



Community Energy  
**State of the Sector Summary Report**  
2022

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## About the research

**The annual Community Energy State of the Sector survey and report has provided insight into the UK community energy sector since 2017. This summary document highlights the key statistics from our main 2022 report in a short, easy to read and reference format.**

The State of the Sector 2022 UK report is sponsored by SP Energy Networks and has been developed alongside additional regional community energy research reports on behalf of Electricity North West, Northern Powergrid and SP Energy Networks.

## Community Energy England, Wales and Scotland conduct this research to:

- further understand the current state of the sector;
- identify evidence-based areas of growth and opportunity;
- add to our robust dataset on the community energy sector;
- enable us to advocate more effectively for our members.



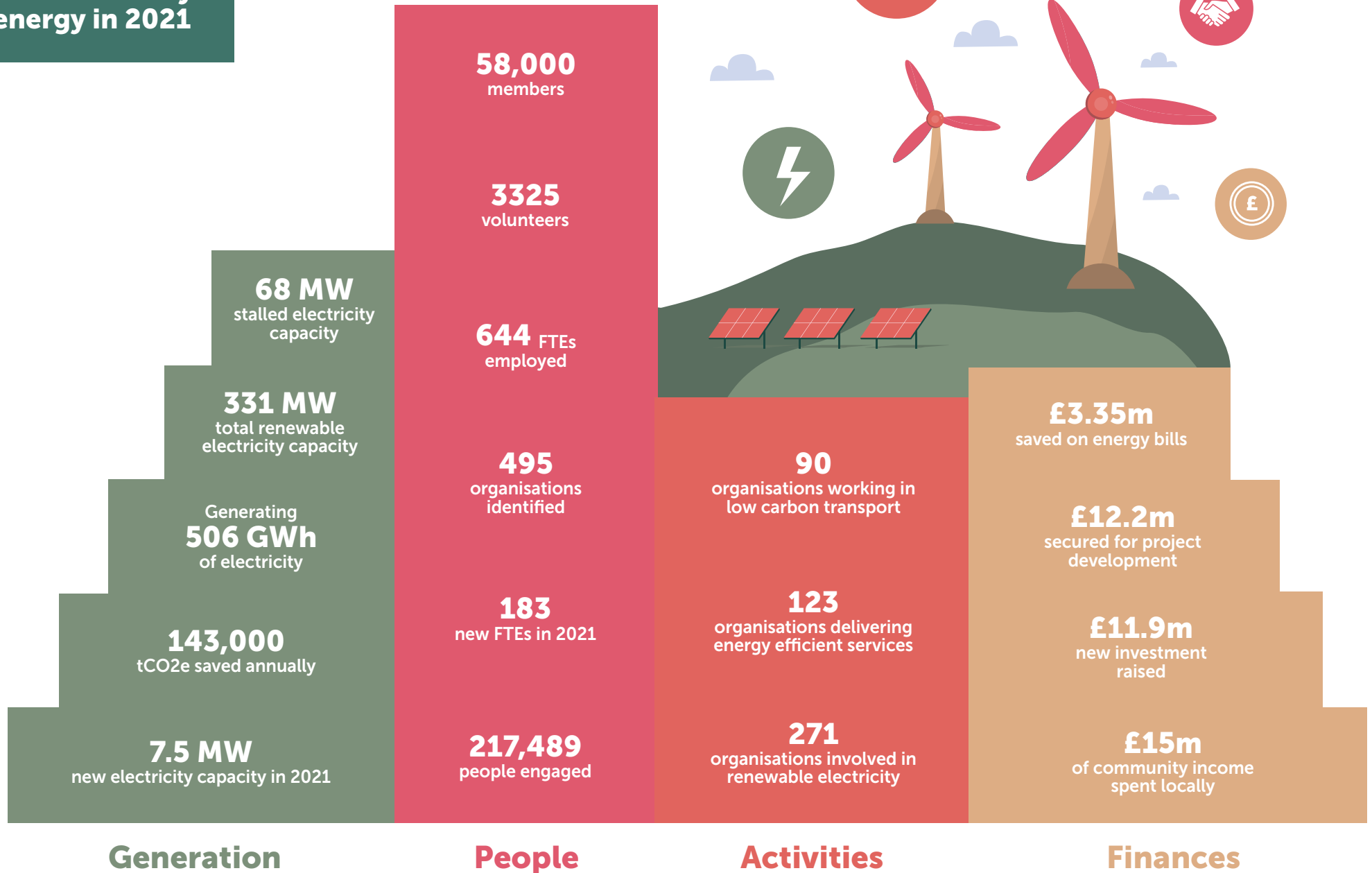
**This report is produced by:**



**We are very grateful to the sponsors of this year's report:**



# UK community energy in 2021

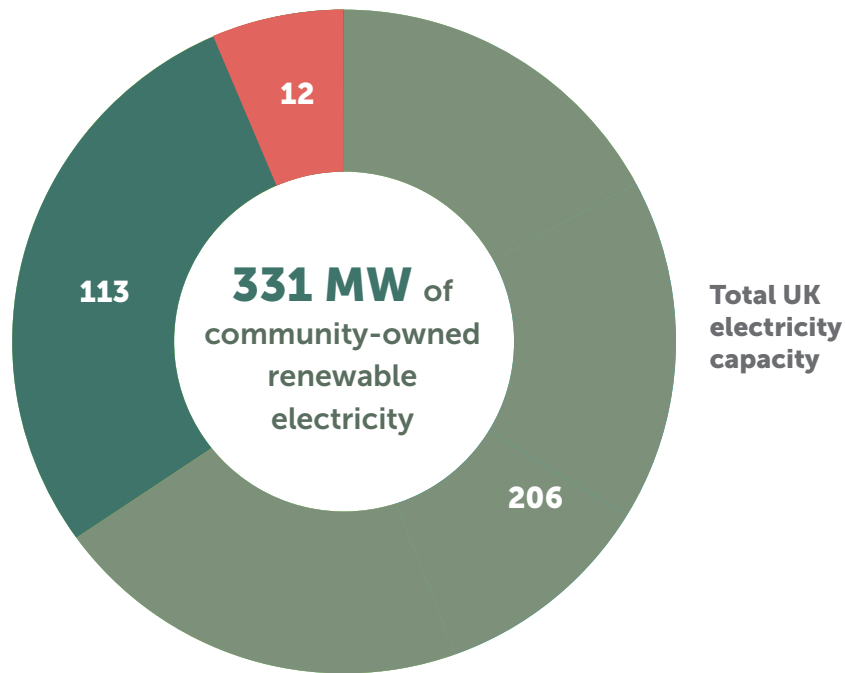


2021

Electricity generation

Despite the challenges of Covid-19 and removal of support mechanisms the sector has continued to develop and install new projects, although the rate of growth has slowed since 2017.

**23** new electricity generation assets installed with a total capacity of 7.6 MW



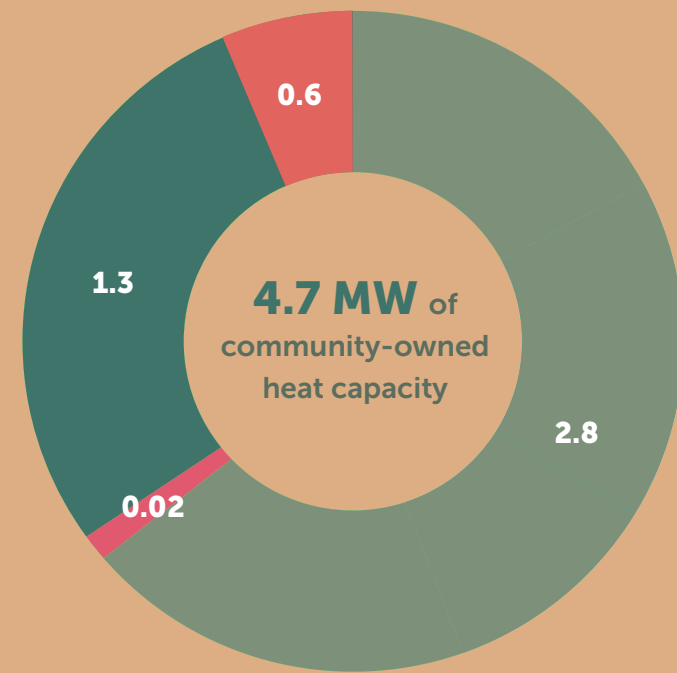
Solar PV Wind Hydro

2021

Heat generation

Renewable heat remains a challenging area for community development but the sector remains undeterred with 18 groups reporting an interest in developing projects in this area.

