*Below is a template letter for your local candidate asking them to pledge their support for community energy. You will be able to find a list of your local candidates on this page:* [Who Can I Vote For?](https://whocanivotefor.co.uk/)

*You are welcome to amend or change the letter how you like, please pay attention to the highlighted areas and adapt accordingly.*

Dear (CANDIDATE),

I’m writing as a member of (LOCAL COMMUNITY ENERGY ORGANISATION / RhanNi, the movement for community energy in Wales), and constituent of (LOCAL CONSTITUENCY) to ask you to pledge your support for community energy before the upcoming Senedd Elections.

Building the community energy sector in Wales is vital to ensure that communities see the benefit from the transition to our energy system. With the right measures in place, communities could take advantage of this opportunity and build real long-term resilience.

Unfortunately, many barriers are stopping the growth of community energy. The recent State of the Sector in Wales report by Community Energy Wales showed that up to 42.8 MW of capacity within the community energy sector is stalled because of a lack of route to market, the cost and effort of consenting, and the cost of grid.

The growth of green energy as it stands isn’t delivering for the people of Wales. The changes to the energy system isn’t leading to cheaper bills, there is a lack of control over new energy projects, and the wealth from them isn’t being retained in Wales.

However, there are steps the next Welsh Government can take to change this, and help grow a better energy system, with community energy at the heart of it. This is what our movement wants from the energy system:

* Cheaper Energy for Communities
* Control for Communities
* Building Wealth in our Communities

In order to do that, the next Welsh Government must:

* Create a Community Wealth Fund
* Provide Real Shared Ownership
* Ensure Fair Community Benefits

In Wales, we know what extracting resources with no long-term economic gain can look like. If we are not careful, the next big change to our energy system will lead to us repeating the mistakes of the past. Ensure a better future for communities through pledging your support for community energy.

Attached is a poster expressing support for community energy – please could you print a copy of the poster and take a picture to share on your social media accounts. Please could you send the picture back to us, and tag Community Energy Wales in any posts that you do. Here are some words that you could use or adapt:

I want to see more community energy in Wales. Put energy in the hands of communities! #CommunityEnergyPledge

Sincerely,

(NAME)