

# POWERINGUP!

Thursday 4 September 2014 - Oxford Town Hall

Scaling up  
community  
energy  
together

The first UK community energy conference  
for public sector and communities

Photograph courtesy of Westmill Solar Co-operative



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Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

# Welcome

## Rt Hon Edward Davey MP Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change



A warm welcome to the Powering UP! event – our first UK conference on community energy. My thanks go to OxFutures, our partner for today.

This January, I launched the UK's first ever Community Energy Strategy and, on the same day, I wrote to all local authority leaders in England calling on them to support communities by acting as local coordinators, engaging in partnerships and investment and through planning and local energy strategies.

A lot of progress has been made since then but we have more work to do. This event aims to learn from our experience, to catalyse many more successful community energy partnerships and to establish their place in the UK's energy market.

As local authorities and communities groups you have a unique opportunity to work together to achieve greater energy independence for your communities. The power to change our energy future is in your hands.



## Councillor Bob Price Leader Oxford City Council



I am delighted and proud for Oxford to be hosting today's Powering UP conference.

Here in Oxfordshire we have witnessed a transformation in the way local organisations collaborate on energy. With a wealth of community hydro and solar projects being installed across the city and county, we are realising more and more the social and economic benefits these new projects can bring to the area.

In recent years have seen a growing appetite for investment in local community energy and we are extremely lucky to have such a great number of passionate and determined community energy groups in Oxford. As a local authority Oxford City Council is keen to support communities in their energy independence and to share our experiences with other Councils across the UK.

With Powering UP we are excited to bring together communities and local authorities to take inspiration from each other on what can be achieved when the right partners work together.



## Councillor Ian Hudspeth Leader Oxfordshire County Council



I'm delighted to welcome you to Oxfordshire and to this important conference, showcasing the size, commitment and vibrancy of the community energy sector.

Oxfordshire County Council is particularly proud to support the exciting OxFutures project in partnership with Oxford City Council and the Low Carbon Hub. It's one example of the County's long-term support to community sustainability.



While you're here, do take time to find out about the Oxfordshire CAG project. Set up in 2001 and funded by the County Council, the network of over 50 community action groups is the largest of its kind in the UK. It runs over 1,000 events per year, attended by over 60,000 local residents, nearly 10% of our total population.

Several of these community action groups are working with the Low Carbon Hub to develop their own energy projects. And no doubt, you'll be hearing about the solar pv schemes installed on over 15 of the county's schools this summer, as part of the OxFutures project.

We look forward to hearing about your successes.

# The Day's Agenda

9.00	Registration - Coffee/tea on arrival
9.30	<p><b>PLENARY - HOW CAN LOCAL AUTHORITIES SUPPORT COMMUNITY ENERGY?</b></p> <p><b>Open by Chair</b> Ed Gillespie, Co-Founder of Futerra</p> <p><b>OxFutures: Oxford's low carbon journey</b> Cllr Bob Price, Oxford City Council Jo Colwell, Oxford City Council</p> <p><b>Keynote speech</b> Rebecca Willis, Co-operatives UK and Pure Leapfrog</p> <p><b>Community Energy Strategy and beyond</b> Barbara Hammond, Low Carbon Hub Hugh Ellis, Town and Country Planning Association Sarah Harrison, Ofgem Simon Roberts, Centre for Sustainable Energy</p>
10.50	Coffee Break
11.15	<p><b>Inspiration from around the UK</b> Reg Platt, Institute of Public Policy Research Pete Capener, Bath &amp; West Community Energy Jane Wildblood, Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council Tanya Nash, City and County of Swansea Alistair Macpherson, Plymouth City Council Jake Burnyeat, Plymouth Energy Cooperative Chris Wood-Gee, Dumfries and Galloway Council Agamemnon Otero, Repowering London Cllr Imogen Walker, Lambeth Council Dan McCallum, Awel Aman Tawe Kendal Davies, Carmarthenshire County Council Kate Watson, Bristol City Council</p>
12.40	Networking lunch and exhibition
14.00	<p><b>Address from Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change</b> <b>Rt Hon Edward Davey MP</b></p> <p><b>Open Space Breakouts</b> The subjects of the afternoon's series of discussion groups will be decided upon on the day using Open Space principles. Ed Gillespie will introduce the session, giving conference attendees an opportunity to propose discussion topics in return for leading a breakout session and feeding back key insights to the conference.</p> <p><b>Closing plenary</b> Ed Gillespie</p>
17.00	Networking drinks - with the UK Community Energy Awards

