Good Energy Community Energy

We calculated that by 2020, UK community energy could...

- Reduce the UK's annual CO₂ emissions by 1 million tonnes
- Reduce the UK's coal imports for electricity generation by 9%
- Deliver economic benefits to communities and retain £ in the local economy.

Good Energy’s Hampole Wind Farm
Good Energy was founded in 1999 with a mission to transform the UK energy market by helping householders, businesses and communities be part of a sustainable solution to climate change. We aim to provide the blueprint for how energy companies can and should look in the 21st century. Our vision is for a decentralised energy system in the UK - away from the old-fashioned, high carbon system to a modern, low carbon system - where communities play a far more active role in the market.

The way we produce and manage our energy is already changing dramatically and the UK has witnessed the start of a revolution. In less than 10 years the proportion of the UK’s energy supplied by renewables has grown from 4% to 25%. Communities have been a driving force – Good Energy now supports over 124,500 homes and communities generating their own renewable energy through the Feed-In Tariff scheme.

Community energy projects unite people and organisations to act on local energy challenges and opportunities through local equity, participation and control. Projects deliver local benefits, while increasing awareness and understanding of energy issues.

However a lot of the mechanisms that previously supported the community energy sector have recently been cut. Since January, communities who want to invest in small-scale renewables will no longer receive the same rate of feed-in tariff support and various other supports have disappeared.

The potential role of commercial suppliers and generators has not featured very much in the debate around community energy so far, and we believe there is a greater role for industry in supporting the community energy sector.

This report aims to prompt that discussion. Over the following pages, we set out our view on the important role communities have to play in the UK’s future energy system. We show how community energy can help tackle the trilemma of challenges facing the energy system, to make the UK’s energy future secure, affordable and sustainable. Finally, we explore what’s needed to help realise the potential of community energy in the UK going forwards.

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Foreword from
Juliet Davenport OBE, CEO and Founder

Good Energy was founded in 1999 with a mission to transform the UK energy market by helping householders, businesses and communities be part of a sustainable solution to climate change. We aim to provide the blueprint for how energy companies can and should look in the 21st century. Our vision is for a decentralised energy system in the UK - away from the old-fashioned, high carbon system to a modern, low carbon system - where communities play a far more active role in the market.

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Juliet Davenport, OBE
CEO and Founder, Good Energy

October 2016
Community energy snapshot

- **>550 community energy groups**
  - Active in the UK
  - Could be supplied with electricity from community energy schemes.¹
  - Could be generated by ‘energy citizens’ (prosumers).²
  - And think Government should do more to help local communities generate their own energy and keep profits in the local area.³

- **1 million homes by 2020**
  - Could be supplied with electricity from community energy schemes.¹
  - Could be generated by ‘energy citizens’ (prosumers).²

- **44% of UK energy by 2050**
  - Of public support renewables³

- **76% of public support community generation**
  - Of public support renewables³

Since 2010...⁴

- **>£7.4m of Feed-in Tariff payments**
  - Leverage from £7.4m of community energy Feed-in Tariffs.

- **>£50m in private investment**

- **>£23m to Community Benefit Funds**

- **>155,000 hours of volunteer time**

- **45% of spend goes to local contractors³**

Good Energy...

- **20% savings local tariff**
  - Compared to our standard electricity tariff for communities around all our wind farms.

- **300,000 tonnes of CO₂ savings**
  - From our operational solar and wind farms over their lifetime.

- **£124,000 investment in communities**
  - Total annual contribution from nine operational solar and wind farms (in 2015).

- **Supporting 124,500 feed-in tariff customers**
  - Homes and communities generating their own energy.

- **54% of Cornish generation went to Cornish users**
  - During our Piclo trial.

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What is community energy?

A community energy project sees a group of people come together to purchase, manage, generate or reduce consumption of energy. This is a world away from conventional, carbon-intensive energy projects which often involve large energy companies building huge power stations with little engagement with, or benefit to, the communities they affect.

