



# Community Energy in the North East, Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire in 2021

Regional Study

# About Us



**Northern Powergrid is a Distribution Network Operator (DNO). We manage the electricity network that powers everyday life for more than 8 million people across 3.9 million homes and businesses in the North East, Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire.**

We have a key role to play in facilitating the energy transition, and recognise that supporting the growth of community energy helps to ensure this transition is as fair as possible with no one left behind.

In 2014, we were the first DNO to launch a Community Energy Seed Fund; since then, we have directly supported over 80 community projects. In 2020, we published a Community Energy Engagement Strategy for 2020-2023, setting out 26 detailed commitments to support the community energy sector.

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@Northpowergrid



**Community Energy England is the voice of the community energy sector in England, helping to create a supportive policy landscape for community energy.**

We also help active community energy organisations to connect, collaborate, share expertise and overcome obstacles. Join us to show your commitment to the sector and strengthen our collective voice. Membership of CEE is inclusive and is open to any organisation that is committed to the development of the community energy sector.

[www.communityenergyengland.org/pages/join-us](http://www.communityenergyengland.org/pages/join-us)

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# About This Report

Community energy organisations play a vital role in driving the net zero transition because they are embedded within and trusted by their communities. This allows them to understand and engage more effectively with local people on a wide range of issues, enabling them to deliver further economic, social and environmental benefits to their localities, and ensure everyone benefits from the transition to a net zero energy system.

This report is the second<sup>1</sup> in-depth analysis of community energy across the North East, Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire, covering both of our licence areas, and focuses on the progress made by the community energy sector in 2021. An understanding of how the sector is changing and what impacts project progress is crucial for us to provide better support to, and collaborate with, community energy organisations to enable them to play a full role in the drive toward net zero.

The regional research was commissioned by Northern Powergrid and conducted by Community Energy England, Scotland and Wales as part of their annual Community Energy State of the Sector UK research project. It includes survey data from 20 community energy organisations based in our licence areas, gathered between February and March 2022, as well as data gathered from a further 46 organisations via previous State of the Sector surveys and desk-based research.

## The survey focussed on:

- community energy activities throughout 2021;
- community motivations and challenges in 2021;
- the value community energy organizations create;
- funding and investment; and
- the future of the community energy sector into 2022 and beyond.

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<sup>1</sup> Access the 2019 study from: [www.northernpowergrid.com/asset/0/document/5674.pdf](http://www.northernpowergrid.com/asset/0/document/5674.pdf)

# Foreword



## Anda Baumerte

Sustainability Manager  
**Northern Powergrid**

Community energy organisations are key in making sure the energy transition works for everyone, and that the economic benefits energy projects bring are translated to social and environmental benefits in communities. To us, community energy organisations are a critical partner in shaping the energy sector to work for increasingly active customers.

Our vision is for a thriving community energy sector, supported by strong networks that link the voluntary sector with the expertise in the energy sector, anchor institutions, local governments, and others. We are therefore pleased to continue supporting the Community Energy State of the Sector research and, this year, an updated regional study.

Since 2019, when the first regional community energy study was carried out, we have seen a lot of change:

a significant increase in local organisations forming and exploring community energy projects, as well as groups seeking to play an active role in tackling the climate emergency in their local communities.

In 2020, our Community Energy Engagement Strategy set out 26 commitments to support the sector during 2020 to 2023. Two years later, the increased activity and feedback has meant we are delivering more support.

While we see more community energy groups coming forward, the pace at which new projects are being delivered is slower. It is important that the policy makers, the energy sector and other key actors understand the key barriers which community organisations face, and work together to resolve these. The study does help with that for our region.

I am pleased to say we are already making efforts to address some of these barriers – by offering additional support to help new groups access expertise and capacity through our Net Zero Community Energy Fund, and through engaging and linking up with other community organisations in their area, which they can find through our *Put your community on the map!* campaign. There is also more work ongoing with partners and community energy project funders to bring our engagement programmes and resources together, helping organisations navigate the information and resources available, and collaborate with each other.

Our commitment to the sector stretches beyond 2023, when we hope to employ a team of community-based energy advisors, continue to run events for the sector, and roll out innovative solutions suggested and trialed by local community energy groups. This research is also a key part of assessing what works, what needs to work better, and how we could improve our programme to continue to be a critical friend to the organisations in our region as we refresh our strategy for the period beyond 2023 and continue to fulfil our role as an anchor organisation.



# Headlines

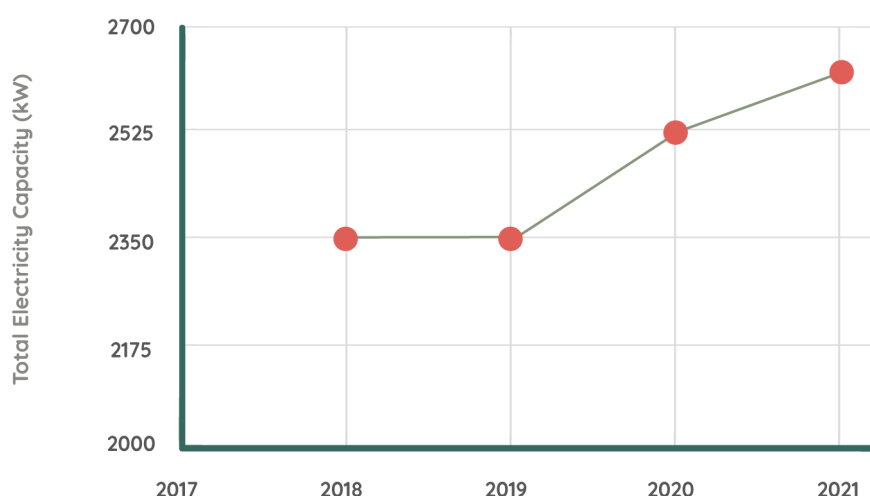
The community energy sector in the North East, Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire is becoming increasingly diverse in the range of activities it delivers. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the removal of subsidy support in recent years the sector has continued to develop.

The people driving the sector remain engaged and committed to exploring new opportunities. Energy efficiency and low carbon transport activities have increased in number and in scope and partnership working is being used to fill in gaps in knowledge and resource.

