



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

The Big Energy Summit 2025

A stimulus for action in local energy & climate change



26 – 27 February 2025

Birmingham Conference and Events Centre, Hill Street,
Birmingham, B5 4EW

Programme day 1

Wednesday 26 February 2025

09:00 Registration

10:30 **Introduction – Phil Brennan, Head of APSE Energy**

Session One

Local Net Zero - a view from DESNZ and the impact of the new Labour Government

DESNZ keynote

Financing Net Zero- Green Growth Fund West Impact Fund

- A £100m Regional Net Zero Impact Fund generating up to 10x more impact
- Invest in local net zero priorities and an In-house Investment Readiness Advisory Service
- Consideration of the wider finance environment for net zero

Justin Olosunde, Senior Finance & Investment Manager, West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and South West Net Zero Hub

Audience question and answer session

11:40 Break

Panel session on 'Local Area Energy Planning; how the process will need to mature to inform regional energy strategic plans'

Panel speakers:

- **Local Net Zero Hub representatives**
- **Chris Brierley, Senior Stakeholder & Impact Advisor, Energy Systems Catapult**

Session Two: Interactive discussions: Interactive discussions run concurrently and delegates can attend one session of their choice

Discussion One

Building geothermal projects from the ground up

- How can we use geothermal heating at scale in the UK?
- Using disused mines to heat local homes- the story of the Horden Minewater project
- What does a community-led heat network look like?

Ellie Grimes, Net Zero Team Leader - Countywide, Durham County Council and John Hart, Strategic Stakeholder Manager, NEY Hub

Discussion Two

Interactive immersive learning

- Experiences- air quality/energy use/retrofit/green jobs
- Sefton's approach to education and engagement
- The benefit of kinesthetic engagement

Darren Lloyd, Eco Education Officer and Christina Chislett, EEMS Retrofit Project Manager, Sefton Council

Discussion Three (planned)

Insights into funding and finance in portfolio-wide decarbonisation

- PSDS and LCSF delivery insights, including upcoming costs benchmark research to support procurement and decision-making
- Digitalisation and data- helping to prioritise interventions, streamlining and scaling delivery, and supporting investment decision-making
- Live case study of innovative decarbonisation in action

Craig Mellis and Matt Caville, Energy Systems Catapult

13:30 Lunch

Session Three

Reducing energy demand in Bradford - our approach and our actions

- Identifying priorities
- Data driven decisions, examples and outcomes
- The practicalities of energy management- a live demonstration of how we manage our buildings via BMS

John Sharp, Energy Team Manager, City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Forging ahead with the fleet

- Investing in the depot
- Solar, batteries, EVs and V2G
- Impact on services

Matt Ralfe, Innovation & Change Manager, Nottingham City Council

Sorting scope 3

- A focus on the data
- Working with suppliers
- Progress at Newcastle

Rachel Somerville, Climate Policy and Delivery Officer, Newcastle City Council

Audience question and answer session

15:40 Break

Session three continued

Ensuring local electricity distribution networks are fit for purpose for the UK's net zero goals

- How changes to policy could impact local government
- Council actions to get the most from their local networks and keep up with growing demand
- Building networks for the future

Margaret Read, Director of Policy, National Infrastructure Commission

Multiple benefits of nature-based climate adaptation and mitigation actions

- The importance of asset data
- Identifying evidence-based policy options
- Mapping effectiveness

Alison Smith, Senior Research Associate, Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford

Audience question and answer session

Session Four: Ask the expert: Sessions run concurrently. Delegates to attend one session of their choice

Step-by-step process of delivery energy projects

- Efficient routes to market
- Contract considerations
- Installation project management

Alan Barber, Chartered Energy Manager and Mike Keating, Mechanical Design Engineer (APSE Energy Associates)

The Power of Partnerships

- Why the WYCA joined forces to decarbonise homes
- The joining journey
- Customer case studies

Emma Lower, CEO, Lendology

Fleet decarbonisation and transition to EVs - an introduction to Dynamon's planning software, ZERO

- The transition to EVs, ensuring optimal vehicle mix and load requirements aligned to Depot grid capacity
- Modelling the transition to EVs
- Decarbonisation planning for the fleet

Nick Bridle, Customer Success Manager, Dynamon

Building up Community Energy as a resource for net zero

- How local authorities and community energy can support each other
- Co-benefits of a thriving local community energy network
- Powering up and powering down communities

Ollie Pendered, Chief Executive, Community Energy South

17:10 Close

19:00 Pre dinner drinks

19:30 **The BIG APSE Energy Summit awards and dinner**

Programme day 2

Thursday 27 February 2025

09:00 Introduction, James Jefferson, APSE Energy

Session One: Case study 'shorts'

Developing Plymouth's Heat Network

- Getting the operation right - customers, loads, and technology
- A long-term investment providing heat now, in 2050, and beyond

John Allen, Building Decarbonisation Manager, South West Net Zero Hub

A natural approach to highways flooding

- A case study employing practical solutions
- Fitting the practice into the policy

Laura Morrison, Flood Risk Engineer, Wigan Council

We installed a lot, so we know what we're doing!

- How EVs fit into our decarbonisation targets
- Managing simultaneous access to chargers for the public and the fleet - Clepington Road Hub
- Local barriers and solutions

Claire Gillespie, Senior Sustainability and Climate Change Officer, Dundee City Council

Sharing your generated power- there may be a better way?

