



APSE Energy Prospectus

Energising Local Government





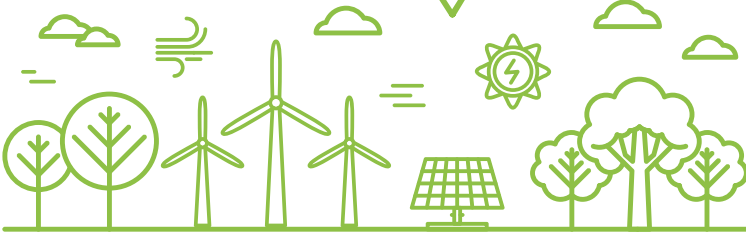
Welcome to APSE Energy

APSE Energy was launched in June 2014 with a vision to 'facilitate the municipalisation of energy services'.

We now have over 100 members and the numbers are growing. Many are making great strides in achieving the vision and leading in this field whilst others are learning from their colleagues and taking their first steps towards engaging in the energy agenda.

What are the latest renewable technologies?

Are we able to earn money from energy trading?



Why isn't every council actively addressing the energy agenda?

How will fuelling public transport change?



Can the council really generate income from the energy agenda?

Is the council able to introduce a lower energy tariff for our residents and businesses?



How bad is air pollution in our towns and cities?

Can we benefit from using battery storage?

How do we reduce our reliance on the grid?

The Context

Climate emergency declarations are prompting a huge variety of actions across local authorities. Some councils have the capacity and experience to drive these actions forward but many are attempting to lead the agenda locally with limited internal resources. APSE Energy can support local authorities to focus on energy and make the most of their assets.

The defining energy issues of our time include the price, security of supply and the sustainability of generation. As things stand our society has an unsustainable reliance on energy and action is being taken at a global scale. Nationally our energy supply market, dominated by the Big 6, is broken and new organisations are entering the market.

Local authorities have a leadership role within their localities which they all take seriously. Providing services, supporting individuals, helping businesses, looking after the local area, giving advice and generally standing up for the community is what they do. Addressing the energy agenda fits exactly with this role. As users of significant amounts of energy, local authorities also need to ensure they get the best deal they can for energy.

The Problem

Fuel poverty, fluctuations in price, outages and poor customer service all impact directly on residents and businesses. Air pollution in our towns and cities continues to lie above acceptable levels. Dependence on the grid and dirty energy is no longer an acceptable policy. Whilst significant changes in technology include developments such as the move to electric vehicles, distributed networks, district heating and opportunities to sell energy. Local authorities have assets and must make the best use of them. That means considering energy as an income stream from council owned assets.

The Solution

It is a difficult job just keeping up to date with new developments across the wide range of topics in the energy agenda. APSE Energy services can help you do so through our briefing and technical notes, events, publications and newsletters. We can also put you in touch with officers and councillors from other local authorities, as well as suppliers who have installed technologies and solved problems along the way.

A number of local authorities lack the internal resource or expertise to take specific projects forward. They may need help to draw up a holistic energy strategy, produce a business case or make progress with an individual project. APSE Energy works with Associates who are energy sector experts having built their experience in the public and private sectors over a number of years on a range of projects. We can provide consultancy support with the following topics:

Access to private sector funding	Energy storage options
Access to government funding	Financial planning for renewable projects
Asset mapping	Funding mechanisms
Bill validations	Grid access and capacity for renewable projects
Biomass	Heat networks
Calculating the council's carbon footprint	Legal support and advice
Climate emergency action planning	Local grid capacity
Developing a business case	Low emission vehicles
Electric vehicle charging infrastructure	Micro grids
Energy efficiency	Planning for renewable energy projects
Energy procurement analysis and options	Solar PV
Energy services companies	Wind energy
Energy strategy and corporate approach	

Why APSE Energy?

APSE Energy is part of the APSE family. It is a not-for-profit, unincorporated association of its members, wholly 'owned' by and under the control of its members and deriving virtually all of its income from them. This means we fit the definition of a Teckal company and we are capable of being awarded contracts outside of the procurement regime (if internal arrangements permit).

All of our income remains within the local government sector and is used to provide services for our member authorities.

Can your council do more to help local people and businesses deal with high energy costs?

Benefits of APSE Energy

There are a variety of benefits of APSE Energy membership, which loosely fall into 4 categories; advocacy, knowledge, learning and consultancy.

Advocacy

- APSE Energy undertakes a role to highlight those issues affecting local authorities to the UK Government, Scottish Government, Welsh Government, the Northern Ireland Assembly, the wider public sector, professional bodies and industry organisations.
- We promote the vision of greater municipalisation of energy and the projects that councils are involved in to meet that vision. We have links to government departments to promote the aims of the energy collaboration and raise matters with key influencers.
- We represent our members in terms of key policy and legislative developments.

