

Community Energy Pathways

How local authorities can enhance the value of community energy in their localities

Ollie Pendered, Community Energy South

COMMUNITY ENERGY
PATHWAYS

COMMUNITY
ENERGY
SOUTH 

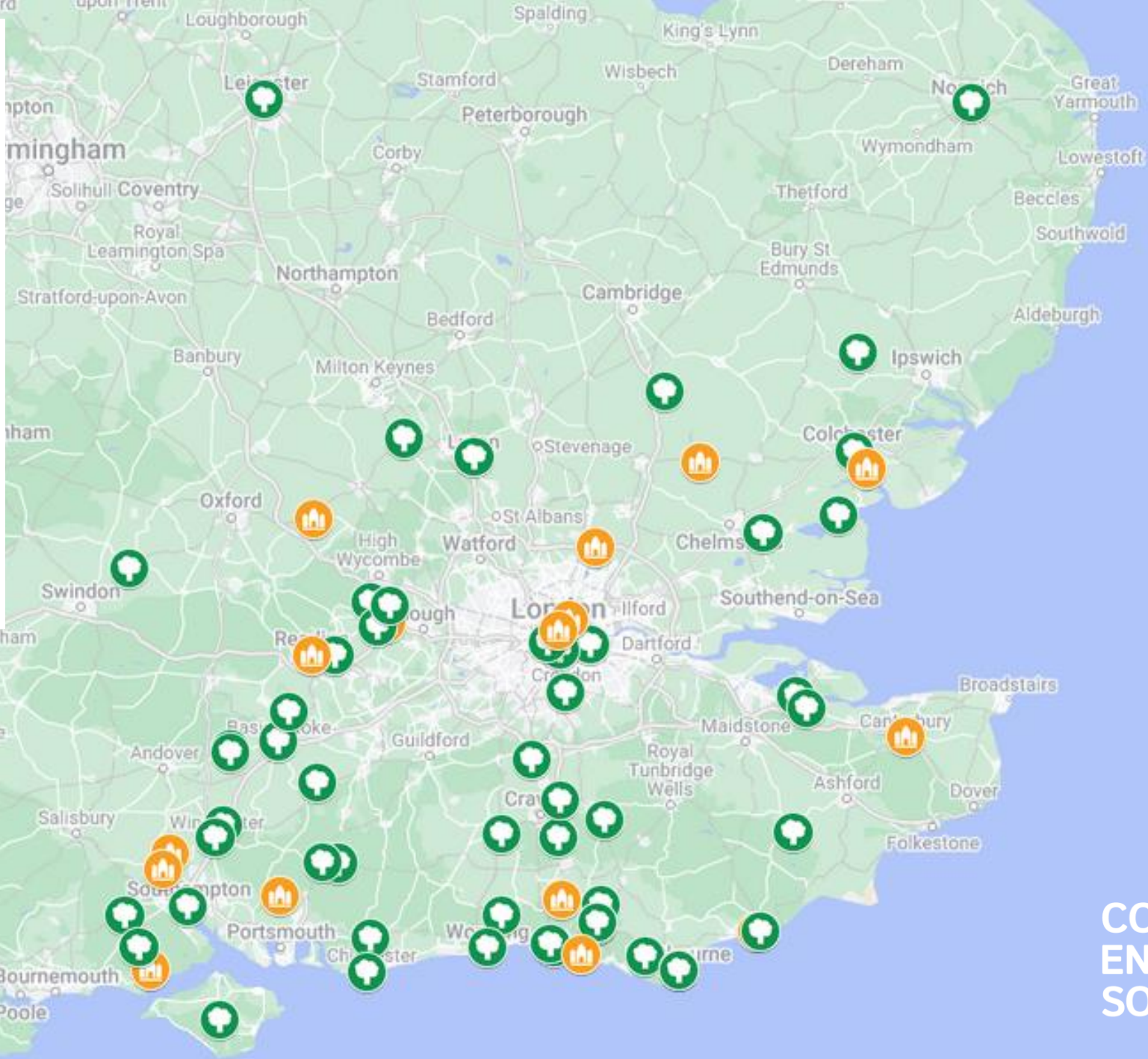
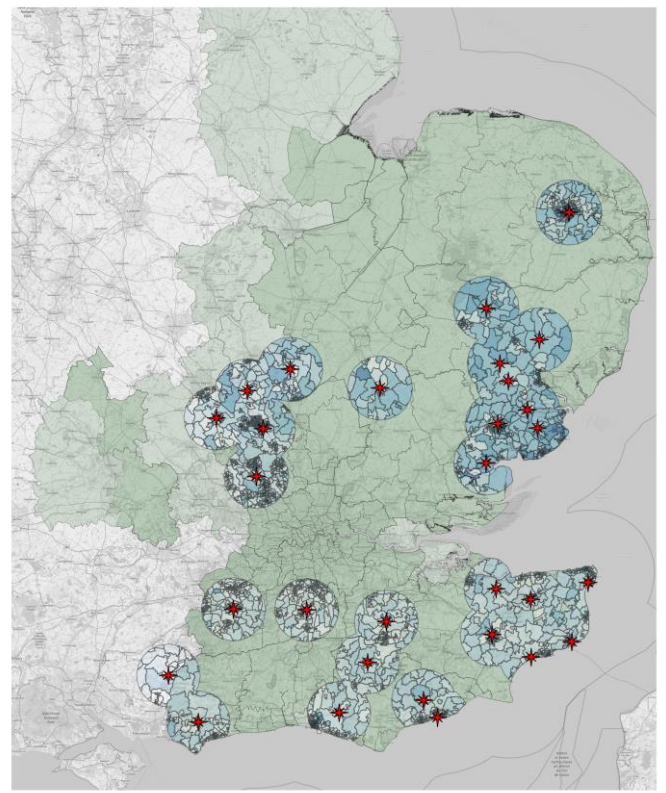
CommuniPower



