

Community

Energy

Update

February 2017



Monthly news from the
Centre for Sustainable
Energy communities team



Visit www.cse.org.uk/communities for further support or email communities@cse.org.uk.

For useful resources, check out www.cse.org.uk/thesource.

Sign up for this monthly newsletter at www.cse.org.uk/communities-update

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Community wind group takes case to Court of Appeal

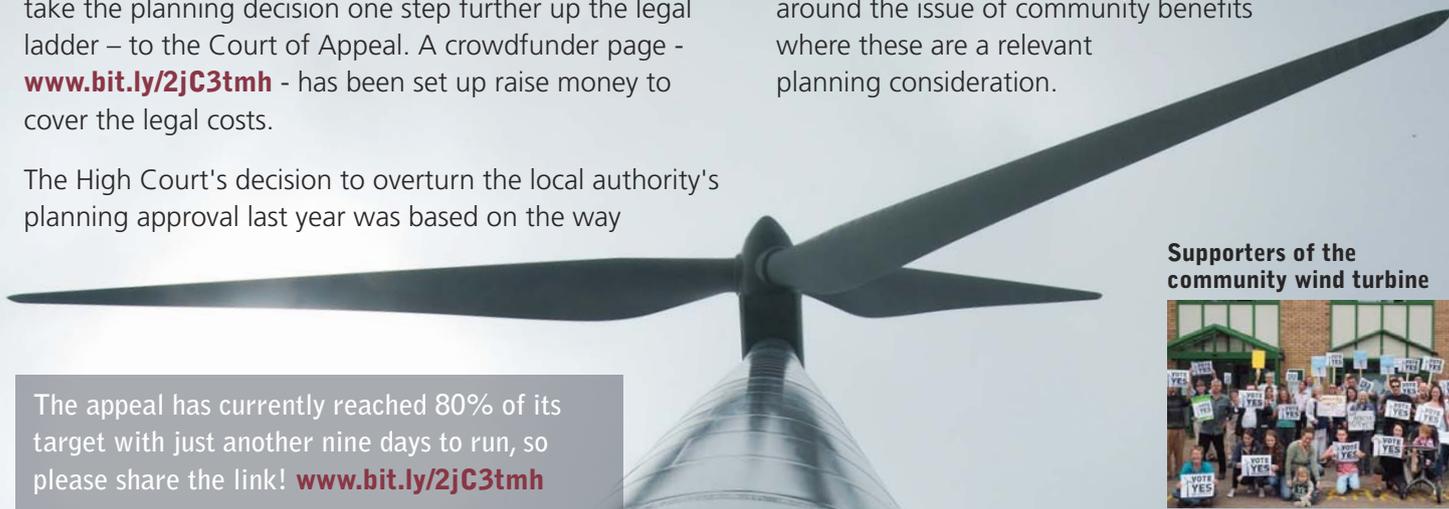
Back in April 2016, a proposed community wind turbine development in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, was blocked by the High Court following a case brought against it by a small group of local anti-wind activists. This is despite it having the backing of the majority of local residents and having been given planning permission by the local council.

However, the community, the council and the developers, Resilient Energy, have now been granted permission to take the planning decision one step further up the legal ladder – to the Court of Appeal. A crowdfunder page - www.bit.ly/2jC3tmh - has been set up raise money to cover the legal costs.

The High Court's decision to overturn the local authority's planning approval last year was based on the way

'community benefit' – a legally defined term referring to the social, environmental and economic advantages that the proposed project brings to the neighbourhood – had been interpreted by the local planning authority when approval for the turbine had been granted.

The Court of Appeal decision will determine whether the project finally gets the go ahead. It will also have significant implications for community energy schemes across the country as it will provide legal certainty around the issue of community benefits where these are a relevant planning consideration.



The appeal has currently reached 80% of its target with just another nine days to run, so please share the link! www.bit.ly/2jC3tmh

Supporters of the community wind turbine



Community energy – make your views heard

Community Energy England and Community Energy Wales have launched the first State of the Sector Survey. This aims to collect data on community energy generation, energy savings and CO₂ reduction projects in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The more survey responses CEE and CEW get, the better they can represent the community sector at national level, so please do take the time to respond.

The survey can be found here: www.bit.ly/2i2MN9j. Please share the survey through your networks as many community energy organisations as possible can have their say.