**3** new heat generation assets installed with a total capacity of 138 kW MW



Heat Pumps Biomass AD Solar Thermal

2021

Low Carbon  
Transport

113

new community-owned  
charge points installed

90

community  
organisations  
delivering LCT  
projects

Over the last few years, community groups have continued to turn their attention to low carbon transport (LCT) project development and there has been a notable shift away from EV ownership models toward a whole system approach.

£510,160

spent providing building  
improvements to

20,843  
households

£3.35  
million

saved on  
energy bills

57,600

individuals/  
communities  
engaged by  
energy efficiency  
initiatives

123

organisations  
delivering  
services

71%

providing free  
of charge  
services

14%

operating a  
paid-only  
model

25%

offering  
both



2021

Energy  
efficiency

Energy efficiency continued to play a key role in community energy sector activities in 2021, with 123 organisations delivering services in areas such as building improvement, advice and education, and the distribution of direct funding for energy efficiency works.

2021

**Funding & Finance**

**£12.2m secured for project development across the UK.**

**£11.9m investment raised for new projects.**

The Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF), the Welsh Government Energy Service and the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) provided the largest amount of funding in England, Wales and Scotland respectively.

The UK community energy sector raised £11.9m for new projects (not including refinanced investment), around the same level received in 2019 and 2020.

2021

**Energy Storage & Flexibility**

**1.9 MWh total energy storage capacity.**

**154 kWh of new energy storage capacity.**

Approximately 11% of community energy organisations are currently involved in energy storage and/or providing flexibility services.

**The impact of community energy: economic**

**In 2021, community energy organisations had a total community benefit fund value of £4.9m across 98 organisations, and distributed £1.35m.**

In terms of wider economic benefit, an average of 70% of community energy organisational expenditure was spent locally, amounting to just under £15m being directly used to support local economies.



Energy efficiency interventions saved an estimated £3.35m from UK energy bills

183 new full time equivalent jobs created in 2021

£15m of community energy income spent locally, boosting local economies

**What we need**

**Looking toward the future**

160 community organisations have projects in active development. 114 projects are likely to be implemented in the next couple of years and 46 are longer term projects. 92 groups indicated an intention to develop electricity generation projects, with 57 at a later stage of development.

**1**

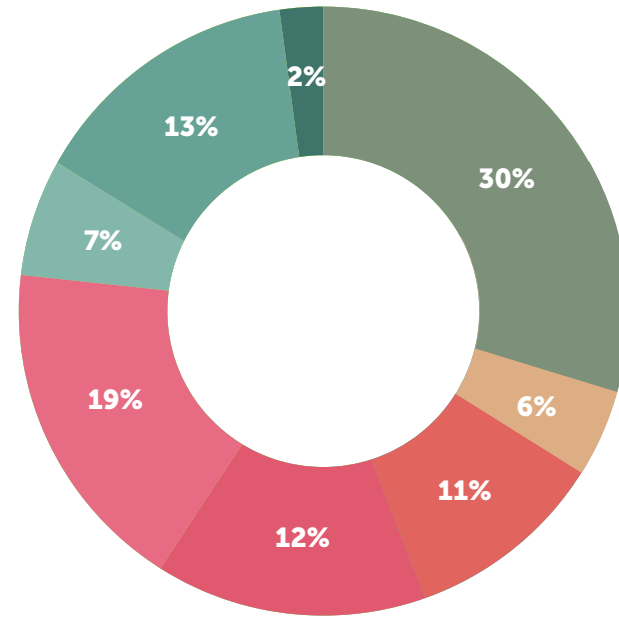
Create a Community Energy Strategy to invest in and re-mobilise community energy, establishing a fair playing field and a route to market for community-owned generation, as has been provided for commercial developers of projects larger than 5 MWs by the Contracts for Difference scheme. Create a National Community Energy Fund.

**2**

Boost demand reduction and behaviour change by enabling community energy leadership in retrofit, energy efficiency advice/fuel poverty alleviation for the energy crisis, demand management systems and driving behaviour change.

**3**

Take action to put Community Energy at the heart of the roll-out of Smart Local Energy Systems and Local Area Energy Planning.