Knowledge

- APSE Energy provides a range of briefings and technical notes which keep officers and councillors up to date with developments in the sector.
- A regular newsletter highlights current topics and reports and provides information relevant to the local authority energy agenda.
- We provide regular research publications addressing topics such as the electricity market, ECO funding, climate emergency declarations, on-street electric vehicle charging and guides to solar PV projects.
- APSE Energy has links to universities keeping abreast of academic research and projects.

Learning

- APSE Energy runs a series of practical workshops and meetings focussed on specific events with expert speakers and case studies.
- Partners host events to ensure members keep up to date with technology, new services and business models from the commercial sector.
- The Big Energy Summit is an annual 2 day conference with government department representatives, industry leaders and experienced local government officers as speakers. All conference costs, meals and accommodation are covered for 2 representatives per APSE Energy member authority.

Consultancy

- APSE Energy offers a consultancy service with energy sector experts as associates. They understand the context for local government work, the councillor/officer relationship and the role of local councils.
- They have experience of working with a range of different technologies, across a variety of local authority contexts on strategic issues and practical schemes.
- APSE Energy can provide flexible short term expertise on specific projects to complement your internal resources.

The Collaboration Network

APSE Energy members have a wealth of knowledge between them. They have day to day experience of putting policies into place which address energy efficiency, energy management, renewable projects and behaviour change as well as working with a large number of suppliers, other organisations and service providers.

Access to this vast hub of knowledge is a vital element of the APSE Energy offer and enables knowledge to be shared, relationships to develop and most importantly, it means mistakes can be avoided.

Who are the Leaders?

Signing up to a movement that promotes the municipalisation of energy, reflects the ambition of the local authority to take a lead in supporting local residents and businesses with their energy needs.

Membership of APSE Energy highlights that the council is forward-thinking, responsible and willing to use its powers to the full to address local energy needs, as well as demonstrating that those individual councillors and officers are standing at the vanguard of this agenda.

Could you learn more about the technologies, models and opportunities available for generating and supplying energy?

The Potential for Savings

APSE Energy members and associates have undertaken a range of renewable energy projects. There are a number of reasons for doing so and one of the reasons is to earn revenue to support the services that local authorities provide. Grant cuts mean that all available income needs to be considered and all assets fully utilised.

The most forward-thinking councils are not selling off assets in order to gain a one off windfall, rather they are actively investing in existing and new assets to raise income - and generating energy is one way of doing so.

Investment and Assets

Local authorities have access to cheaper sources of funding via the Public Works Loan Board, the Municipal Bonds Agency and via other commercial lenders they work with.

The approach to borrowing and risk will be different within each council but where they are willing to access funding and invest in assets, there are opportunities to generate revenue as well as producing widespread community benefits.

The assets which local authorities own, or that lie within the locality, can be a rich source of income. Using them for energy generation or storage is one way local authorities are innovating.

What are Other Local Authorities Doing?

A council in the north west of England – is investigating the use of some land it owns to generate energy and feed it directly into one of its own leisure centre on an adjacent site. This will put a difficult site to good use, reduce the energy bills for the leisure centre which is a high energy user and cut the council's carbon footprint.

A Scottish city council – is looking to develop a solar farm with associated battery storage in order to benefit from being able to store energy and then sell it when the demand is higher.

A Welsh housing council – has installed solar panels on its council stock and are piloting the use of battery storage within properties. This will have a local benefit for each of the tenants as well as potentially developing significant generation capacity by linking up the battery storage.

A northern borough council – is investing in solar generation on assets it owns, on assets that lie within its boundary but are not owned by the council and on land which is outside of its boundary. It is taking a commercial approach to investment and focussing on energy generation. It looks at assets from a different perspective than many other local authorities.

A local authority in Northern Ireland - is carrying out an energy audit on its estate to ensure buildings are operating at their most energy efficient and that the council is not wasting money heating buildings that do not need it.

A north east unitary council – is embedding climate change and energy policies within its local development plan to ensure that the statutory documents support the council's aims for the built environment and that future developments are sustainable.

Membership

For membership fees please contact Phil Brennan, Head of APSE Energy, or Charlotte Banks, Energy Research & Project Officer.

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Joining APSE Energy is a sign that your local authority acknowledges that it has a role to play in helping residents and businesses ensure they do not suffer from problems such as high energy costs, interruptions to supply and higher emissions, whilst investing to generate and supply energy to gain revenue and realise community benefits. Local government involvement shows that councils take their role seriously and that tackling energy questions is part of what it means to be a leader and advocate within your locality.

Taking action on energy issues at the local level has an impact on individual lives, national priorities and global outcomes. APSE Energy can help your local authority have an even bigger impact.

As with all APSE services, a 12 month period of notice has to be given for members intending to disaffiliate.

Does your local authority have assets that it isn't fully utilising?

NEW MUNICIPALISM

Delivering for local people and local economies

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