Our vision is to enable every District, Borough or Unitary Authority to benefit from a community energy group and for regional community energy steering groups to become established.

Community Energy supports communities to develop renewable energy projects, provide trusted local energy advice, establish energy and climate hubs and for local people to become trusted advisors in the net zero transition.





[Visit map](#)

Building partnerships for Net Zero



SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK



About Community Energy

➤ Powering Up

Communities developing and owning their own energy projects which save money and reduce carbon emissions: **heat networks, renewable energy and low carbon transport**

Harnessing community finance

➤ Powering Down

A network of **community energy champions** who provide trusted and impartial local advice on energy and cost savings and support households struggling with their energy bills.

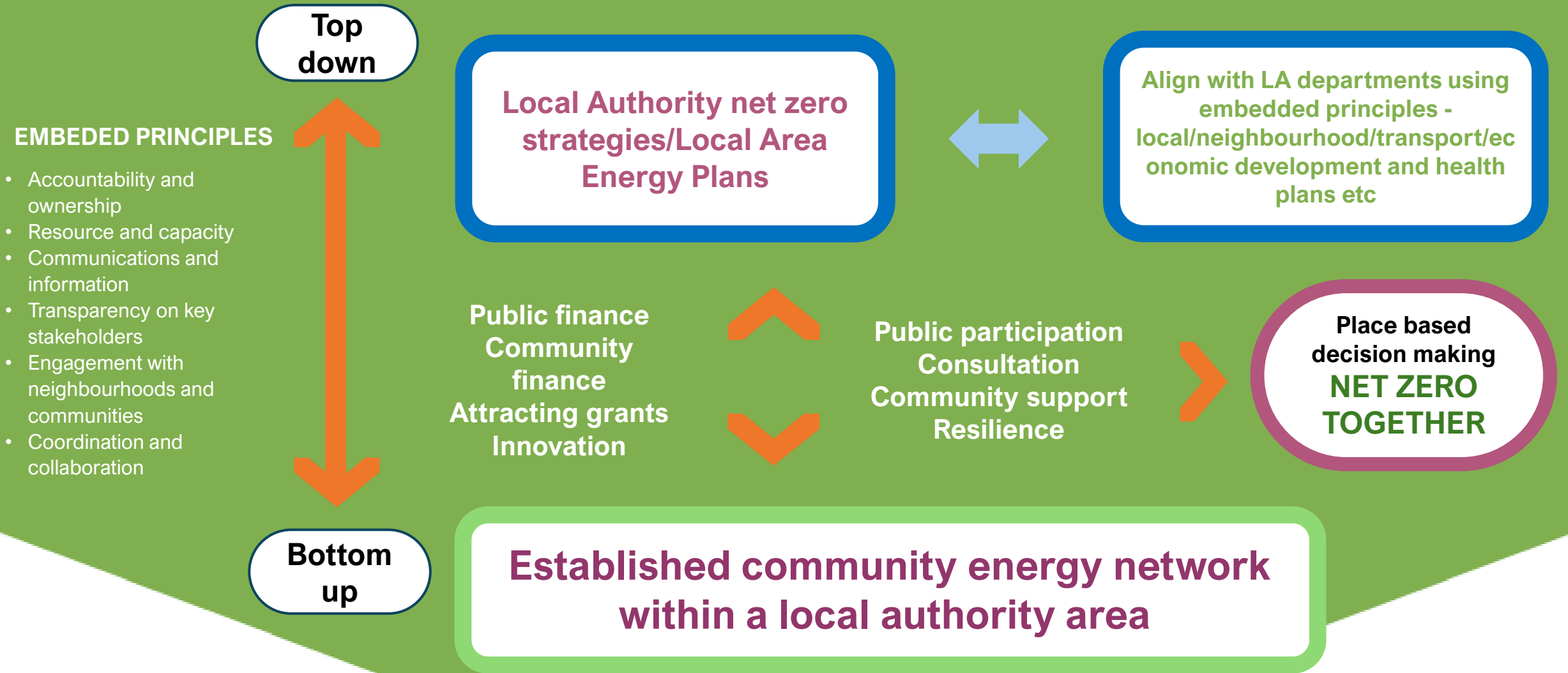
Enabling community resilience

➤ Energy planning

Communities working together to coordinate and develop local **energy / decarbonisation plans** that are led by the community and encourage participation and ownership e.g. CommuniHeat