## Community energy highlights in 2021:

- The community energy sector engaged with 17,600 people across our licence areas, supported by members, volunteers and paid employees;
- 57% increase in organisations involved in low carbon transport activities since 2019 - including 77 community-owned electric vehicles and 12 community owned electric vehicle charging stations;
- 130% increase in organisations involved in energy efficiency activities since 2019, helping save an estimated £500,000 from people's energy bills;
- 5 newly registered CE organisations, bringing the total to 66<sup>2</sup> in the area;
- 4.2% growth in electricity generation capacity in 2021 – almost double the UK average rate for that year;
- £378,000 of development funding was secured for new projects;
- £800,000 of community energy income spent locally supporting local economies;
- energy efficiency interventions saving an estimated £500,000 from local energy bills;
- 13 new full time jobs created in 2021;
- at least 920 tonnes of carbon saved; and
- community owned electricity powering the equivalent of 1,100 households.

**Growth of community-owned electricity generation capacity in Northern Powergrid licence areas**



<sup>2</sup> Only the organisations identified by our research and who responded to the SOTS survey have been included in this total but the list is not comprehensive and there will be more regional organisations operating in the community energy sector.

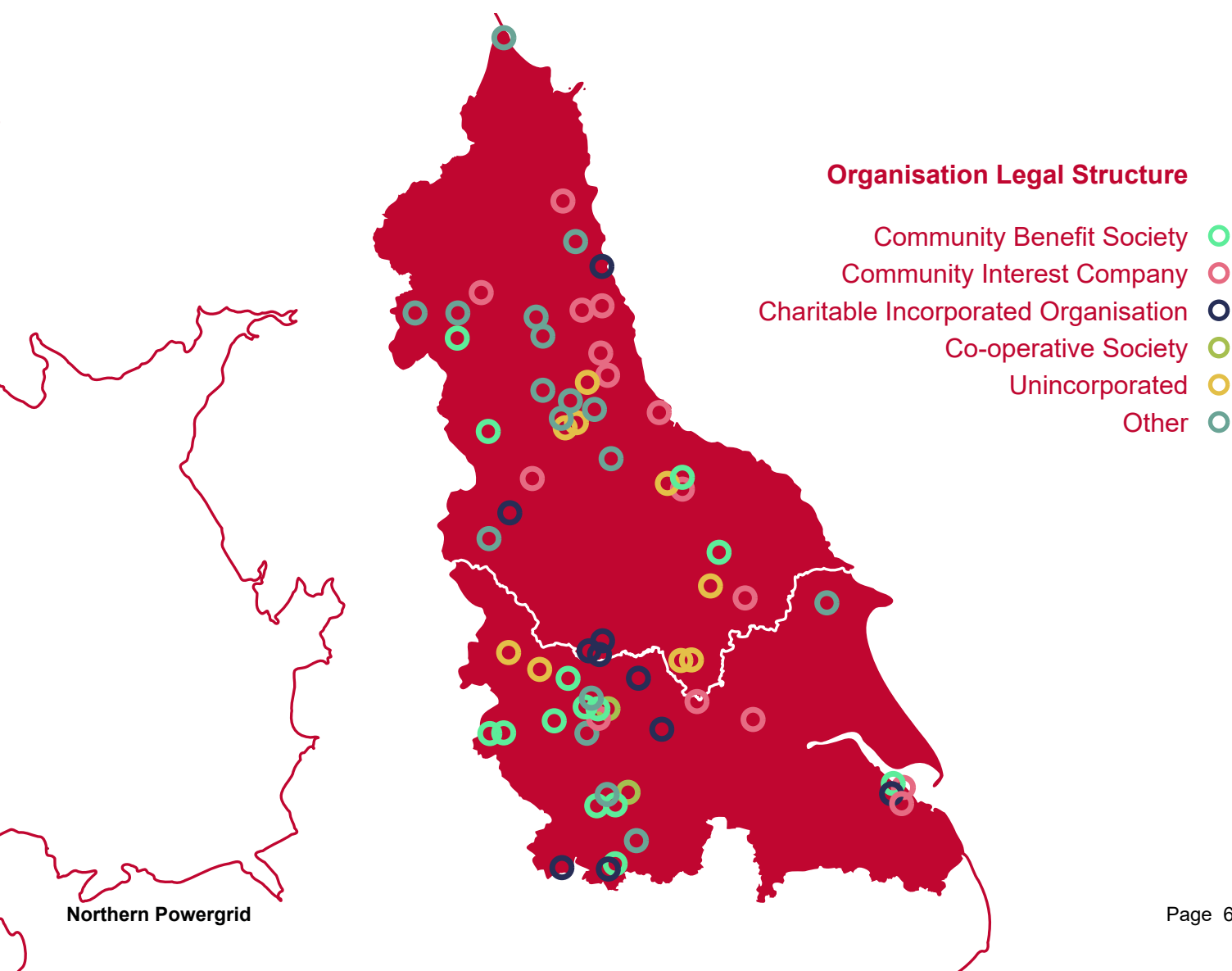
# Community Energy in the North East, Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire

In 2021, 66 organisations – 31 in the North East and 35 in Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire - were found to be working on community energy projects. 47% are registered as Community Benefit Societies, Cooperatives or Community Interest Companies, with the remainder primarily made up of limited companies, charitable groups and unincorporated community groups engaged in energy activities.

Groups reported employing 55 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff - an increase from 15 in 2019. Just under half of these FTEs were employed by a single organisation, Groundwork Yorkshire. The vast majority of organisations (75%) relied entirely on the support of volunteers and members, which is broadly in line with

the rest of the UK, and underpins how crucial unpaid labour is to the sector as a whole.

In 2021, 13 new FTE posts were created, more than twice as many as 2019, and just under 30% of all newly registered community energy organisations in the UK were formed in the Northern Powergrid region. State of the Sector data from previous years has shown that community energy activity levels in the Northern Powergrid area have been significantly lower than the rest of the UK, so this is a positive sign that awareness of the benefits of community energy is increasing and communities are actively mobilising to deliver these benefits.



