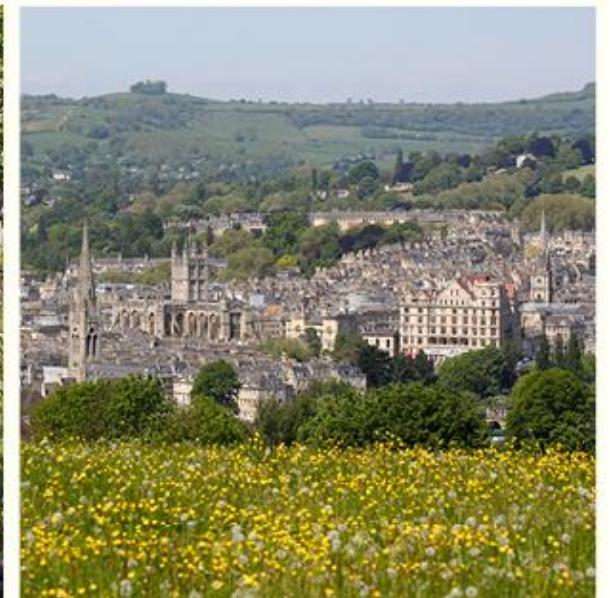


Working with local partners: The Bath & North East Somerset Community Energy Network

APSE Energy - February 2026



Improving People's Lives



Community Energy Network



- Partnership project with B&NES Council, Bath and West Community Energy, University of Bath, Centre for Sustainable Energy and, through the Community Wellbeing Hub, Age UK BANEs and Citizens Advice BANEs.
- Grant funded from the Climate Action Fund by the National Lottery.
- 3 year project until February 2028.
- Interim webpages are set up here - www.bathnes.gov.uk/communityenergynetwork
- The key strands are **Energy at Home** (including a network of **Energy Champions**) and **Energy in your Community**

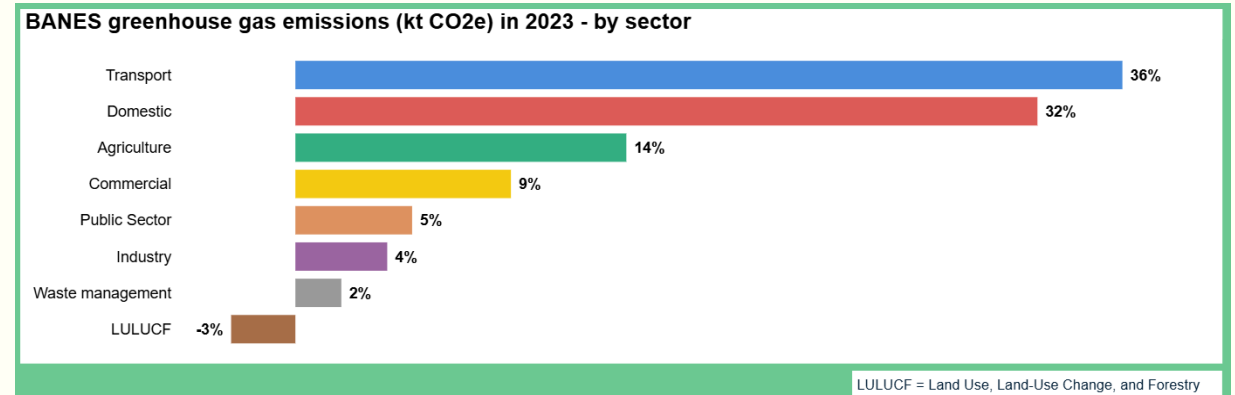
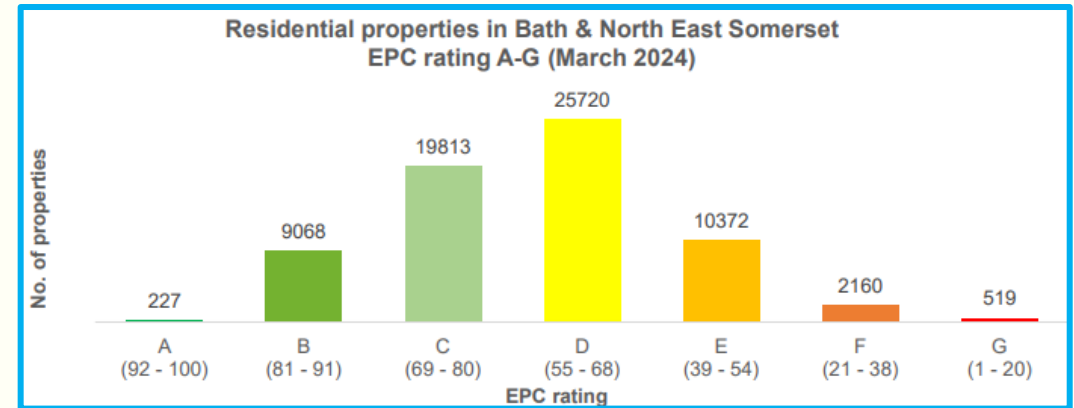
Why do we need CEN in BANES?