Enabling community participation

Pathways to net zero with community energy

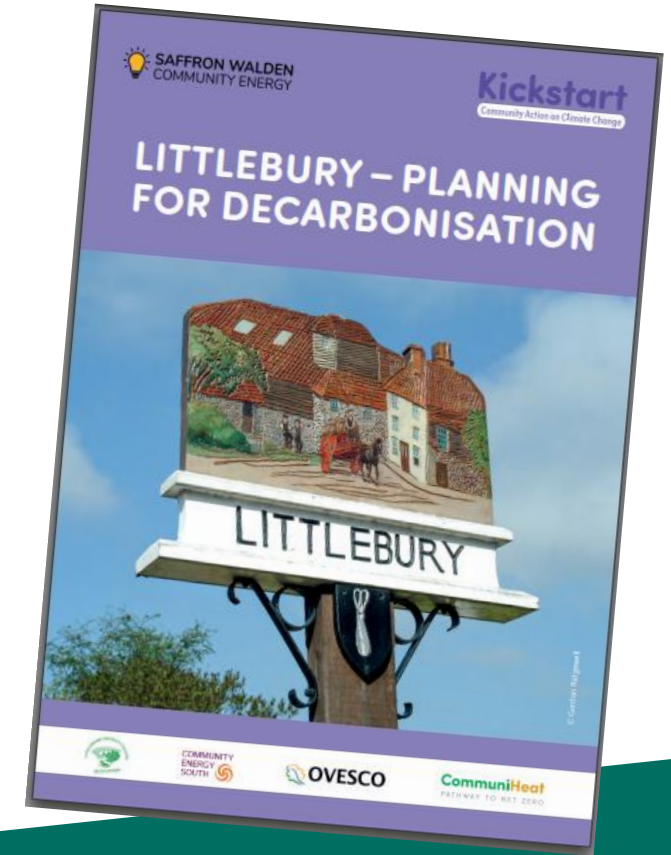


Saffron Walden Community Energy

Community-scale Decarbonisation
across Essex & East Sussex



- Established in 2021
- Leading on the Littlebury Energy project
- Working with the parish council and Uttlesford District Council to develop a plan to help Littlebury move away from oil heating
- Cluster approach – looking for new parishes to join





- **Harveys Brewery - rooftop PV 98kW**
- **Sunny Solar Schools**
- **Meadow Blue Solar Farm - 5MW**
- **Ouse Valley Solar Farm - 17 MW - no subsidy!**
- **Get Bikery - electric cargo bike hire/delivery**
- **2m Climate Action Fund**
- **Energy advice projects**

CommuniPower

East Sussex Pilot – a planned approach to decarbonisation



500 heat pumps installed

Retrofits

17 renewable sites

75% saving in network reinforcement costs





- **Community Energy Group in Surrey/Berkshire**
- **400KWp on 7 community buildings - 2 owned by our council**
- **Ground source heat at one site**
- **Council asking us for more!**





- Home energy surveys
- Thermal Imaging surveys
- Energy Advice Cafe

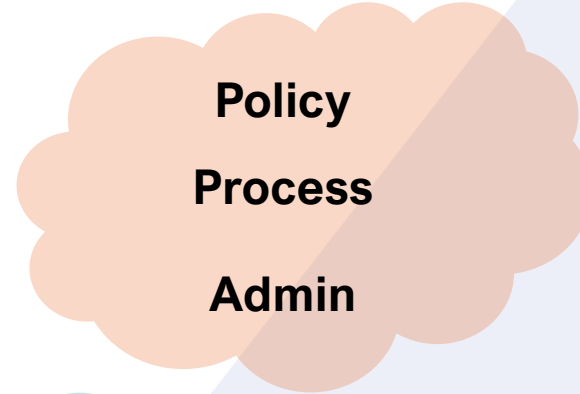
Pathways has enabled:

