



People participation in the future of energy – building up community energy as a resource for net zero

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Our vision

That **every Unitary, District or Borough Council should benefit from community energy.**

We want each council to have a **Community Energy Network to support their areas to achieve Net Zero.**

What is Community Energy?

People work together to reduce energy use and generate low carbon heat and power and bring positive outcomes for everyone in the local community.

Raising awareness of the value of locally led action on climate change.

Building and investing in their own renewable energy.

Understanding local energy needs and helping their communities to save energy and money.

Offering skills, training and job opportunities.





Co-benefits of Community Energy:

GB Energy Local Power Plan

GB Energy Warm Homes Plan

- Shared ownership
- Local supply
- Resilience
- Community Energy Fund
- Community Benefit

Community Energy Sector

Capacity Building



Policy, Advocacy



Our recipe for community capacity building

Community Energy Strategy

We work closely with Local Authorities and existing community groups to understand how developed the community energy sector is in an area and what is needed to grow its scale and impact.

Identifying potential for energy advice services to be supported to grow.

Capacity Building

A structured programme that includes expert community energy training, skills development mentoring, business planning, governance and fundraising support. We create the foundations of a local community energy network, bringing together and developing skills and knowledge of action groups, councils, and local experts.

Development of energy advice service capability.

Energy Planning

Our community led decarbonisation plans complement LEAPs and position local communities to deliver well informed, clear, actionable steps in the transition to net zero.

Energy advice supports gathering data and community engagement.

Powering Down

Community scale mobilisation of community energy champions who provide trusted and impartial local advice on energy and cost savings.

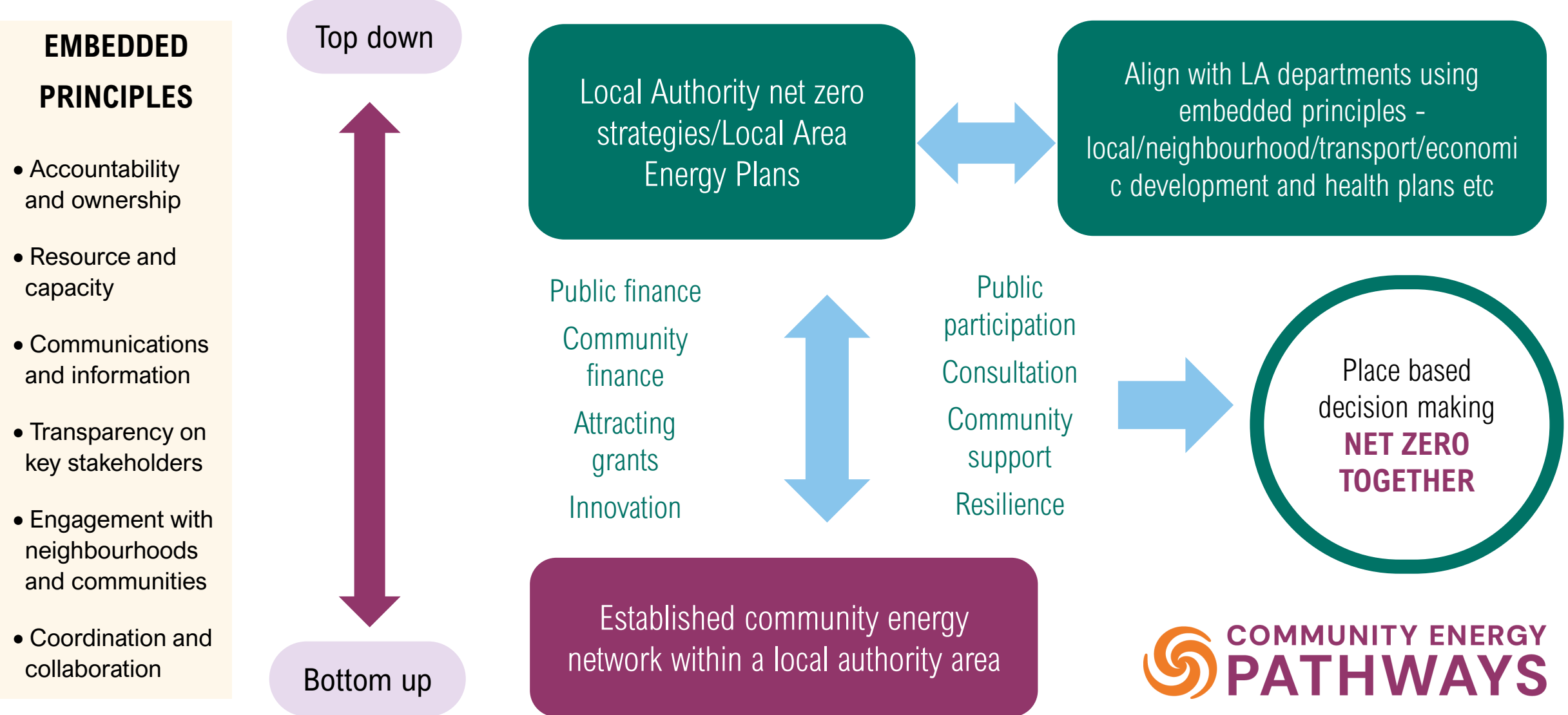
Energy advice supports the development of community energy groups, development of local retrofit markets and creation of green jobs.

