



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**

10:40 **Session One**

**Delivering Government agendas locally and regionally - a NZ Hubs perspective - Maxine Narburgh, Regional Director, Greater South East Net Zero Hub**

**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

12:00 **Panel session on 'Local Area Energy Planning; how the process will need to mature to inform regional energy strategic plans'**

**Panel chair: Alistair Craig, NW Hub**

**Panel speakers: Karen Oliver-Spry, NE&Y Hub; Chris Brierley, Senior Stakeholder & Impact Advisor, Energy Systems Catapult; Laura Bramley, Calderdale Council.**

12:50 **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 - County-wide, 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

**Insights into funding and finance in portfolio-wide decarbonisation**

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

**Craig Mellis and Matt Caville, Senior Advisors, Decarbonisation of Complex Sites, Energy Systems Catapult**

### Discussion Four

**Considering adaptation and mitigation in planning applications – a new NPPF requirement**

- What might it mean for you, your planners and your council?
- A beneficial tool or a headache?
- Interpretation and potential local impacts

**David Hand, Head of Planning Policy, Economic Strategy and Environment, Darlington Borough Council**

13:20 Lunch

14:20 **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

16:00 **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

16:50 **Session Four: Ask the expert:** *Sessions run concurrently. Delegates to attend one session of their choice*

**Step-by-step process for the delivery of energy projects**

- Efficient routes to market
- Contract considerations
- Installation and 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**

**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 Pathways**

**Performance management and data**

- Data on energy use, emissions, renewables and more
- Aims of the project
- Outcomes from the pilot

**Debbie Johns, Head of Performance Networks, APSE**

17:20 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

09:05 **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**

## 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**

10:15 Break

10:35 **Session Two**

## 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

**Andrew Donald, Business Development Manager, Equity Energies**

11:00 **Session Three: 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 LAEP 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**

### Discussion Four

#### Leapfrog into decarbonisation planning using Net Zero Data

- Understand the energy system and assets in your area
- Find opportunities
- Start project planning

**Sandeep Kang, Senior Product Manager, Energy Systems Catapult**

11:35 Break

11:50 **Session Four: 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

**Stuart Gadsen, Commercial 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**

#### Clean Power 2030 and planning

- The Act's impact on the planning function
- Planning's impact on decarbonisation
- Ensuring your planners are on board

**Tim Crawshaw, Chartered Town Planner and Urban Designer, APSE Energy Associate**

12:30 **Session Five**

#### 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

**Duncan McCombie, Chief Executive, YES Energy Solutions**

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

**Patrick Allcorn, Head of Local Net Zero Demonstration & Delivery, DESNZ**

### Audience question and answer session

13:30 Closing comments

13:35 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](http://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 accommodation (26<sup>th</sup> February), meals and light refreshments.*

### APSE Energy Member Authorities Receive 2 Free Places

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

### 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](mailto: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.