- SSEN funding to offer microbusiness surveys across East Hants
- p/time staff member
- Train other CE groups

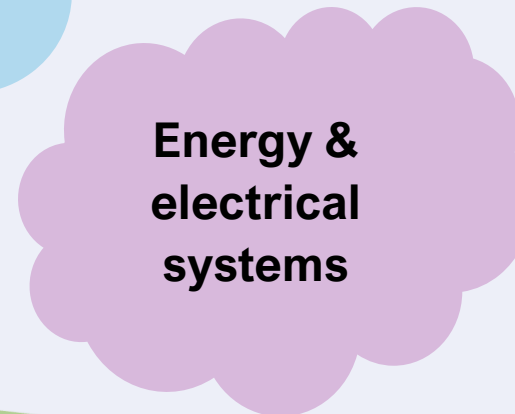
What kind of people/skills are needed?

People who are:

- Committed to helping reduce carbon
- Keen to challenge barriers the group may face in delivering projects
- Organised and available
- From all walks of life



The ideal skill mix

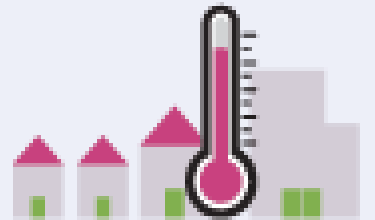


Buzz Community Energy

Sue Wilkins: Director

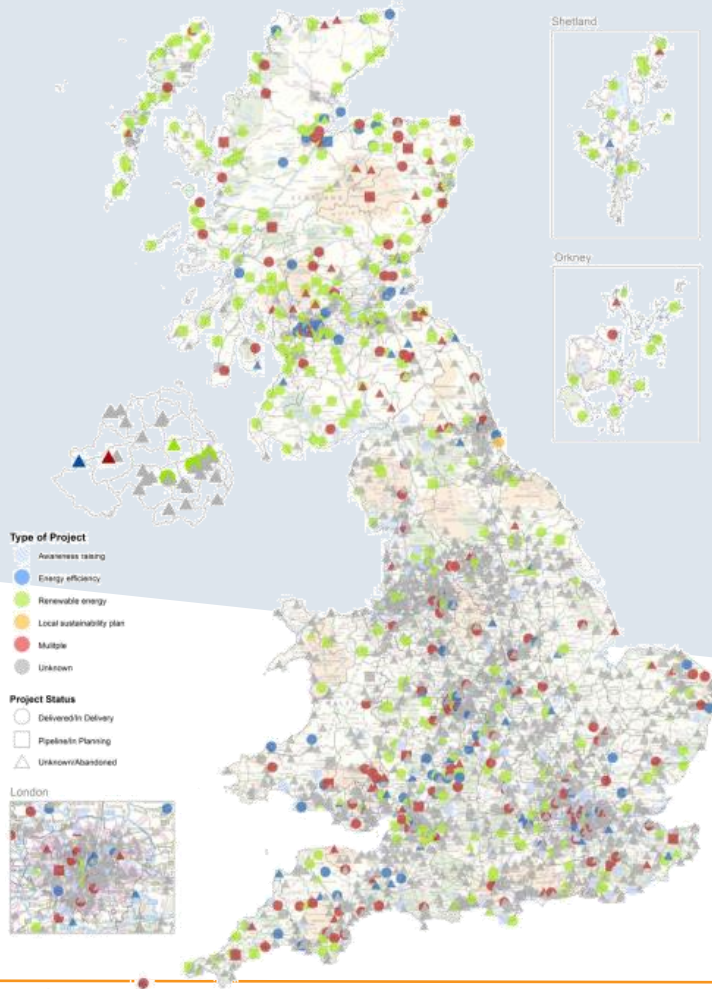


1. Hairdresser owner – decarbonised his business
2. School Business Manager
3. CBC Sustainable Transport Manager
4. Finance Director – fashion house
5. Retired Vicar - global missions
6. Sustainability Manager - manufacturer