Community energy projects are different - they have an emphasis on local engagement, leadership and control, with real benefits to the local communities. They unite people and organisations to act on energy challenges and opportunities that are specific to their local area, while increasing knowledge, understanding and awareness of energy issues in general.

Examples of community energy projects include:

**Local renewable generation**
Most community energy projects involve generating renewable electricity locally. Small to medium sized wind and solar projects have been the backbone of the sector to date, stimulated by the potential to generate revenue for reinvestment in the local community.

**Community heat**
Although not yet widespread in the UK, community solar hot water, seasonal thermal energy storage (where heat or cold is stored for use in the opposing season) and district heating, all have the potential to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions through renewable heat generation and storage.

**Energy efficiency**
Communities can be involved in projects to improve the energy efficiency of local housing, often focusing on areas with high rates of fuel poverty. These projects deliver positive economic, social, health and wellbeing outcomes to local communities.

**Collective purchasing**
Communities can come together to negotiate a better deal on their gas, electricity or other heating fuel with a supplier, and potentially solar panels, solar heating systems and other energy systems.

Regardless of project scale or nature, community energy empowers people with more control over how they produce, use and manage their energy. This helps to tackle the bigger challenges around climate change, energy security and the affordability of energy.
A turning point for Community Energy?

The market for community energy in the UK has undergone radical transformation in recent years and the pace of change shows no sign of slowing. The recent rapid growth in renewable generation has been accompanied by increased consumer engagement in the energy market. Some were dismayed that just as community energy was beginning to flourish, a number of policies that could have supported the sector’s growth were scaled back or scrapped altogether.

The sector now finds itself at a crossroads. Experience of the past few years has generated strong evidence of the potential of community action to help tackle the three great challenges facing the UK energy market – sustainability, security and affordability. Yet little attention has been paid so far in the debate around the future of community energy to the role of commercial suppliers and generators.

This may be because, as the dominant incumbent force in the market, established energy companies are viewed with some suspicion by many in the community sector. Such reservations are understandable but Good Energy has always tried to do things differently – and arguably it is collaboration with innovative and forward-looking parts of the commercial sector that offers communities the greatest chance of achieving their ambitions.

This report frames our perspective on what’s needed to ensure the community energy sector achieves its potential and begins to explore how we think the commercial sector – and Good Energy in particular - can help.

The renewables revolution

Over the past few years we have seen an acceleration away from the old-fashioned, centralised fossil-fuel system, which has historically been dominated by ‘The Big Six’ energy suppliers with low levels of engagement by customers and communities.

The market has now started to adapt to a more modern, decentralised low-carbon system. In less than 10 years, the proportion of the UK’s energy supplied by renewables has grown from 4% to 25%, while the most heavily polluting fossil fuels like oil and coal are decreasing.

Increasing consumer engagement

Communities are also becoming increasingly engaged in energy markets. The number of energy “prosumers” generating their own renewable micro-generation systems has increased hugely since 2011.

The influence communities can have on the energy system is growing. Consumers are becoming increasingly capable of collecting and analysing data to optimise their energy consumption through a network of smart devices.

There is also growing potential for communities to engage in the energy market through flexibility, balancing and peer-to-peer services.²

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¹ Good Energy, 2016. Piclo: a glimpse of the future, powered by renewables
http://www.goodenergy.co.uk/blog/articles/2016/05/12/piclo-a-glimpse-of-the-future-powered-by-renewables

² Source: DUKES, 2016. Electricity fuel use, generation and supply (5.5).


