



Ynni
Cymunedol Cymru
Community Energy
Wales

A VISION FOR ENERGY COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY ENERGY - AN ALTERNATIVE WAY

Government targets and measures to reach net zero are creating tensions within our communities.

Change, increasing energy bills, and the lack of agency felt by many because of the gap between them and the profits made from energy infrastructure, is driving opposition to renewable energy development.

Community energy offers an alternative way. If the transition to a green energy system is to withstand resistance, people and communities must be able to meaningfully benefit from the opportunities.

With

- more decentralised energy assets owned by their communities
- more local decision-making
- more public procurement of community energy
- local trading
- improved skills
- inclusion of people with low or no income
- shared ownership of large energy developments
- the circulation of profits locally, and
- a way for communities to reinvest in additional generation

we can change the narrative.

THE FOUNDATIONS FOR OUR VISION FOR ENERGY COMMUNITIES CAN BE LAID BY THE NEXT WELSH GOVERNMENT BY TAKING THE FOLLOWING MEASURES:

1. Introduce a Community Energy Act. This will include the creation of:
 - a. A Community Wealth Fund.
 - b. A Natural Resources Levy.
 - c. Meaningful shared ownership.
2. Act on devolution:
 - a. Implement the Comisiwn recommendation on energy and ensure that the powers needed to build energy communities are devolved.
 - b. Devolve the Crown Estate. Funds raised from this, the Natural Resources Levy, and private or community investors will contribute to an independent Community Wealth Fund, to fund new community wealth building ventures.
3. Funding & Finance - while the Community Wealth Fund is being established, make shared ownership loan and grant finance available to support capacity building.



4. Work with the UK government on its review of the wind industry's "community benefits" packages. The funds contributed should be mandatory, cover all technologies and the amount raised doubled (and any non renewable development, a quadrupling), with a 'natural resources levy' top-sliced to contribute to the Community Wealth Fund.
5. Set up a Commission to investigate ways to include everyone who wants to be involved in the ownership of community shares, using the Community Wealth Fund to subsidise share ownership. Use the Community Energy Act to implement its findings.
6. Measures to favour public service procurement contracts for community owned businesses.
7. A public duty to support the circular / foundational / cooperative economy.
8. Legislate for Community Right to Buy.
9. Legislate for Community Land Reform.
10. Addressing the skills gap by creating 5,000 professional apprenticeships.
11. Work with the UK government to establish a Right to Access Local Energy Markets.





Energy Communités

Wales learning from Belgium

Ecopower in Belgium is an energy co-operative that have been operating since 1991, with over 65,000 community members. 55,000 of these members have Ecopower as their energy supplier – meaning their homes are powered by 100% community owned renewable energy. The money raised from this activity has allowed them to install 75MW of capacity across wind, hydro and solar technologies.



RhanNi

Adeiladu mudiad ynni cymunedol
Building a movement for community energy

The change to a green energy system is an opportunity to do right by our communities. We can't afford to miss it. Our full manifesto will be available soon. For updates about this campaign and to be informed about community energy, join RhanNi, our movement for community energy.

Join RhanNi.

For more information, get in touch with us on **info@communityenergy.wales**



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Welsh Government