# Electricity Generation



**105kW of newly installed electricity generation in 2021**



**3.3GWh of electricity generated in 2021**

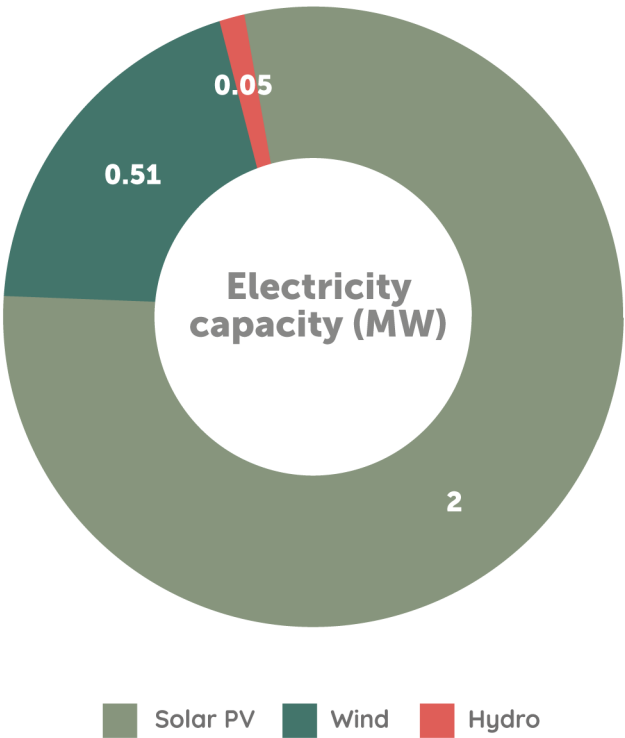
A total of 14 community organisations reported involvement in electricity generation projects in our licence areas. Two new solar PV assets were installed in 2021 with a combined capacity of 105kW.

Small-scale rooftop solar PV is by far the dominant technology totaling 2MW. 1.5MW of this is owned by a single organisation, Energise Barnsley, which has installed 321 domestic and 16 non-domestic solar PV systems on roofs across the Barnsley area.

The remaining capacity consists of Four Winds Energy Co-op's 500kW Shafton wind turbine in South

Yorkshire and Esk Energy's 50kW Ruswarp hydro system. This brings the total electricity capacity in the region to 2.6MW and represents a growth rate of 4.2% in 2021 - almost double the UK average rate for that year - and an increase of 0.75MW since 2019.

Based on the installed capacity, the amount of electricity generated across the region in 2021 is estimated to be around 3.3GWh. This is equivalent to the energy demand of 1,100 UK households (assuming Ofgem's annual average usage of 2,900kWh), and provides 920 tonnes of carbon dioxide emission savings.



# Heat Generation

Renewable heat generation is a challenging area of development for community organisations. In 2021, there were no community low carbon heat generation systems operating in our licence areas and only 4.7 MW of community-owned heat capacity across the UK. There are many reasons for this: community-scale heat projects tend to require high upfront capital as well as considerable ongoing customer engagement due to a general lack of familiarity with the technologies and delivery systems. Heat networks in particular are difficult to build a business case for at smaller scales: in off-grid rural areas where fuel costs are higher, securing sufficient long-term heat

demand can be challenging, and in urban on-gas-grid areas where demand is abundant, the low gas prices of recent years have made it difficult to make a case for switching.

Despite this, community groups remain interested in developing low carbon heat projects. Eight organisations reported a desire to develop future heat projects, with at least three of these at a more advanced stage of development, including a heat pump project powered by existing solar PV systems, and a 250kW Anaerobic Digestion system near Malton & Norton which would produce both heat and electricity.

# Energy Storage

The benefits afforded by energy storage projects are becoming increasingly more attractive to communities looking to reduce their reliance on grid imports and maximise their consumption of local, onsite generated electricity. Energy storage technologies such as electric vehicles and battery systems allow communities to be more flexible about when they consume energy which can balance out peaks and troughs in demand and enable more low carbon generation to connect to the grid.

In 2021, five groups in our licence areas were actively involved in, or developing, energy storage projects. Two groups own electric battery systems with a combined storage capacity of 15kWh, and a further

two groups signaled their intent to develop integrated solar PV and battery storage systems across multiple sites.

The fifth planned project expressed an interest in delivering flexibility services to the grid. Community-led 'flexibility' projects can offer an opportunity for communities to use their energy storage technologies to generate income by offering grid balancing services while engaging in and supporting the transition to a low carbon and flexible energy system. It is anticipated that energy storage projects will become more commonplace at community level as battery storage technology costs continue to fall and become more affordable.

## Case Study

### Bradford Community Energy

Bradford Community Energy formed in 2020 with the aim of developing and delivering community-owned renewable energy assets for community benefit across Bradford, reducing community buildings' carbon emissions, creating local investment opportunities and tackling local fuel poverty.

Their recent community share offer raised £60,000 to enable the purchase of two 30kW solar PV arrays which were installed on two community centres. This is part of a broader plan to help community-owned buildings become more self-sustaining and cost-effective by reducing energy bills and freeing up funds to be used to support the local community.

Other activities they are involved in include providing free energy audits to community owned and/or managed premises to help them reduce their carbon emissions and lower their energy bills.



# Low Carbon Transport



**77 community owned EVs**



**12 community-owned EV charge points**

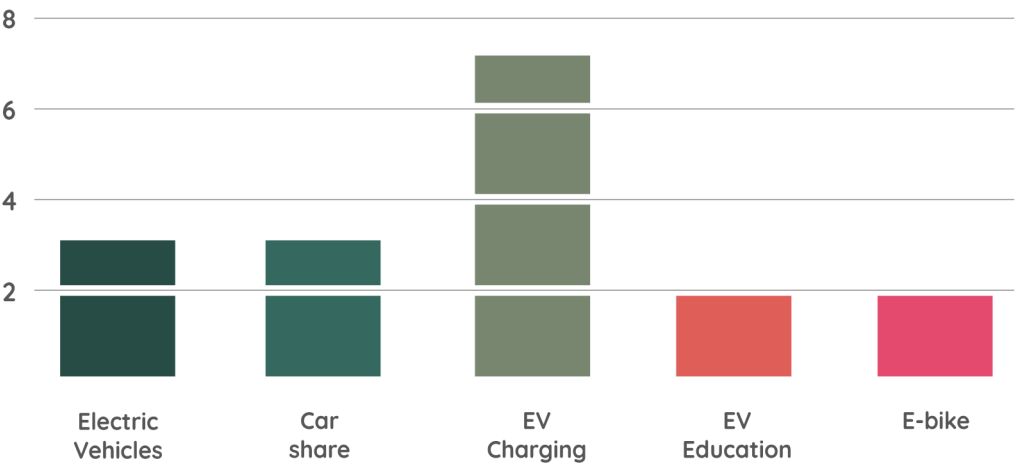
Low carbon transport projects are becoming increasingly attractive to community energy organisations who are moving away from developing energy generation projects following the removal of government subsidies in recent years. Only 5% of all stalled projects in the past year were transport projects, indicating there are fewer significant barriers to development than for other project types.