“We are the next generation”

www.bright-green-future.org.uk

Wedmore Green Group energy champion training

Here’s a great example of the community benefits that can be derived from community renewables ...



Wedmore Green Group from Somerset recently invested some of the income generated by their community solar farm in a day of fuel poverty training for their volunteers. The training was delivered by CSE’s

Lisa Evans last month, and the volunteers can now use their newly gained expertise to deliver energy advice in an area where fuel poverty is a significant issue.

“For many years CSE has been an invaluable guide and source of information for Green Wedmore,” said the group’s Steve Mewes. “Without CSE’s PlanLoCal scheme our community solar farm that’s now been operating for over three years may never have seen the light of day. We’re looking forward to working further with CSE to lower our community’s carbon footprint.”

We say, “Thanks, Steve, and keep up the good work!” And for more information on the group, visit www.wedmoregreengroup.co.uk and to access the Plan LoCaL resources go to www.planlocal.org.uk.

Around 25 of the young people who’ve signed up to CSE’s Bright Green Future programme for budding young environmentalists attended a training day in Birmingham at the end of January. As well as a chance to meet each other for the first time, our young participants were introduced to the UK planning system which is so central to the creation of a sustainable, low-carbon future. One participant said “We are the next generation so we need to think about the solutions that older people who are in charge aren’t thinking about at the moment”. Read more at www.cse.org.uk/news/view/2165

**BRIGHT
GREEN
FUTURE**

Royal Geographical Society flooding solutions event

As part of the 21st Century Challenges project, RGS are running an event on 11 March in Cumbria to explore local solutions to national problems of flooding. With a host of flooding experts, expect a public-panel discussion on multi-scale approaches to a serious climate change impact. More at <http://bit.ly/2kZaYce>



Re-energising the UK's Community Energy Sector event

Public Policy Exchange are running a day-long event on 23 March in London for community energy groups, local authorities and sustainability advisors (amongst other professionals) called Re-energising the UK's Community Energy Sector. The event should provide attendees with an invaluable opportunity to develop strategies to re-galvanise the UK's community energy sector and establish methods to sustain its impetus.

For more information on guest speakers (including CSE trustee Peter Capener) and the day's agenda or to register, visit: www.bit.ly/2144khs.



Regen SW Smart Energy Marketplace 2017 event and webinar

This year's Smart Energy Marketplace event is on 28 March in Exeter with a focus on moving towards a decentralised energy system and taking advantage of changing markets and new opportunities. Book your place here: www.bit.ly/2kZmbcN.

Regen are also running a webinar on 7 February on lessons and learning from the Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network's pioneering Sunshine Tariff. For more information and to book, visit:

www.regensw.co.uk/Event/sunshine-tariff-webinar



Over 300 people now follow our Bright Green Future project on Twitter. Why not join them.

@BrightGrnFuture

'Demain' documentary – organise a community screening

The Transition Network has negotiated the rights to be able to distribute documentary film Demain. It is a hugely positive, affirming and inspirational film, exploring creative solutions in the fields of food, energy, transport, economics and education. It has been a huge boost to community-led projects, and is currently on release in 29 other countries, regularly receiving standing ovations, and leading to the formation of many new community projects. It is the perfect antidote to the current sense of global despondency. It also has a great soundtrack! Find out more about organising a screening for your community here: www.transitionnetwork.org/news-and-blog/tomorrow-demain-available-last-uk



Listen again

BBC Radio 4's Money Box from 8 Jan

The item 'Cheaper energy when it rains' looks at how local people benefit from the output of a north Wales community energy hydroelectric scheme. [Note that a handy new function on BBC iPlayer now lets you click or scroll straight to the item you want.]

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b087p2k4



Video of the month

Starting your own solar power project

<https://youtu.be/cFmwQZ7rSKc>

Another from the archives, this one takes a look at how to set up a community solar project



Resource of the month

National Energy Action community action on fuel poverty resource & events

In the next few weeks NEA are running 20 workshops at venues across the country to share learning from a recent fuel poverty project. Designed with local groups in mind, the workshops will introduce a new resource – the Community Action on Fuel Poverty website. Workshop participation is free of charge and lunch is provided. For venues and bookings visit www.nea.org.uk/the-difference-we-make/events and look for events called Keeping Warm in Winter: Community Action on Fuel Poverty workshop.

➔ All CSE's videos are at www.youtube.com/csebristol. If you like them, please subscribe to our YouTube channel.