# Our Speakers

## Jo Colwell

Jo is Environmental Sustainability Manager at Oxford City Council and is also Programme Director for the European funded OxFutures work. Jo is a former civil servant in the Scottish Government, prior to this she led the Scottish programme for the Sustainable Development Commission. At the inception of devolved government Jo worked with Sarah Boyack MSP, the first Minister for Environment, Transport and Planning and latterly the Convenor of the Environment Committee. Jo is a Member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (MIEMA), Certified CSR Practitioner and holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Policy from the Open University.



## Tanya Nash

Tanya Nash has over 20 years' experience in sustainable development with 14 years at the Sustainable Development Unit of the City and County of Swansea, developing policy and systems to mainstream and integrate sustainable development principles into the activities of local government. Prior to her work for the City and County of Swansea, Tanya has had experience working for the voluntary sector, promoting sustainable development education in both formal and informal settings and developing projects with community groups and young people. She is an experienced trainer and facilitator and a qualified teacher, gaining an MSc in Environmental and Development Education and more recently a Certificate in Strategic Environmental Assessment.



## Hugh Ellis

Hugh joined the Town and Country Planning Association as senior planner in April 2009. Before taking the post he had been senior planning advisor to Friends of the Earth for 10 years and had previously worked as a lecturer in the University of Sheffield planning school. Hugh's key responsibilities are to provide expert planning advice to the organisation. In 2013 he co-wrote Planning out Poverty, a year-long research project with the Webb Memorial Trust which explored the overarching question 'how can we re-focus planning to be more effective in dealing with social exclusion?'



## Dan McCallum

Dan is Manager of Awel Aman Tawe (AAT), Director of Egni Solar Cooperative and Community Energy Wales. AAT is a charity involved in renewable energy, energy efficiency and environmental projects in Wales. AAT grew out of suggestions at a Local Agenda 21 public meeting in 1998 to develop a community wind farm. Planning was achieved for the 4MW wind farm in May 2009 and work is ongoing. AAT is also contracted to deliver an advice service to other community groups in the S. Wales Valleys as part of the Ynni'r Fro programme to develop community renewables, particularly wind, hydro and anaerobic digestion.



## Barbara Hammond

Until 2010, Barbara's role was in Government, including running the UK's renewable energy programmes. Her current roles are CEO of the Low Carbon Hub, a social enterprise launched in 2012 to bring community energy and carbon reduction to scale; Director of Low Carbon Oxford programme, a city-wide initiative to reduce emissions; and Chair of West Oxford Community Renewables (or WOCORe). She is also on the Community Energy Contact Group, working with Government on the strategy for community energy.



## Cllr Bob Price

Councillor Bob Price is an economist whose professional career has been in HR management. He was first elected to Oxford City Council in 1983 and has been Leader of the Council since May 2008. He is a member of the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board and the Oxfordshire Skills Board, as well as of the Arts Council England South East Board, and the LGA Improvement and Innovation Board. He leads for the Council on planning and economic development, skills and corporate strategy.



## Chris Wood-Gee

Chris Wood-Gee is team leader for Sustainable Development with Dumfries and Galloway Council. Chris started work in agriculture but has spent the majority of his working life developing community greenspace and in landscape management. The move to sustainability and climate change seems a natural progression making use of past experience to tackle the most important issue facing us in the future. Chris sees the development and management of renewable energy by communities as critical to this and is one of the few global issues where communities and individuals can make a real difference.



## Kate Watson

Kate has been Energy Manager at Bristol City Council since 2013. Kate is also one of the founding directors of Bristol Green Doors, project managing the inaugural event in 2010 and two technologies events in 2011. Kate completed her MSc in Advanced Environmental and Energy Studies at the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) in July 2011 after having former career as an interior architect.