Following wider UK trends, low carbon transport projects across our licence areas have increased significantly since 2019. In 2021, eleven organisations were involved in low carbon transport projects in our area, which is an increase of 57% from 2019. Two new community-owned electric vehicle (EV) charge points were installed in 2021 bringing the total to 12 across the region, and the total number of electric vehicles stands at 77 consisting of electric cars, vans, e-bikes and e-scooters.

EV charging points can provide real benefit to local areas by keeping investment and revenues within the local economy and these benefits can be even more significant if a renewable energy asset such as solar PVs or wind turbines are used to power the chargers. By directly powering from an existing asset, operators can save local community users money by charging less.

While EV and charge point ownership do still form the majority of activities, organisations also reported involvement in other activities such as car sharing, EV education and an interest in incorporating travel planning into projects.

**LCT Project Types**



# Energy Efficiency



**11,500 individuals/  
communities engaged by  
energy efficiency initiatives**



**£335,000 spent providing  
advisory services to 3,478  
recipients**



**£80,000 spent providing  
building improvements to  
6,260 households**

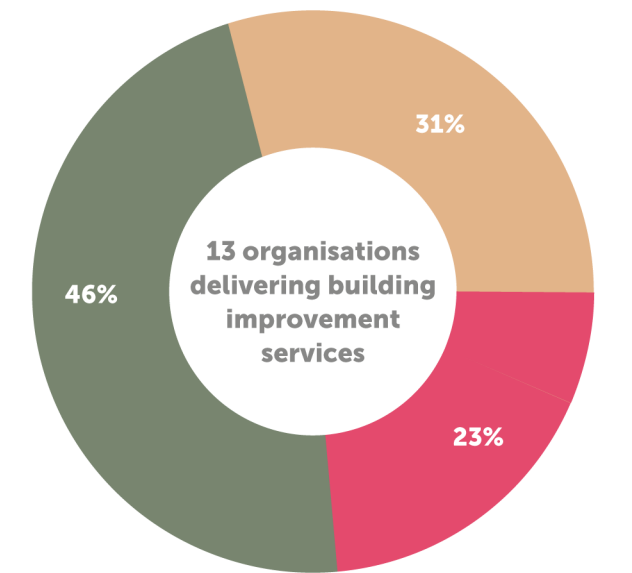
As with low carbon transport, energy efficiency is another area of activity to which community energy organisations are increasingly turning to bring benefits to their communities. In 2021, 21 organisations were delivering services in areas such as building improvement, advice and education, as well as directly distributing funding for energy efficiency works. This represents a 130% increase since 2019. It is likely this shift toward energy efficiency activity, a trend which is observed across the UK, is in part a direct response to the growing levels of fuel poverty over the last few years, and is an area where groups with more limited resources can make a significant impact.

Improvements such as the installation of insulation, draught proofing and energy efficient lighting were provided to 6,260 recipients across the region. CommunityEnergyRotherham, a dedicated community energy support scheme launched by Rotherham

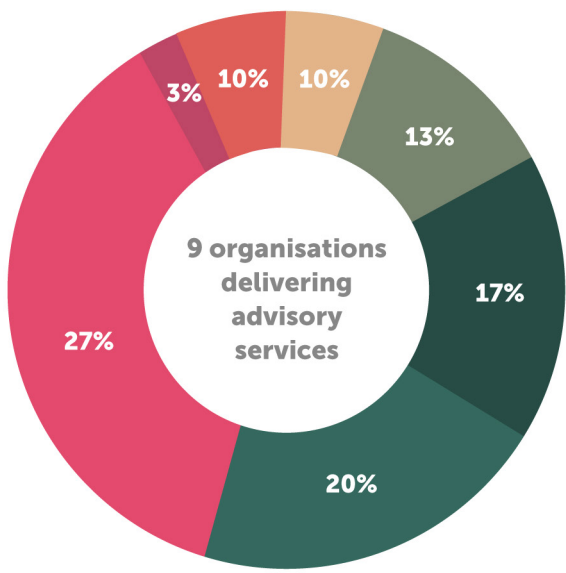
Metropolitan Borough Council in 2021, delivered 5,000 of these improvements.

Groundwork Yorkshire also made a significant contribution - their interventions alone are estimated to have saved individuals around £500,000 in 2021 through their energy efficiency improvements, advisory services and direct grant distributions.

All organisations provided services free of charge with only two operating a concurrent paid model for able-to-pay customers. Free services largely involved low cost interventions such as advice on energy efficiency technologies and signposting to funding sources delivered via workshops, cafes, community events and telephone consultations, as well as direct installation of measures such as simple draught proofing and LED lighting.



Insulation   Draught proofing   Energy efficient lighting



Funding advice   Advice/support to install renewable tech  
Workshops/Cafes   Energy monitoring  
Fuel poverty reduction   Energy switching  
Building assessments/audits

## Case Study

### Sheffield Renewables

Sheffield Renewables is a community benefit society founded in 2007 with the aim of working together as a community to help improve the environmental sustainability of Sheffield. Primarily run by volunteers and owned by members, they build, own and operate renewable energy schemes in the city which are financed through investment from community share offers.

They currently own and operate four solar PV systems with a combined capacity of 176kW generating approximately 150,000kWh per year. Partners that lease their roof space to host the solar panels receive electricity at a discount and profits are reinvested to develop new projects as well as being distributed via their Community Benefit Fund to benefit their local community. They are in the process of expanding their portfolio with development of a new 30kW project at planning stage.



## Case Study

### Circular Malton & Norton CIC

Circular Malton & Norton is a community interest company aiming to create Yorkshire's first circular market town. Utilising local waste is one way of doing this and so they are in the process of developing an anaerobic digestion (AD) facility close to Malton & Norton. The AD plant will break down waste organic material which would then be used to provide heat to the local community as well as electricity which would be exported to the grid. Feasibility and development funding was provided by the Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) and planning permission for a proposed 250kW AD system is currently being sought. If all goes well, investment will be raised via community share offer later in the year with the aim of commissioning the system in 2023.

It is hoped the project will create local jobs and support local businesses to improve their carbon footprint. Any profit generated from this project will be reinvested into future energy projects in the area.

## Case Study

### Monk Fryston and Hillam Community Association

Monk Fryston and Hillam Community Association is a registered charity working toward making their community buildings carbon neutral, and working with residents to encourage them to reduce their household energy consumption and live more sustainable lives.