**Future Project Development**

- Electricity Generation
- Heat Generation
- Energy Storage
- Low Carbon Transport
- Energy Efficiency
- Demand Side Management
- Local Supply
- Other



**80 stalled projects - 32% more than 2021 - totalling 68 MW stalled capacity**

**81 community energy organisations reported one or more stalled projects – 65% more than in 2020**

## About us

**We invite all organisations working on or supporting community energy to join us, to strengthen our collective voice and enable us to represent you in our work to develop and support the sector. Details of how to join us can be found below.**



## Community Energy Scotland



Community Energy Scotland is a community energy specialist dedicated to providing communities across Scotland with independent and ongoing support to develop their own energy projects.

Our membership is free for all Scottish community energy organisations and individual supporters, and provides opportunities for organisations to consult with our team, network with other member organisations and receive regular community energy-related information.

### Contact us for more information:

- 07920 182308
- [info@communityenergyscotland.org.uk](mailto:info@communityenergyscotland.org.uk)
- [@CES\\_Tweet](https://twitter.com/CES_Tweet)
- [www.communityenergyscotland.org.uk](http://www.communityenergyscotland.org.uk)

## Community Energy England



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 demonstrate your support for the broader interests of the sector and our work to help create a policy landscape in which community energy can thrive.

### Contact us for more information:

- 033 3303 4126
- [info@communityenergyengland.org](mailto:info@communityenergyengland.org)
- [@Comm1nrg](https://twitter.com/Comm1nrg)
- [www.communityenergyengland.org](http://www.communityenergyengland.org)

## Community Energy Wales



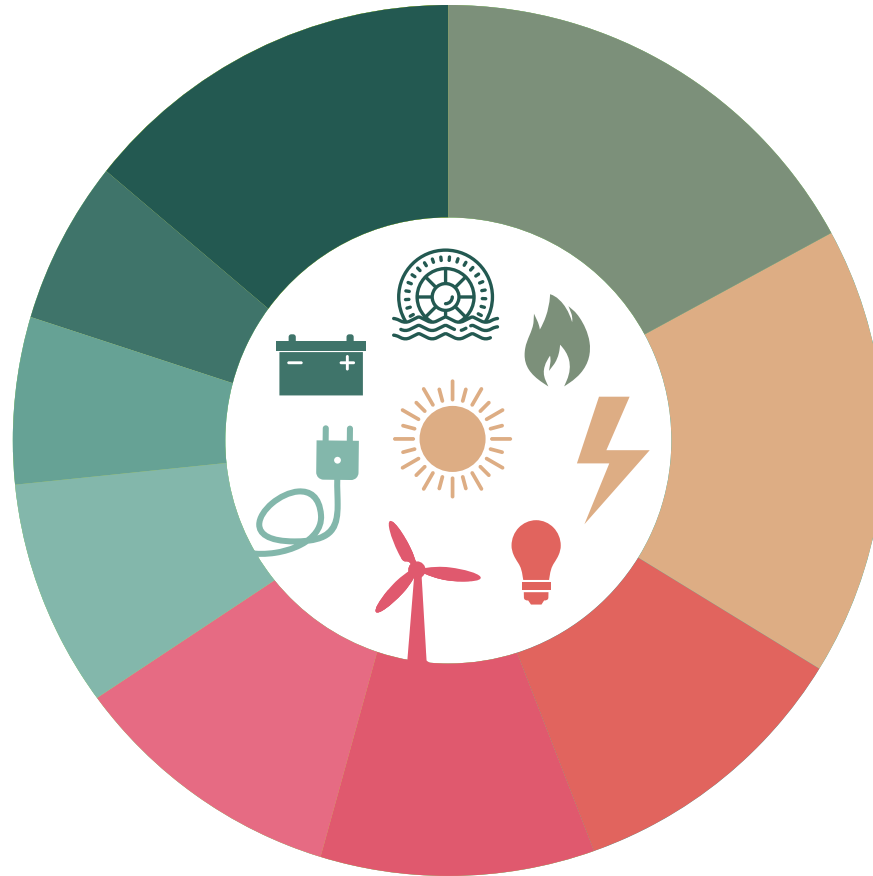
Community Energy Wales is a not-for-profit membership organisation which provides support to community energy organisations.

Join our growing network and support the Welsh community energy sector by becoming a member. Help keep the benefits from the energy transition in Wales and our communities.

### Contact us for more information:

- 02920 190260
- [info@communityenergywales.org.uk](mailto:info@communityenergywales.org.uk)
- [@CommEnergyWales](https://twitter.com/CommEnergyWales)
- [www.communityenergywales.org.uk](http://www.communityenergywales.org.uk)





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