The Policy Environment

The Feed-in Tariff (FiT)

The launch of the Government’s FiT scheme in 2010 spurred the rapid growth in community-focused renewable energy generation projects. It provides payments to individuals and groups who generate their own renewable energy through small-scale solar PV, wind, anaerobic digestion, hydro turbines, or micro-combined heat and power (CHP). Community generators benefit in three key ways:

1. Savings on their energy bills (by using their own electricity generation instead of buying from a supplier)
2. Payments for all the renewable electricity they have generated
3. An additional tariff for any surplus electricity sold back to the grid

FiT has helped tackle fuel poverty in some of the UK’s poorest households. It has helped make renewable electricity generation more widely accessible to councils and housing associations, who can install solar panels on roofs and other unused spaces. These organisations can then pass on the benefits received through FiT payments to tenants, reducing bills and providing an additional income which can be re-invested on projects such as energy efficiency.

Community Energy Strategy and Shared Ownership Taskforce

In 2014, DECC’s Community Energy Strategy was published. This led to the creation of a number of task-forces and working groups, most notably the Shared Ownership Taskforce. The Shared Ownership Taskforce developed a voluntary protocol encouraging developers to offer local communities at least a 5% share of renewable development projects worth £2.5m or more.

Other Support for Community Energy

There are some different approaches to community energy across the UK. In England, the Rural Community Energy Fund helps communities fund early stage developments to get projects off the ground. In Scotland, the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) provides a wealth of technical support to encourage the take-up of renewable energy projects with community shared ownership. The Welsh government programmes, Ynni-r Fro and Ynni Lleol, also offer a range of support to community scale renewable energy schemes, and have been critical in kick-starting the sector.

Good Energy’s Lower End Solar Farm

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Policy changes

At the end of 2015, COP21 in Paris saw an unprecedented level of global political consensus to take action on climate change. Despite this, at the same time, radical changes were made to key UK renewable policies and subsidies. Many of these were a major basis for the viability of community energy schemes.

Changes to the Feed-in Tariff have had the biggest impact on the sector. These included:

- A £100m limit on annual subsidy available for new FiT projects by the end of 2018/19, with interim caps; and
- The removal of pre-accreditation; which previously provided a tariff guarantee for eligible systems, including community projects.

These changes have significantly slowed the growth of the sector; solar and wind FiT's have fallen by >60%, solar build rates have reduced dramatically; and recent figures show that only 10 new community energy organisations were registered between January and September 2016, down from 76 the previous year.8

Regulatory challenges

Current UK regulation makes it difficult for communities to use energy generated locally to meet their own energy demands. Instead, they must sell their electricity directly into the grid, and buy it back at the retail rate from energy suppliers.

This buy-back pricing reflects the costs needed to maintain the transmission network and other infrastructure that is necessary to support an outdated centralised system. The cost of maintaining this network makes up around 25% of electricity bills.

Essentially, a community may invest in a local wind turbine, but to use the electricity it generates they have to pay for the maintenance of the entire region’s network and energy infrastructure.

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It is important that we have an energy system that meets the public’s standards for social acceptability, and UK support for renewables has never been stronger.

A huge 76% of the UK public now support renewables, and 78% think Government should do more to help local communities generate their own energy with profits staying in the area. Although there will always be some difference of opinion about what energy infrastructure should be prioritised and where; community energy projects engage a wide range of stakeholders; deliver benefits to the individuals and communities at their core; and increase wider awareness of energy issues in general.

Many communities that voted for Britain to leave the European Union share values and circumstances that will benefit most from community-based renewable generation and local democracy. Brexit provides an opportunity for the government to invest in community energy as a way to reach out to these communities, with policies that unlock the potential of co-ops, communities and small businesses that can support the UK’s renewable energy revolution.

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**Affordability**

Sustaining a centralised system is not efficient as the cost of coal, oil and gas are highly volatile and at risk of price fluctuations and sudden spikes. Energy that is produced by large, remote power stations must be transported through the transmission and distribution network which is costly to maintain and has losses along the way and these costs are reflected in our energy bills. Over 10% of households in England live in fuel poverty and this number is increasing. Dirty fossil fuels and leaky inefficient homes lead to poor health outcomes, and community renewable energy provides a solution for this.

