.

# How can community energy help to deliver Greater Manchester's Carbon Neutral Targets?

In March 2019 over 60 people from community energy groups, Electricity Northwest, public and private sectors including local authorities and GMCA, social investors, commercial property developers, renewable energy installers, local and national charities and organisations, contributed to the development of a Community Energy Vision and Action Plan for Greater Manchester.

## Our vision is

**By 2024 Community Energy will be generating at least 10% of Greater Manchester's renewable energy targets, and will maximise carbon savings through energy efficiency and support a socially just low carbon energy transition.**

**We agreed that Community Energy will:**

- have a high profile with the public and Greater Manchester's businesses and organisations
- be a skilled professional sector
- be accessing finance for development, installation and operation of projects
- be supported in local plans and policies
- automatically be offered project sites and opportunities
- be at the forefront of innovation – including energy efficiency, energy storage, flexibility and smart systems, heat and transport
- be supported and enabled by a new Community Energy Hub.

There are many financial, organisational, policy and regulatory barriers that our largely voluntary sector faces in scaling up project development, delivering large projects and having a loud voice for Greater Manchester's people and communities. But we want to make sure that people have the opportunity to shape, invest in and benefit from the opportunities that the low carbon energy transition presents. We will work together to innovate new sustainable financial models and deliver the social, environmental and economic benefits that Community Energy organisations provide.

We have lots of supportive people and organisations to help do this.

Together we are currently developing a detailed action plan and will be holding a series of working group meetings to deliver this.



## **Preliminary actions agreed include:**

1. Setting up a Community Energy Hub which will support co-ordination, communication, knowledge-sharing, networking and play a catalytic role in scaling up and supporting the sector.
2. Hold a Finance Group meeting to tackle funds for pre-consent risk finance, investment-readiness, development, construction and operations investment.
3. Hold a Commercial Buildings Group meeting and in the summer, support the Power Paired launch to locate and support project partners for renewable energy generation sites across the city region.
4. Link through GMCA and the 10 local authorities – Environment Officers Group on policy and potential partnerships.
5. Schedule a workshop on community led and owned Electric Vehicle charging.

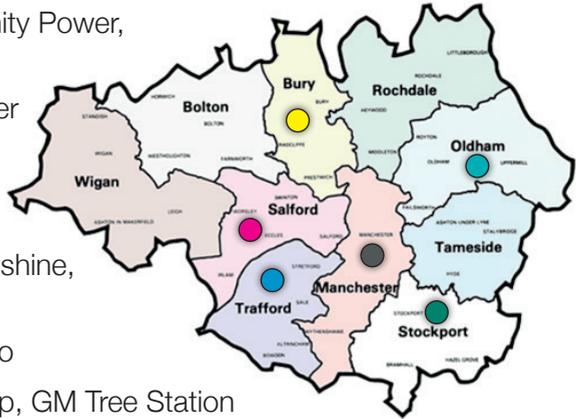
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# Community Energy in Greater Manchester

The North West has over 30 Community Energy organisations deploying just under 13.4MW.\*

## Who are my local community energy groups?

-  **Bury:** Biomass Energy Co-op
-  **Oldham:** Oldham Community Power, Saddleworth Hydro
-  **Salford:** Greater Manchester Community Renewables
-  **Trafford:** Greater Manchester Community Renewables, St John's Sunshine, Community Energy North
-  **Stockport:** Stockport Hydro
-  **Manchester:** Carbon Co-op, GM Tree Station



For links to your local community energy groups, and to sign a pledge to support community energy in Greater Manchester, please visit:- [gm-communityenergypledge.org.uk](http://gm-communityenergypledge.org.uk)

## Useful links

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

the membership body for Community Energy groups

[www.enwl.co.uk/advice-and-services/community-and-local-energy](http://www.enwl.co.uk/advice-and-services/community-and-local-energy)

Electricity North West's support for Community Energy

\* Source: CEE State of the Survey report 2018; Generation figure: ENWL Community and Local Energy Strategy