They have secured funding from the National Lottery Community Fund and the RCEF to explore the feasibility of decarbonising several community buildings including their community centre, a primary school, cricket club, football club and a church. The funds will explore how to improve the energy efficiency of the buildings as well as identifying suitable renewable energy technologies such as solar PVs, heat pumps and battery storage. Learnings will be shared with residents and other communities via a series of public events to raise awareness of the technologies, explain how they work and encourage people to reduce their carbon footprint.

# Funding and Finance



**£378,000 development funding secured**



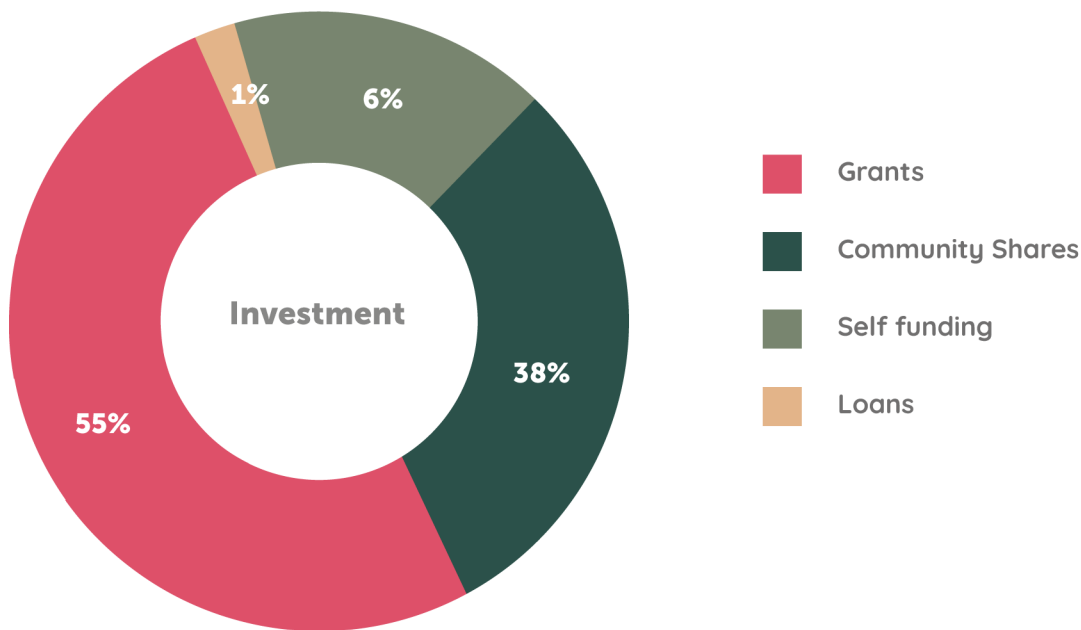
**£320,500 investment raised**

In 2021, communities in Northern Powergrid licence areas accessed £378,000 of funding to develop energy projects, a huge increase on the £8,000 secured in 2019, and likely reflective of the considerable growth in number of active community energy organisations in the past two years. That being said, as with other organisations across the UK, a lack of early stage funding was highlighted by groups as a key barrier to progressing their energy plans.

The vast majority of funding was provided by the Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) - £350,000 - to develop feasibility studies for a range of projects including solar PVs and batteries, heat pumps for community buildings, the development of EV infrastructure, and a low carbon heat network. Other smaller amounts of funding were secured from Power to Change, local authorities and Northern Powergrid’s Community Partnering Fund which distributed £21,000 in 2021 to community energy projects. The lack of diverse funding sources and almost total reliance on the RCEF for development funding is perhaps a cause for concern now that the RCEF has ended and no replacement scheme has been announced.

Investment raised for community energy projects was lower per household served than in other DNO operating areas which is perhaps unsurprising given the lower level of development funding across the area over the past years and the lower number of generation projects being deployed relative to other areas. Communities were still able to raise £320,500 in investment, including £120,000 of community shares raised by Grimsby Community Energy and Bradford Community Energy, towards the installation of solar PV systems on partner host roofs and a community ground source heating system.

It is also worth noting the significant investment raised by Future Homes Alliance. Though not a community-led organisation, their sustainable urban housing project aims to tackle issues which existing homes do not properly address and has the potential to bring considerable community benefit to the North East in the coming years.



# Networks & Partnerships

Community energy organisations have consistently highlighted lack of capacity, technical expertise and early stage funding as key barriers to project development in recent years. Partnership approaches go some way to addressing these issues, bringing mutual benefits such as the sharing of financial resources, expertise and best practice, and enhancing available staff time and capacity.

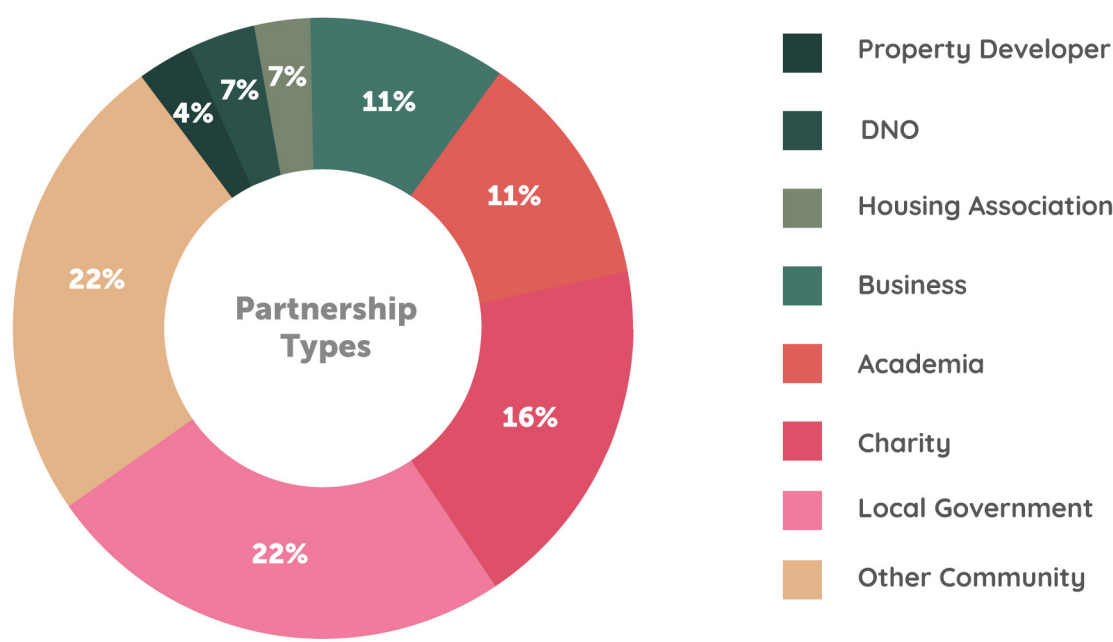
The absence of a long-term strategy commitment and the removal of subsidy support over the last few years has left many groups with a feeling of uncertainty moving forward. Projects are still being delivered despite this and partnership working has been one way of facilitating this and will be a key component of community energy sector success in 2022 onwards. Community organisations in the Northern Powergrid region highlighted the importance of engagement and collaboration with key stakeholders in the sector, most notably with local authorities and other community groups.