Energy from the sun, wind and tides is free and community-based approaches encourage fairer distribution of wealth. Community shared ownership, benefit funds and local tariffs all help ensure the benefits of renewable energy are shared among the communities who host generation projects. Value generated can be invested in energy efficiency, education or biodiversity initiatives, or other projects to deliver positive health and wellbeing outcomes into the local area.

Empowering communities to participate in the energy market on a level playing field could lead to a fairer, more equitable, and smarter energy system. With ability to turn demand or generation up or down, communities offer a source of additional flexibility and functionality for the UK energy system. Through tools such as flexible tariffs and peer-to-peer energy trading, communities can lead the transition to a bottom-up, decentralised energy system, giving them more control over how they use and manage their energy – extracting more flexibility, value and efficiency from the energy system and avoiding unnecessary waste.

**Sustainability**

Burning fossil fuels in traditional power stations releases greenhouse gases and other pollutants like nitrogen, sulphur dioxides and particulate matter which contribute to climate change – one of the biggest threats facing society and the global economy today. The UK is a leading nation in fighting climate change with a system of five-yearly carbon budgets to make sure regular progress is made towards our 2050 target. In June 2016 we committed to a fifth carbon budget to cut the UK’s carbon emissions 57% by 2032 against 1990 levels. By shifting to community renewable energy schemes we can help the UK can achieve these targets.

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Security

There are a number of challenges relating to the security of the UK’s energy supply. We are still highly dependent on imported fossil fuels. These fuels are finite and we need to stop burning them before they run out. Depending on a few, large, centralised power stations can be risky – if one of these is forced to close a huge amount power could be lost, putting the entire grid at risk of a blackout. Although this hasn’t yet been a major problem in the UK, decentralised systems which rely on multiple, distributed generators, are more flexible, efficient and secure.

Community renewables will help the UK become more energy self-sufficient. Unfortunately, the solution is not quite as simple as just connecting more renewables to the grid. In some areas of the country – such as Cornwall and Scotland – the grid network is already at its maximum capacity. This means there are limits on how many more renewables can be connected to the grid, despite ideal environmental conditions or high rates of fuel poverty.

Energy security relies on being able to accurately match future demand and supply, to avoid shortfalls, or excess power entering and damaging the grid. A critical part of the challenge is planning for what the future grid may look like. However there are there are various pathways the energy system could take. For example, there could be up to 4 million electric vehicles on the roads by 2030 and 1 million electric heat pumps by 2025 – this increase in electrification will help decarbonise the heat and transport sectors to meet climate targets, but would also increase the variability of electricity demand. On top of this, the output of wind and solar generation is also variable, making it harder to precisely forecast their supply. This makes it challenging to plan a future energy system where supply and demand are balanced.

New local energy models can help overcome some of these challenges. Through projects such as demand side management, local supply networks and smart grid programs, communities can make how they use and manage their energy smarter. In practice, this could mean installing a battery to store surplus energy or responding to price signals to shift energy usage to times when overall demand is lower. Through these projects, communities can help keep the grid in balance, connect more renewables, and advance the UK’s energy security in an uncertain energy future.

The UK’s Future Energy Demand

Historic
Consumer Power: A wealthy, market-driven world
Gone Green: A wealthy world where environmental sustainability is a top priority
No Progression: A world focused on low-cost solutions
Slow Progression: A world focused on long-term environmental strategy


Benefits of Community Energy

**Security**
- Supports decentralization of the UK energy system.
- Renewables connect to distribution network, increasing resilience and reducing losses.
- Energy can be produced closer to where it is used.
- Local supply arrangements encourage communities to match their demand to local renewable supply.
- Makes the UK more energy self-sufficient and less reliant on energy imported from abroad.