## Rebecca Willis

Rebecca Willis is an independent researcher. Her work focuses on environmental politics and policymaking at both a national and local level. Rebecca convenes Green Alliance's Climate Leadership Programme for MPs, and advises the Lake District National Park on climate change. She has a particular focus on community energy issues, working with Co-operatives UK and others to improve the policy environment for decentralised energy solutions. In May 2011 she was appointed as a Council Member of the Natural Environment Research Council. She writes on issues such as climate change, energy policy, public attitudes to the environment, government spending and taxation, and the environmental and social impact of new technologies.



## Ed Gillespie

Ed is Co-Founder of Futerra, one of the world's only communications consultancies to specialise solely in sustainable development and corporate social responsibility where he has shaped and driven the creative direction of Futerra's work since its foundation. Ed is also a London Sustainable Development Commissioner, a Director of carbon emissions campaigning organisation Sandbag, Chairman of European Rail Business Loco2 and an investor in FoodTrade.



## Pete Capener

Pete is Chair of Bath and West Community Energy. He has worked in the sustainable energy field for 25 years, including seven years as Chief Executive of the Centre for Sustainable Energy in Bristol. Since resigning from CSE in 2002 due to family illness, Pete has worked as an independent advisor on a range of energy efficiency, renewable energy and fuel poverty projects for various private, public and voluntary sector clients. Currently Pete is a member of the Energy Minister's Community Energy Contact Group and is interim chair of Community Energy England. He is also a judge for the UK Ashden Awards and a trustee of the Centre for Sustainable Energy. Pete has an MSc in Energy Resource Management.



## Reg Platt

Reg leads IPPR's work on energy policy. He specialises in energy markets and regulation, disruptive trends in clean technology and local energy company business models. Reg is prominent voice in national debates about energy policy. His upcoming report, 'Power Cut' will reveal how policy currently favours the large-scale utility business model and advocate for a fundamental change in approach so that local and distributed energy is prioritised. Reg's recent report 'City Energy' set out how cities can enter the energy market as suppliers. Reg is soon to join Ovo Energy as Senior Partnerships Manager will his role will be to grow the companies' pioneering community energy offering. Reg began his work on energy and climate change issues by founding a number of community energy projects.



## Sarah Harrison

Sarah took on leadership of Ofgem's Sustainable Development Division in 2009. The Division brings together environmental, social and consumer policy, and leads Ofgem's enforcement work. Sarah's responsibilities also include HR and she is an Executive member of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority. Sarah is chair of the senior representatives group of the UK Regulators Network (UKRN) which covers the nine leading economic regulators in the UK. She is also a Director of TrustMark.



## Cllr Imogen Walker

Imogen Walker is Deputy Leader of Lambeth Council with responsibility for policy. She is part of the leadership in Lambeth who support community energy programmes, and in particular the work that Repowering London are doing. She is also a trustee of the Greek Animal Welfare Fund and a Vice President of the RSPCA.



## Jane Wildblood

Jane Wildblood is the Corporate Sustainability Manager at Bath & North East Somerset Council. Jane is the strategic lead on the Council's commitment to tackling climate change through community enablement and partnership working. Work within Jane's remit includes the Energy@Home programme providing support to residents making energy efficiency improvements to their homes, renewable energy, local and sustainable food, the Council's operational carbon management plan and the district-wide Environmental Sustainability Partnership guiding work on climate change and other aspects of sustainability. Jane also leads cross-boundary projects as a member of the Low Carbon Sector Group of the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

## Jake Burnyeat

Jake is Managing Director of Communities for Renewables CIC (CfR); a specialist advisory company that works with community energy co-operatives, commercial developers and local authorities to develop, finance and manage community-owned energy generation schemes. Jake is a renewable energy professional with over 10 years experience in renewable energy project development, commercial advice and finance raising. He has worked full-time in community energy for the last 4 years. Prior to that he was COO of Green Peninsula, an advisory company helping large energy users to develop and implement renewable energy strategies. Prior to that he worked for the Ernst & Young Renewable Energy team. He is also a voluntary founding director of the WREN energy co-operative (Wadebridge).