Powering Up

Development support for advanced groups working on heat networks, renewable energy and low carbon transport.

These groups have usually started off with building local presence and network through energy advice.

Pathways to net zero with community energy



Community Energy Strategy

We work with Local Authorities and existing community groups to understand how developed the community energy sector is in an area and what is needed to grow its scale and impact.

We tailor a delivery plan that is designed to address barriers and maximise on opportunities in your area. This includes the range of themes listed on the left.

Status, gaps and opportunities

Stakeholder mapping

Partnership development

Community engagement

Skills development and job creation

Community energy project development

Funding opportunities

Business models to support sector

Capacity Building

We provide a structured programme that includes expert community energy training, skills development mentoring, business planning, governance and fundraising support.

We create the foundations of a local community energy network, bringing together existing skills and knowledge of action groups, councils, and local experts.

48
community
energy groups

15
areas

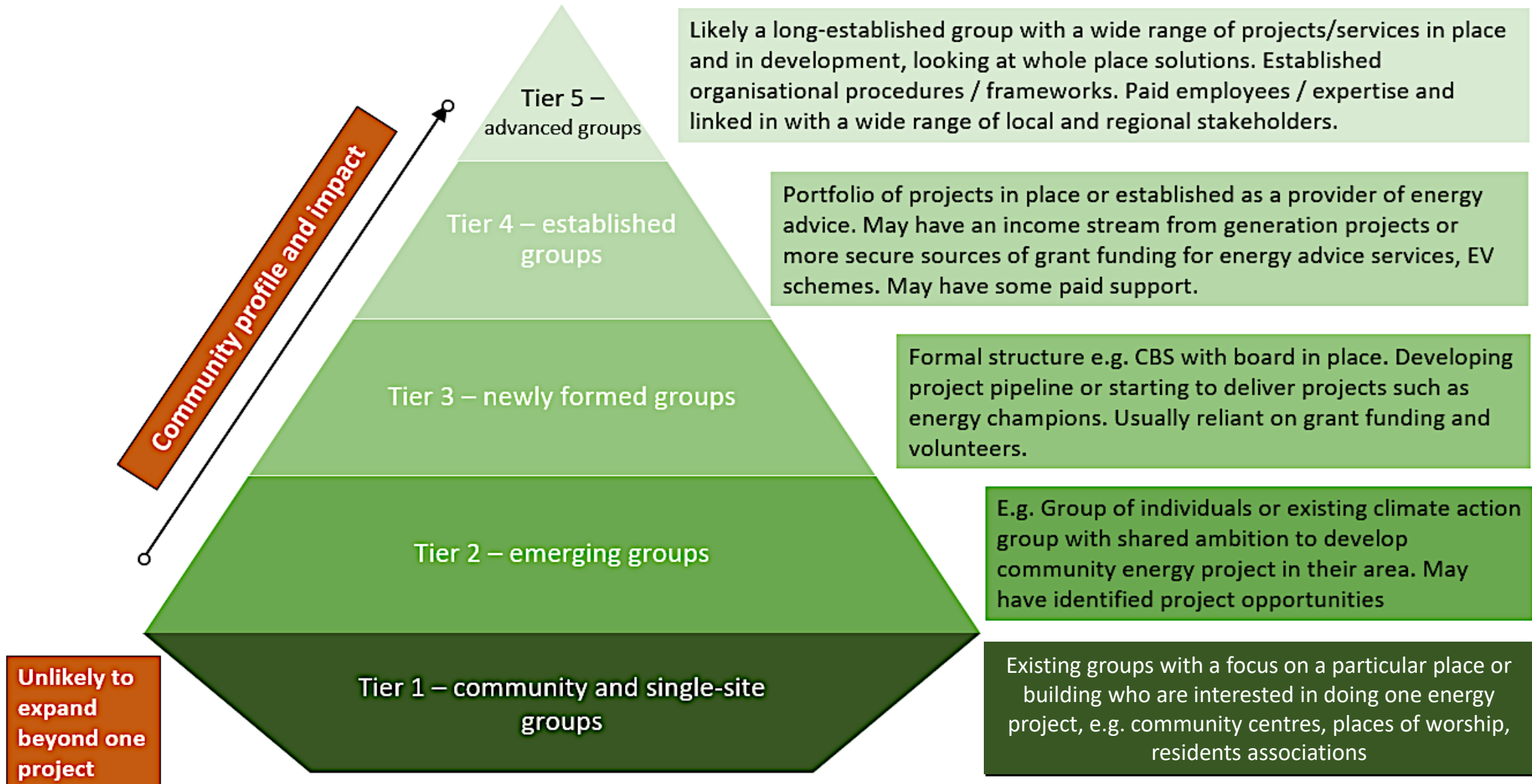




Ouse Valley Energy Services Coop (OVESCO)

- Harveys Brewery – rooftop PV 98kW
- Sunny Solar Schools
- Ouse Valley Solar Farm – 17 MW with no subsidy!
- Meadow Blue Solar Farm – 5MW
- Get Bikery – electric cargo bike hire/delivery
- 2m Climate Action Fund
- Energy advice reaching 2000 homes/yr





Community Energy hub model





Powering Down

Supporting communities to deliver trusted local energy advice - helping people to improve energy efficiency in their homes; saving money and carbon.

We help develop a network of energy champions whilst also building local retrofit markets and creating green jobs.