**Sustainability**
- Tackle local energy challenges and opportunities.
- Can support a culture of social enterprise, and restore trust in the energy market.
- Engage local people – put power back in the hands of the people.
- Share skills and knowledge across local communities.
- Helps lead the UK towards a low-carbon future.
- Renewables projects can incorporate local biodiversity programs.
- Almost always involves renewables, helping meet our climate change targets.
- Reduces our dependency on polluting fossil fuels.

**Affordability**
- Can create local jobs.
- Community energy projects can leverage cheaper forms of cash for development.
- Reduce losses from the transmission grid.
- Can tackle fuel poverty.
- Investing in a community energy project provides better rates of return for a community investor than a bank.
- Local communities can benefit from local tariffs.
- New models help ensure the value of local generation remains in the local community.

**Public support**
- Projects centre around social acceptibility, support and commitment.
- Community integration and proactive engagement in the energy system.
- Increase understanding of the energy trilemma of challenges and trade-offs.
- Moves the UK closer towards a more sustainable, acceptable energy mix.
The success of community energy depends on having a simple, stable and long-term framework for the sector. In the UK, policy changes and cuts to subsidies have created an uncertain environment for investing in community energy generation schemes.

There are a number of actions that will restore certainty in the community energy sector and empower more communities to access the benefits of local energy systems. Some of our suggestions are below. We recognise this is an incomplete list and would welcome additional dialogue from others.

1. **Give community renewable generation schemes material weight in the planning system.**

   As recommended by Community Energy England, we suggest that community ownership status should be a material consideration when schemes are passing through the planning system in England and Wales, as is already the case in Scotland. There could be requirements on local councils to do more to enable renewable energy in their local areas, while still remaining sensitive to precious landscapes. Options could include assessments of renewable energy resource availability, deployment targets, and other positive supportive policies – such as specifying suitable areas for wind development.

2. **Further encourage developers to explore where opportunities for community shared ownership exist.**

   Accessing early stage finance remains a significant barrier to many community energy projects. Shared ownership between communities and renewable developers is an alternative option for financing generation projects which benefits both parties and is also supported by Community Energy England.

   By issuing a share offer to local communities, developers can access early-stage finance that is needed to get a generation project underway. As communities investment goals are so different from other sources of finance, such as banks, and given the other non-financial benefits, communities may accept lower rates of return. Communities can purchase shares for as much or little as they want and expect a higher rate of return on their capital than the interest rates they would earn from a bank. Plus they get the satisfaction of investing their cash in a local project that is helping to tackle climate change and returning benefits to the local communities.

   The recommendations of the Shared Ownership Taskforce could be built on to encourage shared ownership between communities and developers beyond a voluntary 5% share offer. The government could consider mandating the requirement and increasing the proportion of shares offered to communities for all larger renewable generation schemes.

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3. Encourage innovation in the community energy sector by supporting new approaches and trials around flexibility, local supply networks and demand-side management.

Although policy changes have disrupted the community energy sector, they have opened space for innovation - as IPPR highlights, new business models are needed that are not dependent on subsidy for profitability. This is where commercial insight from suppliers and others in the market could be advantageous.

Local supply networks and small-scale projects which connect to low-voltage systems have the potential to unlock efficiencies and savings for communities. Although these are growing, they are often limited by regulatory and charging barriers. New technology such as Active Network Management (ANM) and new charging proposals should be encouraged to help tackle this.

More focus on the potential of community energy to offer demand-side management and flexibility services also provides considerable opportunity; especially given that grid constraints are another barrier to new generation. Flexibility and demand-led community energy projects will help increase grid flexibility, maximise the value and efficiency of existing renewable generation assets, and develop smarter systems for local supply.

Lots of innovation is already happening in this area, including trials of smart-grid projects that engage local communities and peer-to-peer trading of energy between local generators and consumers.

4. Reduce regulatory barriers and investigate new charging methodologies to enable local renewable generators to sell energy directly to local users.