## Simon Roberts OBE

Simon has been helping people and organisations to develop effective responses to the threat of climate change and the misery of cold homes for nearly 30 years. Since 2002 he has been Chief Executive of the Centre for Sustainable Energy, one of the UK's leading energy charities. He previously worked in senior roles for Triodos Bank and Friends of the Earth. Simon is a specialist advisor to Ofgem and to several academic research programmes. He chairs the Board of Triodos Renewables Plc and is a non-executive director of Bristol Energy Network CIC. He was awarded an OBE in 2011.



## Agamemnon Otero

Agamemnon is Chief Executive Officer at Repowering London. He is experienced in providing finance solutions for the energy sector including business development, management and operations. He is a director and project manager for Brixton Energy Solar 1, Solar 2 & solar 3. He has previously been Director of Renewable Energy Project Finance and Social Responsibility at Better World Finance and the CFO of Energy Bank Ltd. UK Department for Energy and Climate Change Community Energy Contact group. A speaker on sustainable low carbon economies, Agamemnon has a Master's degree in Architecture in Advanced Environment & Energy and a Baccalaureate in pre-medicine, Literature and Fine Arts.



## Alistair Macpherson

CEO, Plymouth Energy Community and Low Carbon City Team Leader, Plymouth City Council. Alistair has 20 years' experience in the development of environmental policy and projects in both the public and voluntary sectors. Currently he manages a Plymouth City Council team of nine focused on fuel poverty and climate change, and leads the provision of staff services for Plymouth Energy Community and PEC Renewables Ltd.



## Kendal Davies

Kendal is a Chartered Environmental Health Practitioner and is employed as the Sustainable Development Manager for Carmarthenshire County Council – one of the 22 unitary authorities in Wales. He has specialised in sustainable development issues for almost twenty years and is currently focused on delivering renewable energy projects.



# Conference Hosts

The Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) works to promote economic growth by delivering affordable, sustainable and secure energy to the UK, while driving ambitious action on climate change internationally

On 27 January 2014, the Secretary of State Edward Davey launched the UK's first ever Community Energy Strategy. This marked an exciting step change for the sector and included a series of ambitious new measures. DECC is already working closely with industry and community energy stakeholders to ensure that the bold vision of scaling up community energy becomes a reality.

DECC responsibilities include ensuring consumers see the benefits of smart metering and DECC will join Smart Energy GB at their display over the networking lunch. DECC officials responsible for fuel poverty and the Renewable Heat Incentive will also be present and are keen to discuss how communities could reduce bills for homes, businesses and community buildings.

[gov.uk/community-energy](http://gov.uk/community-energy) | @DECCgovuk



## Department of Energy & Climate Change

The OxFutures programme has been kick-started by a grant from Intelligent Energy Europe to leverage investment of £20 million into local energy projects by 2016. The aim of the programme is to position Oxfordshire at the forefront of low carbon innovation and lead the UK's transition to a sustainable energy future.



OxFutures is a partnership project with Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council and the Low Carbon Hub

[oxfutures.org](http://oxfutures.org) | @OxFutures

### Oxfordshire County Council



Oxfordshire County Council is a local authority with an ambitious community sustainability programme. CAG Oxfordshire supports over 50 action groups across the county, the largest network of its kind in the UK. Through the OxFutures partnership, the Council enables community groups and schools to promote their own energy projects. From 1990 to 2012, the Council reduced carbon emissions by 28% across its buildings and street lights, county-wide. It now has a property and facilities contract which will further reduce emissions by 25% by 2020.

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)  
01865 815702  
@OxfordshireCC

### Oxford City Council

Oxford City Council is a local authority with an ambitious carbon management plan for its own estate and partnership projects working towards a reduction in the city's carbon emissions. In 2011, Oxford City Council achieved their target 25% reduction in their own carbon emissions by employing a range of energy and fuel-saving measures, investing in renewable energy generation and engaging their workforce around positive behaviour change. Oxford City Council has been shortlisted for the 2014 Community Energy Awards in the Local Partnership category, named as an exemplar by the Carbon Trust and, through the Low Carbon Oxford partnership, is working with others to achieve a 40% reduction in carbon emission in Oxford by 2020.