We all want warm and healthy homes

- 10.2%, of households in **fuel poverty**
- 61% of residential properties have an **EPC** rated D-G.

We're in a climate emergency

- Domestic housing accounts for 32% of emissions in BANES
- The Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, and an Ecological Emergency in 2020.
- The Council set out four priorities for climate, including **decarbonising buildings** and **increasing renewable energy generations**



Energy at Home

Many people want to lower energy costs while keeping their homes warm but don't know where to start or what support is available.



What's does Energy at Home offer?

- Energy advice from Age UK, Citizen's Advice and Centre for Sustainable Energy through the Community Wellbeing Hub.
- Energy cafés and events for in person information and support
- Signposting to Retrofit West's services, including free home visits and discounted retrofit assessments
- Online resources signposting to energy saving advice, retrofit support, funding/ grants, how to reduce mould and damp etc.
- Support from Energy Champions

Energy Champions

What is an energy champion?

- Recruited and managed by BWCE
- Receives Energy Essentials training by CSE, which provides knowledge on energy saving, signposting, evaluation
- Listens to peoples' needs and then provides support by signposting to relevant organisations and information
- Shares their own experiences, to encourage and enthuse others



Champions can either be...

Local people who volunteer their spare time to be involved in outreach and events

Staff or volunteers who meet or work with the public as part of their job, who can add energy support into their role

Energy in Your Community

Guiding communities through the journey from initial interest in community-owned energy, to fully funded reality – while keeping the community in control.

- Working with the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) and Bath and West Community Energy
- Delivering a series of workshops and activities that explore the potential for community-owned renewables, including the local benefits.
- 3 areas are being continued from a pilot in 2022
- 3 new areas selected by grouping together organisations that responded to a call out for interest in the project



Community Energy Network Partnership

Funder



Partners
(named on partnership
agreement)



Partners (contracted for
project delivery)



BWCE - Cooperation agreement

Pete Capener, Chief Executive, Bath and West Community Energy: *“Our partnership with Bath and North East Somerset Council has been a critical factor in Bath and West Community Energy's successful transition from a small voluntary organisation to one able to deliver large projects with an experienced and professional staff team.”*



First signed in 2011 and laid foundation for capital loan for >2MW ground solar



Surplus revenues c.£450k reinvested into the Community Fund to support local projects



New 5 year agreement signed in 2023



Non exclusive. Also have agreement with Keynsham Community Energy



Commitment to annual reporting

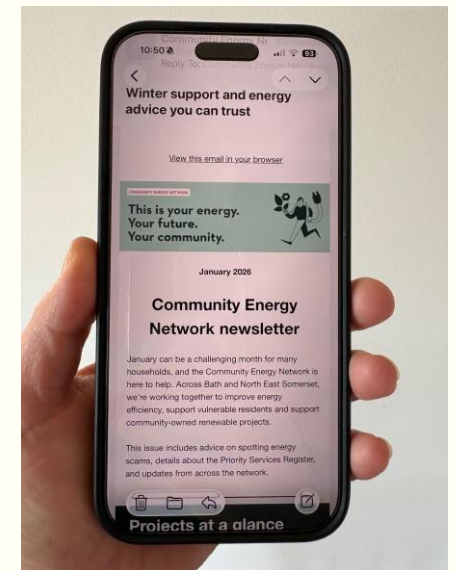
Community Wellbeing Hub

- A partnership of over 40 organisations offering support in BANES to **make it easier for people to access support they need.**
- One point of contact referral system to offer support for a big range of needs
- Through CEN we've added Energy Advice to the referrals – this then links to Citizens Advice, Age UK and CSE for advice.



The role of the Council within CEN

- Coordinating partners to support project delivery
- Liaising with, and reporting back to, the Lottery
- Grant holder
- Communications role – setting up website and brand development
- Community Wellbeing Hub – coordinating energy advice, linking into the wider network.



The role of the Council

Connecting to other district and regional work

- Retrofit Enabling Plan
- Climate and Nature Strategy update coming 2026
- Public health – Mould and Damp, student events, social landlord charters
- Housing Suitability Pillar of the Housing Strategy
- Local Plan
- Linking to other networks - Student Community Partnership



Looking forward

- Two more years of Lottery funding
- Continuing to build relationships and networks with local organisations
- Thinking about the legacy of the project – how can we use project outcomes to continue to work together collaboratively.



*BWCE install of solar PV at Council office
Lewis House*



Thanks for listening

Any questions please send to

Ellena_bryant@bathnes.gov.uk

Community_Energy@bathnes.gov.uk

[Sign up to our newsletter here](#)

[Check out our interim webpages](#)