Once a community has set up a generation project, the natural progression would be to sell and use that energy locally. However current regulation means that is not easily possible as community generators have to sell their energy to the grid for around 3p/kWh and then buy it back at the retail rate of around 15p/kWh. This means communities are not incentivised to shift their electricity use to match local generation.

Peer-to-peer energy

Working with innovative energy start-up, Open Utility, Good Energy developed the UK's first peer-to-peer marketplace for renewable energy. This pioneering new service enables commercial customers and renewable generators to buy and sell electricity. The platform helps communities better trade electricity between their local generation assets and local users.

Smart, Local Energy with Good Energy

Good Energy is building on their experience of peer-to-peer matching, and investigating innovative options for linking local generation to supply. Good Energy is a partner in SMART Fintry, a project that aims to test and prove a new and innovative way to match local supply and generation using electricity that’s affordable, 100% renewable and produced locally to be used locally.

Fintry is a Scottish village with higher than average energy costs, due to its remote location. Fuel poverty is prevalent in the area, partly due to outdated infrastructure and high energy consumption, and 50% of homes are hard to heat.

Good Energy will be offering residents a low-cost, local renewable energy tariff. The tariff will be calculated by virtually linking the village’s energy consumption to the electricity produced by nearby renewable generators.

The project will show how local supply networks can work within the current infrastructure, to reduce energy costs, cut carbon, and make it easier for more renewable generators to connect to the grid, using a model that’s replicable across the UK.
Regulatory barriers and market complexities need to be reduced and replaced with simple incentives that empower communities to diversify their approaches to engaging in the energy industry with new local models. New charging methodologies that more accurately reflect how customers and generators use the electricity network will help retain value of community generation in the local area.

Investing in the development of new business models for control, coordination and automation should be a priority. Funding for energy storage, aggregation of distributed energy assets, peer-to-peer trading, and platforms for virtual energy companies, will all help realise the value of decentralised and community energy.

5. Add community energy to the list of eligible sectors for tax relief schemes, such as the Social Investment Tax Relief (SITR).

Tax reliefs and incentives can help encourage social enterprise – a characteristic inherent in community energy schemes. We support Community Energy England who recommends that community energy projects should be eligible for such schemes. The Government considered enlarging SITR in March 2015, and we would recommend revisiting this consideration and including Community Energy. Encouraging a more commercial culture will help make sure new, innovative community approaches and local energy models are sustainable in the long-term.

Finally we think partnerships between key industry players, such as energy suppliers, local authorities, technology companies and network operators will be essential for supporting communities to get new schemes off the ground and identify the best opportunities for maximising benefits locally. We hope this report will stimulate discussion between government, communities, commercial generators and suppliers, and other stakeholders about what is needed to support the community energy sector.

Fairer charging for matching local generation and demand

New charging methodologies could mean consumers and generators can be charged more fairly for using the local distribution grid - rather than having to pay for the maintenance of the entire electricity network.

Peer-to-peer energy matching can be used to determine how much of the grid has been used, and generators and consumers can be charged accordingly. The new charging methodology has the potential to unlock billions of pounds for communities and decentralised generation, over the next 10 years, by matching electricity locally.

School children naming the turbines in Hampole
Good Energy’s Lower End Solar Farm
Community Energy with Good Energy

Good Energy realises the potential that communities have to drive the transition to a sustainable, secure, low-carbon energy system. We’ve long championed the role of communities in securing our energy future and are committed to continue working with them to support this transformation.

2000 – Supporting 1,000 renewable generators

Good Energy provide renewable electricity to around 5,000 customers from electricity purchased from around 1,000 independent renewable generators.

2004 – Good Energy launch HomeGen and pioneer community energy

Good Energy launch its award-winning scheme, HomeGen, paying independent generators for all the energy they produce and forming the blue-print for the Feed-in Tariff scheme.