[www.oxford.gov.uk](http://www.oxford.gov.uk)  
01865 249811  
@OCC\_CarbonTeam



### Low Carbon Hub

The Low Carbon Hub is a local social enterprise that is delivering the OxFutures programme with a focus on community energy. The Hub develops renewables with local business, the public sector and communities to scale up renewable energy generation for Oxfordshire and put local power in the hands of local people. The Hub's vision is to create a decentralised and locally-owned renewable energy system with communities at its heart.



[www.lowcarbonhub.org](http://www.lowcarbonhub.org)  
01865 246099  
info@lowcarbonhub.org  
@LowCarbonHub

### IEE Programme

The OxFutures initiative has been funded by Intelligent Energy Europe, under its Mobilising Local Energy Investment programme, to scale up investment into a renewable energy infrastructure for Oxfordshire. The Oxford project was one of only three projects in the UK to receive funding. OxFutures will secure the City of Oxford's target to reduce its carbon emissions by 40% by 2020, and to reach the Oxfordshire County Council target of a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030, based on 2008 levels.



# Exhibitors

### The Low Carbon Hub

The Low Carbon Hub is a local social enterprise that's spearheading the change to a new energy system for Oxfordshire with communities at the heart. They are doing this by developing renewables with business, the public sector, and communities to put local power in the hands of local people. The Hub is looking to raise £1.5 million this autumn through a community share offer to develop solar PV on 17 schools and several local businesses. The Hub's first business scheme with the Oxford Bus Company is up and running, local schools are now generating clean, green electricity, and the Osney Lock Hydro community project is under construction. All a result of local investment. The potential to scale up is huge. This is just the first phase of the big energy shift to generate clean, sustainable, local energy for the future.



### Community Energy England

Community Energy England was established in May 2014 as a not for profit organisation, set up to provide a voice for the community energy sector and help create the conditions within which community energy can flourish. CEE has a founding board drawn from a core team of community energy practitioners that have been consulting with the sector for the last year to bring CEE to reality.



### Oxfordshire CAGs

The CAG network consists of 59 voluntary groups across Oxfordshire at the forefront of community led climate change action, organising events and projects to take action on issues including energy, waste, transport, food and biodiversity. The network runs over 1,000 events per year, attended by over 60,000 local residents. CAG Project staff offer hands-on, day to day help and advice for groups, and help the network to grow. The largest network of its kind in the UK, the CAG Project is managed by Resource Futures and has been funded by Oxfordshire County Council since 2001.



### Smart Energy GB

Between now and 2020 every home in the country will be offered a free smart meter. Smart Energy GB is the independent organisation responsible for delivering consumer engagement during the roll out and are here to explain more about the benefits smart meters offer for consumers.



### Pure Leapfrog

Pure Leapfrog is the leading provider of social investment and professional support to community energy projects. Our mission is to ensure that community energy becomes a significant part of the UK's sustainable energy mix. We operate by issuing low interest loans to enable community groups to invest in renewable energy technology and channel expertise through a network of lawyers and other professional service providers. Pure Leapfrog has supported over 100 community energy projects to date, and provides consulting and advisory services to a variety of corporate and public organisations to assist them in delivering community energy strategies and projects.



### WeSET

Westmill wind and solar farm co-ops started as a small group of local people who wanted to make a difference. The co-ops now have almost 4,000 members who together turned those dreams into energy projects that now generate over 15GW/year of renewable energy and are 100% community owned. Westmill Sustainable Energy Trust (WeSET) is the charity set up by members of the co-ops to take forward that desire to make a difference. WeSET carry out a wide range of activities, the core being educational work, supporting local energy conservation and renewable energy initiatives and arts projects.



### The UK District Energy Association

The UK District Energy Association was formed 4 years ago to bring together all organisations involved in the development of district energy schemes in the UK. We have now grown to nearly 80 members and our aims are to raise awareness of district energy, disseminate information, drive good practice and lobby government for support. We are a non trade not for profit association with a balance of public and private sector members and are passionate about demonstrating that district energy can work at all scales, and not just large urban areas. Please come and introduce yourself and find out more about district energy.