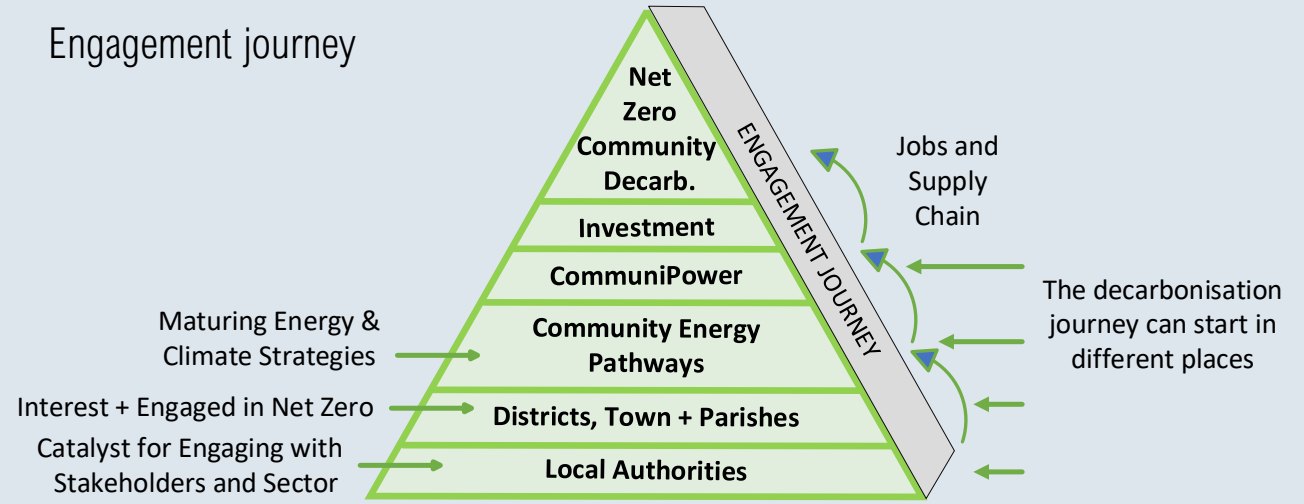


Securing community engagement at scale and enabling Net Zero.

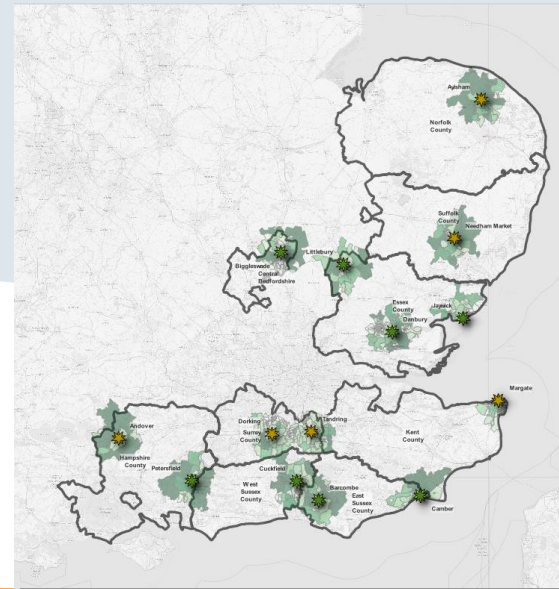
Over 5,000 community groups active nationally (2014 DECC data)



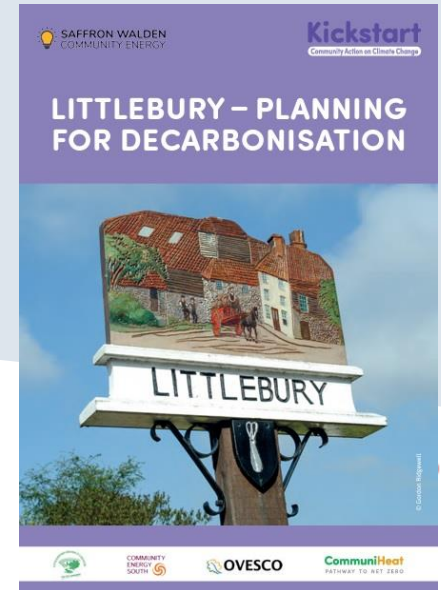
Engagement journey



Engaged Community Energy Networks across South East



Community Led Planning



Opportunities and Barriers

Innovate UK

Local Energy Advice Demonstrator Fund

Partnerships with Electricity Networks

Strategic Innovation Fund

National Community Energy Fund



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

[Barriers to community energy projects - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

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AWARDS



Local Authority Collaboration Award

Scaling Up Community Energy Award

Community Energy Organisation of the Year

WINNER 2022



Community Energy

AWARDS



2023 WINNER

Sector Support



www.communityenergysouth.org



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