- What is a complex site?
- Generating and consuming electricity
- Benefits for us and others

Jason Taylor, Energy Manager, Southampton City Council

Carbon Culture - embedding the approach in Warrington

- Ensuring climate change is central to the authority going forward
- Building communities of net zero practice among the workforce
- Tackling barriers and encouraging innovation

Robyn Lees, Net Zero Innovation and Delivery Officer, Warrington Borough Council

Powering the lights in Hertfordshire

- Wind and solar generation
- Results from the pilot

Peter Simpson, Senior Asset Manager & Team Leader Highways Operations, Hertfordshire County Council

10:30 Break

What is the future of energy pricing?

- Where are the energy market and prices headed?
- What questions should you be asking your energy consultant?
- How can you reduce your reliance on the grid - eliminating energy waste and on-site generation

Equity Energies

Session Two: Interactive Discussions: Interactive discussions run concurrently and delegates can attend the session of their choice

Discussion One

Skill issues and the impact on local authorities

- Finding funding
- Working with partners
- How LAs can support upskilling for net zero

Marissa Looby, Home Energy Lead, NW Hub and Genevieve Dady, Supply Chain Development Manager, GSE Hub

Discussion Two

Delivering the Carmarthenshire LEAP through local and regional actions

- The nuts and bolts of decarbonisation
- Hands on experience from Carmarthenshire
- Challenges of working locally and regionally

Neil Evans, Corporate Energy Officer and Laura Davies, Regional Energy Manager, Carmarthenshire County Council

Discussion Three

Renewables, waste management and AD

- Green disposal of organic waste
- Integrating renewables
- Benefits for the local economy

Donnie MacMillan, Plant Manager, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar/ Western Isles Council

11:50 Break

Session Three: Ask the expert: Sessions run concurrently and delegates can attend one session of their choice

Networked Heat Pumps approach- it's the future!

- Why Ground Source is a good idea
- How, where and when?
- Case study examples including heritage buildings

Ieman Barmaki, Sustainability Director, Kensa

Anaerobic digestion- is it for you?

- Issues for consideration
- Scale, capacity, planning, output
- Advantages of AD

Steve Gummer, Head of Net Zero, Sharpe Pritchard

Overcoming Grid Constraints

- Understanding the problem for solar projects
- Overview of how DC coupling solar to our battery storage can offer a solution
- Key benefits of this approach

Alex Thompson, Group Sales Director, AceOn

Session Four

Public engagement through a retrofit show home

- Why use retrofit as an educational resource?
- Our approach to housing decarbonisation
- Outcomes and benefits

Jo Gay, Head of Environment, Southend-On-Sea City Council

The context for domestic decarbonisation

- The scale of the home energy efficiency challenge
- Finding funding
- Case studies- lessons and learning; problems and solutions

Alex Krzesinski, Business Development Manager and Katie Baker, Operations Director, YES Energy Solutions

Audience question and answer session

13:25 Closing comments

13:30 Lunch

Book a Surgery Appointment!

Surgeries are available for delegates who wish to spend 15 minutes discussing a particular question, issue or technical matter with a regional Net Zero Hub representative or an APSE Energy consultant.

Further information will be released closer to the BIG Energy Summit.

Please note, surgery appointments are limited and available on a first-come, first serve basis.

Booking Information

About the Event

The BIG Energy Summit has grown to be an important event in the energy diary over the last few years. It is the only energy seminar focusing solely on the local government sector and is designed specifically for local authorities with content designed specifically for that audience. There will be a range of senior councillors and officers in attendance who will provide the chance for networking and sharing of experience and expertise.

This year's BIG Energy Summit is titled "A stimulus for action in local energy and climate change". The Labour Government has delivered some significant prompts for activity since coming to power and it's renewed focus on the energy and climate change agenda has raised the topic further up the political flagpole. Quick announcements and decisions on onshore wind projects, planning changes, discussions on targets and proposed legislation appear encouraging. These are the kind of prompts that can bring renewed vigour to the work of local authority officers and councillors with responsibilities around energy and climate change. As many become more experienced in managing these responsibilities the nature and scale of the challenge becomes clearer. Different councils are at different stages of the journey of course but the fact remains that there is no substitute for knowledge of the sector in terms of lessons from local government, case studies and best practice. Sharing and learning is at the centre of what APSE does and at the heart of this event.

This year DESNZ are continuing to support the event and are encouraging even more local authorities to attend.

For more information please visit www.apse.org.uk

Introducing the APSE Energy Awards. Three awards will be announced at the event dinner to reflect excellence in the services.

Delegate Packages Exclusive of VAT

What's included?

The delegate fee covers attendance, documentation, hotel accomodation (26th February), meals and light refreshments.

APSE Energy Member Authorities Receive 2 Free Places

APSE Energy Member Authorities additional places	£269.00 + VAT
APSE Member (but not a member of APSE Energy)	£499.00 + VAT
Non-APSE member local authority	£599.00 + VAT
Commercial organisation	£699.00 + VAT

Accommodation rates

Accommodation for the evening of Wednesday 26 February is included as part of the delegate place.

Accommodation for the evening of Tuesday 25 February is charged at £113 + VAT

Click [here](#) to reserve your place on this event

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY: Anybody who books on to this event but do not attend nor give notice of not attending, will be charged a fee equivalent to the cost borne by APSE. Reservation is a contract. Substitution of delegates is acceptable any time in writing by post or email to aevans@apse.org.uk. Cancellations must be made in writing at least 10 working days before the event, and will incur a 20% administration fee. No refunds can be given for cancellations received less than 10 working days before the event or for non-attendance. In the unlikely event of cancellation by the organisers, liability will be restricted to the refund of fees paid. The organisers reserve the right to make changes to the programme, speakers or venue should this become necessary.