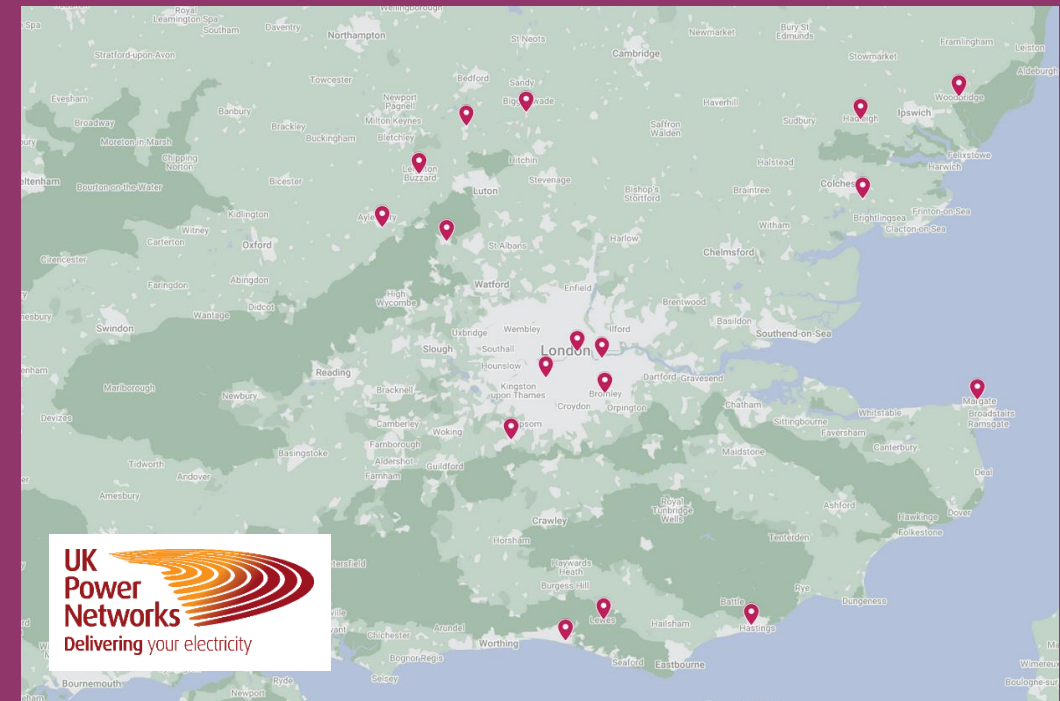
£2m
to support
groups

24,000
advice
sessions

LEAD and Leaving No One Behind

Through community events and home visits, local energy champions provide impartial advice from small changes in day-to-day life to low carbon technologies such as solar panels. Services include:

- Grant Support
- Energy Efficiency Advice
- Behavioural Change
- Scam Awareness
- Debt Advice
- Smart Meter Advice
- Flexibility Advice
- Electric Vehicle Advice



Community-led Energy Planning

For Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP) to be a success, community buy-in and deployment is essential.

Our community led decarbonisation plans complement LEAPs and position local communities to deliver well informed, actionable steps in the transition to net zero.

The plans combine community engagement, data gathering, project scoping and industry partnerships, supported by expert support.