### APSE Energy

The APSE facilitated Local Authority Energy Collaboration involves a group of local authorities who are looking to work in collaboration to forward the following vision: "To form an effective collaboration of a large number of local authorities to enable and facilitate the local municipalisation of energy services. By this we mean the public and community, as well as private, ownership and managerial control of local energy generation, distribution networks and delivery of energy efficiency works. Local authorities working together in this way would have great influence and would be able to deliver economies of scale in green energy to promote economic growth and combat fuel poverty." The goal of this collaboration is to deliver the local municipalisation of energy services and in doing so: address social objectives and deliver community benefits, such as a reduction in fuel poverty and increases in jobs and skills; save money and make money for local authorities to safeguard local services.



### Southern Staffordshire Community Energy

SSCE was established in 2011 to promote carbon reduction and renewable energy locally. For its first project it installed 150 solar PV panels on 2 buildings owned by charities in Whittington village, near Lichfield, funded by a community share issue. The charities benefit from free electricity and our 46 shareholders receive a fair return. SSCE has established a Community Fund which has so far distributed £6000, to provide local organisations, including the Lichfield Garrick theatre, with energy audits to help them reduce their energy use.



### OVO Communities

We set up OVO five years ago because we firmly believed we could create a better energy company for customers. Our commitment to our customers has always been simpler, fairer, cheaper energy. Now we want to go further than that. OVO Communities supports local authorities, community groups and housing associations who want to become their own energy services provider - from supply and generation, to smart technology and energy efficiency. We will provide the comprehensive toolkit and guidance to establish these community energy programmes across the country, so that communities can reap the benefits of cheaper prices, local generation, reduced usage and, crucially, greater trust that they are getting a fair deal.



### EVALOC

Evaluating the impacts, effectiveness and success of low carbon communities on localised energy behaviours - is a multi-disciplinary research project funded by RCUK's Energy Programme. Led by Oxford Brookes University in collaboration with University of Oxford, EVALOC brings together building science and social science based researchers to develop a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) based action research approach, to assess, explain and communicate the changes in energy use due to community activities within six selected six case study low carbon communities, following DECC's Low Carbon Communities Challenge (LCCC) initiative. The project involves community level action research (e.g. focus groups and community events) as well as household level monitoring (e.g. household energy surveys). The research has also created carbon maps of communities over time.



### Local Energy Scotland

The Scottish Government CARES programme is delivered by Local Energy Scotland (LES), a nationwide consortium dedicated to enabling community and local uptake of renewable energy projects. LES provides support, advice and financial assistance to community groups and rural businesses who wish to generate renewable energy or gain benefit from local commercial renewable energy schemes. Support mechanisms are delivered through a network of local development officers who provide general advice and support for projects along with support for direct ownership, shared ownership & investment, community benefits and delivery of community energy innovation through the CARES Infrastructure and Innovation Fund, sustainable, local energy for the future.



### RegenSW

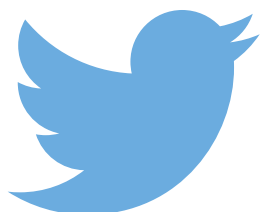
Regen SW is a leading centre of sustainable energy expertise and pioneering project delivery, enabling business, local authorities, community groups and other organisations to deliver renewable energy and energy efficiency and build a prosperous low-carbon economy in the south west of England. With over 260 Members, REGEN focus on giving businesses in the south west more of a voice in national policy and help draw in more investment.



# “The power to change our energy future is in your hands”

**Rt Hon Edward Davey MP**

Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change:



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@DECCgovuk

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## WiFi Information

Wireless internet access is available to all attendees throughout the Town Hall during the conference using the following login details:

Network name: **OXGUEST**

User Name: **thguest** Password: **oxfordcity2014**

User Name **townhallguest** Password: **townhall 2014**

**Apple Users Only**

Username: **apple\_user** Password: **no2W1ndows8**

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