In 2021, fourteen organisations reported involvement in developing projects through partnership, most commonly with other community energy organisations, local authorities and charities. Three partner projects were completed. The key benefits from these collaborations were improved access to funding,

technical expertise, and information and networks. No groups reported an active partnership with Northern Powergrid in 2021 however, three indicated they were in conversation regarding potential partnership working to help progress projects.

Community energy organisations also reported the types of support received from partners as well as how important the support was to their projects. As with the wider UK responses, partnerships with businesses were reported to be very important in terms of their technical support, while most partner types with the exception of the DNO were rated highly in terms of access to financial support. This may reflect the fact that DNO funds tend to be short-term with a limited application window.

Northern Powergrid were the first DNO to set up a Community Energy Seed Fund in 2014 and, in 2018, they merged funds with Northern Gas Networks creating the Community Partnering Fund. In 2022, Northern Powergrid launched a new, additional Net Zero Community Energy Fund aimed primarily at capacity building and support for groups at the early stages of developing projects. As of 2021, almost £473,000 had been awarded through these funds to 81 community projects across the region.





# The Impact of Community Energy

Community energy organisations are capable of delivering a wide range of economic, social and environmental benefits to their communities. Revenue from community energy projects are commonly delivered directly to communities via community benefit fund distributions, which can take the form of grants or loans.

In 2021, four community energy organisations reported a total community benefit fund value of £5,200 and distributed £4,600. All organisations highlighted energy efficiency projects or increasing awareness of low carbon technologies as spending priorities. Other indirect economic benefits that create value for the local economy are derived from local investment, income, and job creation.

Community energy organisations were found to have provided energy efficiency grants worth £100,000 to over 1,687 recipients during 2021, including support for building upgrades and direct payments for those in fuel poverty. In terms of wider economic benefit, an average of 84% of community energy organisational expenditure was spent locally, higher than the UK average of 70% and the highest amongst all DNO regions. This amounted to £800k being directly used to support local economies. The community energy sector also created 13 full time equivalent jobs bringing the total FTEs employed by community organisations to 55.

Approximately 70% of survey respondents reported developing local support as a core goal of their activities, with others citing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction and building local capacity and skills around renewable energy technologies as areas where they are having an impact. Activities to promote the retention of local income was also a popular motivation.

## Number of communities:

- 14 Developing local support for renewable energy
- 13 Reducing CO<sub>2</sub>
- 12 Building capacity building & skills
- 11 Promoting local retention of community income
- 9 Promoting community ownership of assets/land
- 7 Alleviating fuel poverty
- 6 Reducing unsustainable land use practices

An estimated 920tCO<sub>2</sub>e was avoided as a result of the 3.3GWh of electricity generated by the community energy sector in 2021, which could satisfy the energy demand of approximately 1,100 homes. This number is a conservative estimate however and does not take into account the carbon savings from heat, transport and storage projects, or energy efficiency activities which are more difficult to quantify.