Community-led Energy Planning Vision

1

A scaled approach to implementing community driven planning

2

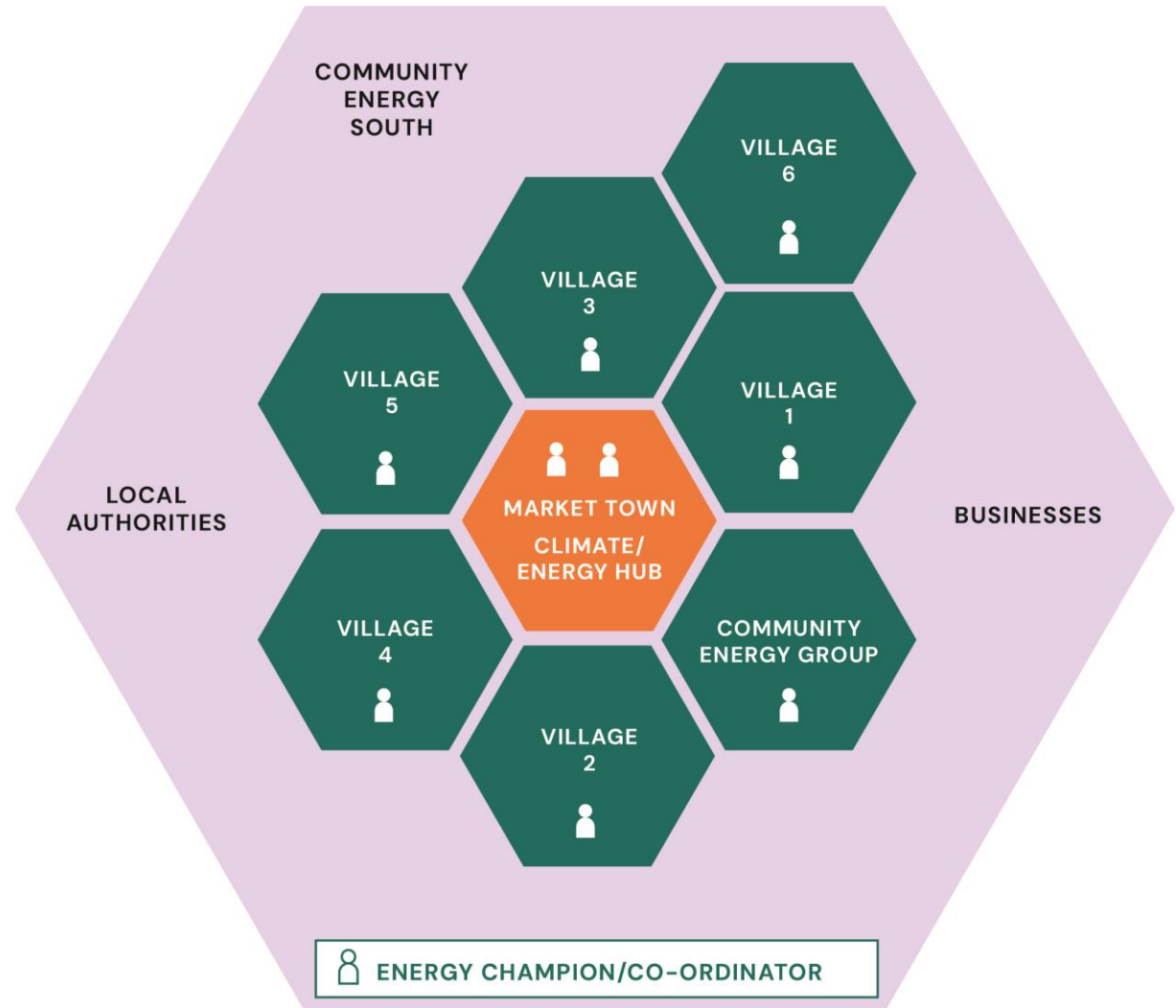
Uplifting of open and benchmarked data sets with community data collection

3

Ensuring stakeholder buy-in at all levels from Local Authority to individuals within a community

4

Enabling deployable planning



Parish level plans

East Sussex Pilot – a planned approach to community decarbonisation



500 heat pumps installed

17 renewable sites

Retrofits

75% saving in network reinforcement costs



Net Zero Terrace Streets

- Decarbonisation of heat and retrofit – warm healthy homes
- Smart local energy systems
- Underpinned by community engagement methodology and Fairer Warmth platform alongside financial model that wraps all debt onto the infrastructure, repaid by a standing charge over 40 years
- ‘Doing it all’ – getting the technical and commercial and governance – then working into methods of procurement, high quality delivery over very long term with fairness at the heart.



Powering Up

We support community groups and local authorities to develop feasible locally owned renewable energy projects. We support community engagement, planning, funding and development.

Shared ownership model of renewable energy between developers and local communities is fast becoming a reality. We bring together communities and commercial wind, solar and battery developers to jointly develop and finance projects. Communities get a share of renewables in their back yard; developers get to unlock complex projects.



Community Energy Fund

- £10 million fund to help deliver government's ambitions to restore optimism and pride in local communities.
- Projects will generate clean energy, such as rural heat networks or rooftop solar, while kick-starting private investment to scale up projects
- Fund will support local jobs and growth, build stronger communities, and enable places to directly benefit from clean, affordable, locally sourced energy

Community Solar Schools

Since 2012 community energy groups have been working with schools at an increasing rate to install community energy, educate the next generation in climate emergency and encourage young people to participate in the transition to a people-powered future.

Educational outreach which has reached thousands of young people.



84 Community Schools

1265 Estimated Tonnes Carbon Saved/Yr*

*THROUGH SOLAR SCHOOLS ONLY



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