2008 – Good Energy launch UK’s first renewable heat incentive, HotROC’s

Good Energy’s award-winning HotROC’s scheme was the UK’s first renewable heat incentive. It pays domestic solar generators money for the renewable heat energy they produce.

2011 – Supporting community-owned renewable generation in Cornwall

Community Power Cornwall (CPC) develop Cornwall’s first community-owned renewable energy site in the form of two 80KW wind turbines at Gorran. Good Energy purchases enough renewable electricity from the project to power around 220 average homes each year. Proceeds are invested in local environmental or energy-saving projects.

2013 – UK’s first local tariff launches and windfall payment

Households near Good Energy’s Delabole wind farm are rewarded with renewable electricity that is at least 20% cheaper than Good Energy’s standard prices. Residents also each receive an annual windfall payment of up to £50 linked to the performance of the wind farm.
2014 – A second wind-farm, Hampole, comes online, also offering a local tariff

2014 – Investing in local communities and biodiversity

Good Energy develop its first solar farm in Woolbridge, Dorset, following the principles of Our Development Charter. This ensures that all Good Energy’s renewable projects deliver local benefits, bring investment to the local economy, and enhance the natural environment to leave a positive legacy for years to come.

All Good Energy’s wind and solar sites provide community benefit funds on a ‘£ per megawatt installed’ formula to support local charitable and community projects. A committee of local people recommend how each fund should be allocated.

2015 – Good Energy becomes first British energy company to accept a local currency

By enabling customers to pay their energy bills using Bristol Pounds, Good Energy is helping to strengthen local economies. The Bristol Pound helps retain money in the local area for longer, increasing access to local markets and supporting local businesses.

2015 – The UK’s first peer-to-peer marketplace for renewable energy

This innovative online marketplace helps identify opportunities to match local generation and demand. Local businesses can buy renewable electricity directly from specific sites, and renewable energy generators can choose to sell the electricity they produce directly to their neighbours, local businesses or schools. The service gives communities more control and transparency over sourcing and selling their renewable electricity and helps them to retain benefits locally.

The platform uses meter data, generator pricing and consumer preference information to match electricity demand and supply every half hour. The online interface allows users to easily view their amount of energy matched with local suppliers or consumers. The example above shows stats for a consumer in Cornwall, and shows how matching can be affected by seasonal variation in renewable generation.
During the trial Cornwall emerged as a buzzing local energy market – with some generators, like the community-owned turbines at Gorran, supplying almost 100% of their electricity within 33 miles. The Eden Project is on the same local grid network as many existing generators. Analysis showed that, depending on the level of local matching that occurs; the Eden Project’s charges for use of the distribution system could be reduced by 39% or £20,000 annually. Simple rules could ensure the Eden Project shares this reward with local generators.17

**2016 – Supporting small-scale renewable generators**

Good Energy is now one of the largest Feed-in-Tariff administrators in the country, supporting small-scale renewable generators. With over 124,500 sites, including community projects, we make up 15% of the market and support dozens of community-owned schemes and small-generators connected to the grid. Approximately 44% of Good Energy’s FiT sites are on council or social housing, helping to mitigate fuel poverty in some of the country’s poorest households.

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17 Open Utility, 2016. A glimpse into the future of Britain’s energy economy.
Let us know what you think

Stay updated via our blog and e-news on how Good Energy are working with local communities.

For further information please get in touch via email: innovation@goodenergy.co.uk

Or: development@goodenergy.co.uk if you want to discuss any potential projects.

Thank you.
Switch for Good online:
www.goodenergy.co.uk
Or call:
0800 254 0004
“It’s great to see that an innovative supplier like Good Energy grasps the benefits that community energy can bring to the market and is starting to address the ways it can support the sector. The relationship between commercial suppliers, generators and community energy organisations needs to be explored more for community energy to realise its potential and, through this report, Good Energy is demonstrating its commitment to that process.”

**Emma Bridge, Chief Executive, Community Energy England.**