**£800,000 of community energy income spent locally supporting local economies**



**Energy efficiency interventions saved an estimated £500,000 from local energy bills**



**13 new full time jobs created in 2021**



**At least 920 tonnes of carbon saved annually**



**Community owned electricity powering the equivalent of 1,100 households**

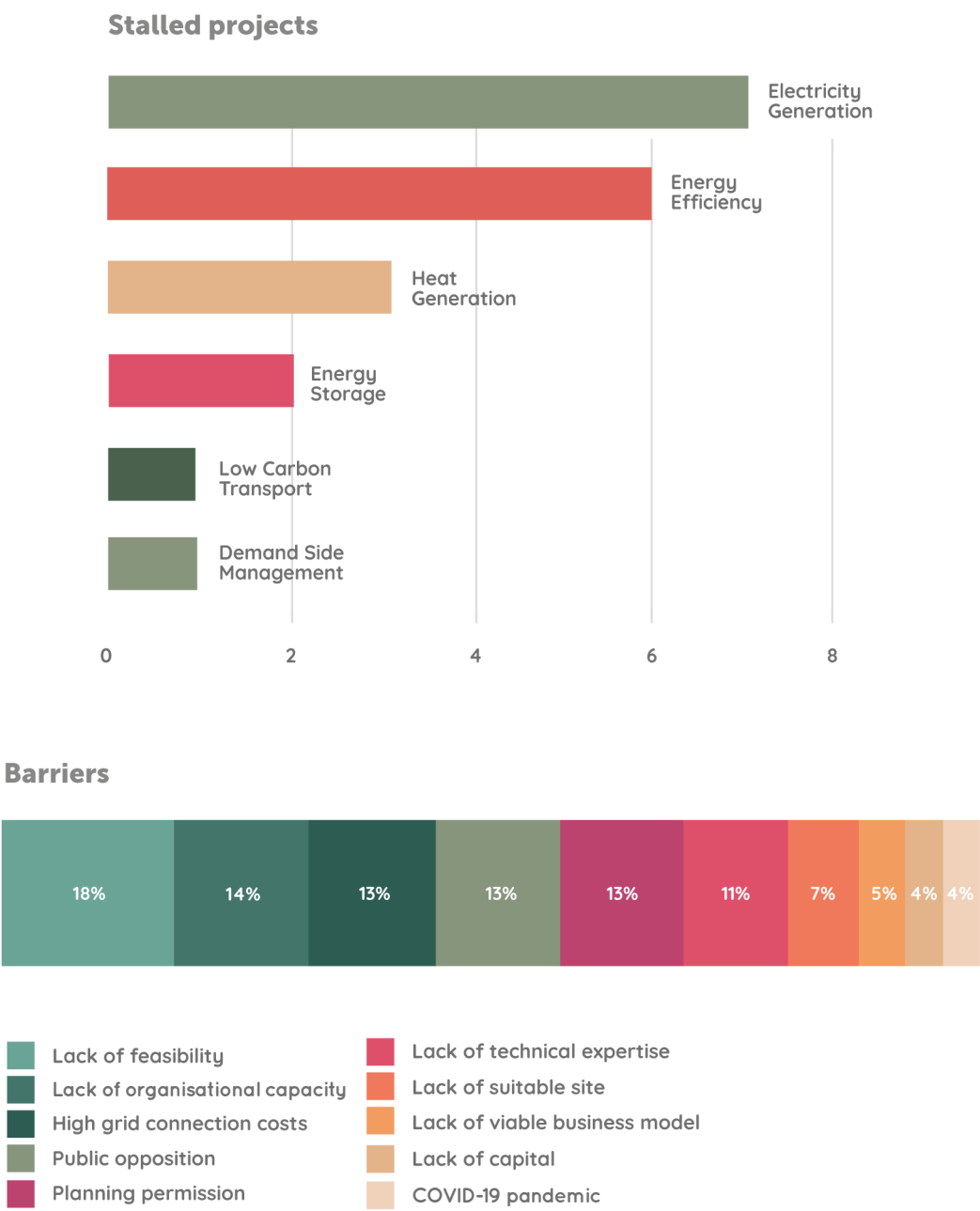
# Overcoming Barriers

The continued growth of community energy activity across the Northern Powergrid region is a positive sign but there are still significant challenges. All newly formed organisations in 2021 were entirely volunteer-driven with none employing any paid staff and 40% of respondents reporting lack of time and capacity as key barriers to developing projects.

This is highlighted by a higher than average number of stalled projects across the region relative to the rest of the UK, including seven electricity generation projects

with a combined potential capacity of 762kW and six energy efficiency projects.

Similar to other regions in the UK, the predominant barriers to the community energy sector in the Northern Powergrid region relate to a lack of feasibility funding for development and a lack of capital. With better funding, community energy organisations would have improved access to necessary expertise, skills and staff, as well as more time to navigate the complexities of project development.



# Supporting Communities

The sector has struggled to develop and grow in the face of falling government support in recent years. The removal of the Feed-in Tariff in 2019, the Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive in 2021 and the end of the RCEF in the same year have made an already difficult situation even more challenging.

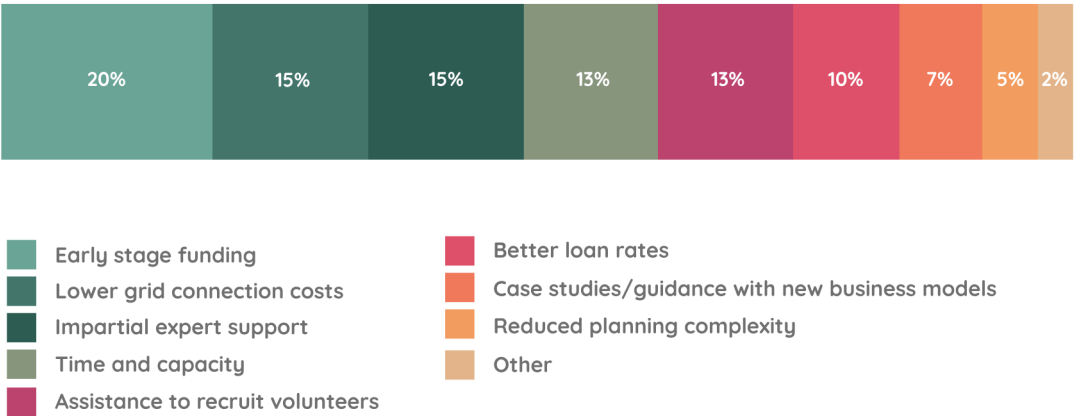
Community organisations stated that early stage funding to carry out feasibility studies and core funding to employ staff on longer term contracts are key support mechanisms which would have a significant impact on their ability to deliver services to their communities. Greater capacity would enable them to develop relationships with partners who can bring expertise, wider networks and knowledge of new emerging business models, and allow more time to allocate to more complex projects in development. Knowledge sharing and collaboration are particularly important for generation projects which tend to be more complex, require more technical input and are increasingly only viable at scale in the current post-subsidy environment.

One organisation highlighted the need for “a real strategy from central government for getting to carbon net zero”. A co-ordinated approach via the creation of a Community Energy Strategy could re-mobilise the sector and establishing a fair playing field for community- owned and led activities.

These findings are consistent with the feedback that Northern Powergrid has gathered through their engagement with community energy groups across the region, and which they have started to address by setting up a new community energy fund to provide early funding for capacity building and project development, as well as shaping community energy event agendas which are tailored to participant interests.

It is worth noting that more than 50 organisations from across the region took up Community Energy England’s offer for free membership in 2022, which is a significant increase and indicates the growing interest and the level of activity across the region.

The support that organisations need

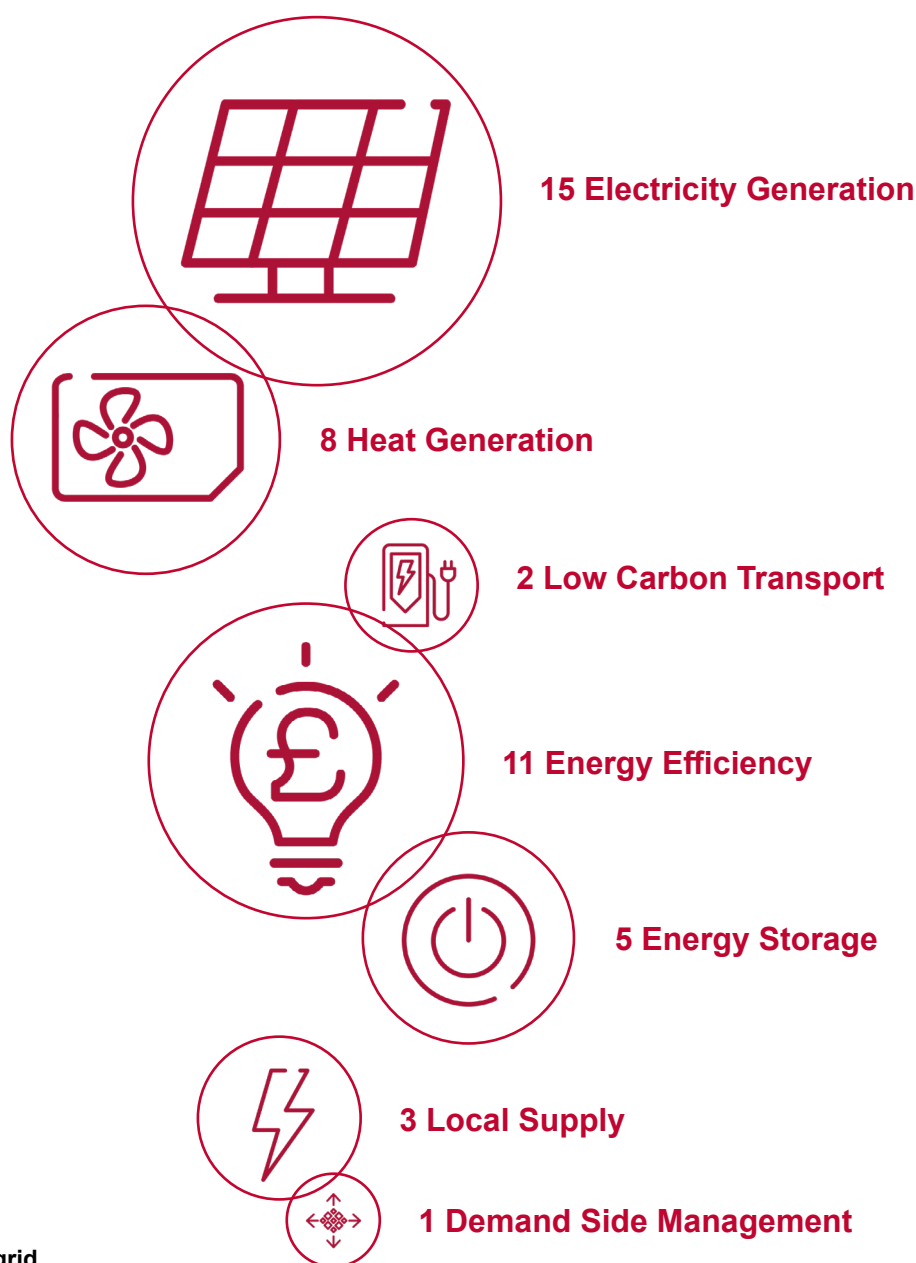


# Looking Toward the Future

Community energy organisations in the North East, Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire have proved their resilience and adaptability over the past few years, diversifying their activities into areas such as low carbon transport and energy efficiency in an effort to continue to have an impact as energy generation projects have become more difficult to progress. This drive and ambition is reflected in their plans for 2022 with 60% of organisations reporting their intent to investigate new opportunities despite the uncertain support landscape.

The most popular project types focus on developing new rooftop solar PV on community, domestic and public buildings, utilising battery storage to maximise onsite energy usage. Heat generation projects are also being pursued though these are primarily small-scale stand-alone heat systems serving individual buildings. Many of these projects in development were funded by the RCEF but the impact of its closure in the longer term is a cause for concern, particularly given it was the source of 90% of all early stage funding in the region in 2021. More diverse funding pathways for community groups will be crucial moving forward to ensure that the sector can continue to grow and develop and serve their communities effectively.

## 45 Community energy projects planned in 2022:



# Northern Powergrid's Support to Community Energy Organisations

Northern Powergrid's [Community Energy Engagement Strategy 2020-2023](#) was launched in 2020 and sets out a clear commitment to support the growth of Community Energy across Yorkshire, the North East, and northern Lincolnshire. Our recently published [Community Energy Engagement Strategy update](#) provides details of our progress so far. At the heart of the strategy is an engagement plan that sets out our intention to:



**Listen** and respond to customers' needs;



**inform** communities about our activities and how we can work with each other;



**engage** with stakeholders to facilitate a strong network of community and local energy organisations in our region;



**empower** and build the capacity of community energy organisations to participate in and contribute to our changing energy system, to make sure it is democratic and benefits those less able to engage; and



**advocate** for communities by using our platform to amplifying their voice.

## We also offer the following support:

- **Events and training sessions**

Bi-annual community energy forums and training sessions which allow you to connect with other community energy stakeholders and support organisations, building the skills and the network required to deliver your projects.

- **Community energy webpage with the relevant resources**

A range of resources including information about applying for grid connections, regional community energy case studies, our community energy fund guidelines, and more – on our community energy website: [www.northernpowergrid.com/community-energy](http://www.northernpowergrid.com/community-energy)

- **Newsletter**

A quarterly Community Energy newsletter with sector news and funding opportunities, event listings, and details of support available from Northern Powergrid. Subscribe by emailing [communityenergy@northernpowergrid.com](mailto:communityenergy@northernpowergrid.com) and indicating you'd like to be added to the list.



- **Community Partnering Fund**

The fund seeks to encourage more new projects that could bolster energy independence, reduce the impact of increased energy prices, and help achieve net zero emissions targets. A total of £50,000 in grant funding has been awarded to more than seven community energy organisations throughout the region in 2021. Find out more or make an application to the fund here: [www.communityfoundation.org.uk](http://www.communityfoundation.org.uk)



- **The Net Zero Community Energy Fund**

In 2022, Northern Powergrid launched a £50,000 fund to help tackle the barriers groups are facing when it comes to getting projects off the ground. The fund is to provide targeted assistance to build the capacity and knowledge of community energy organisations, access expertise, explore feasible project ideas and support emerging community energy organisations with start-up costs.

In-kind support and/or grants up to £10,000 were made available for new and existing community energy organisations and climate action groups across the North East, Yorkshire and North East Lincolnshire.

- **‘Put your community on the map!’ campaign**

This campaign aims to promote opportunities for peer-to-peer networking within the community energy sector. Community energy and climate groups can add details about their activities and interests to [a new interactive map](#) to help them get the right support, improve their visibility, and find other like-minded, local organisations.

- **Community Energy Connections Factsheet**

[Community Energy Connections Factsheet](#)

If you are interested in learning more about Northern Powergrid’s work with communities or have an idea you would like to develop with us, please visit our community energy webpage:

[www.northernpowergrid.com/community-energy](http://www.northernpowergrid.com/community-energy) or email us.



**Northern Powergrid**

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