



ACTION GROUP ON COMMUNITY ENERGY

Note of Decisions and Actions, Meeting 5, 8 January 2019

Present: Fred Barker, Jon Barrance, Peter Boait, James Colvin, Jim Dewey, Iain Garner, Richard Hellen, Norman Kay, Matt Partridge, Hugh Richards, Simon Roberts, Pat Sykes, and Erik Wilkinson

Apologies: Hugh Barton, Dave Judd, Christoph Rubach, Andy Williams

1 Review of Actions

Progress against the actions from the fourth meeting was reviewed. An 'action tracker' is appended, including the further actions below. On-going actions will be subject to further review at the next meeting.

2 Gloucestershire Energy Strategy

A draft Gloucestershire Energy Strategy has been prepared under the auspices of GFirst, the Local Enterprise Partnership. Simon Roberts, CEO of the Centre for Sustainable Energy - who has led preparation of the strategy – provided an overview and led discussion.

Key points included:

- The strategy is about achieving county-wide carbon neutrality by 2050.
- The focus is on building blocks for near-term actions (which are the same regardless of the target date for neutrality)
- The primary role of ensuring actions are taken falls to the Energy Business Group (EBG) of GFirst
- The EBG will be supported by the BEIS funded SW Energy Hub
- There is a need for community energy representation in the EBG
- The 'Leadership Gloucestershire' Group will be important to delivery of the strategy
- The strategy contains an over-arching commitment that all public sector policies, plans and funding programmes should be aligned with and embed carbon reduction ambitions, and contribute appropriately to their achievement.
- Other building blocks address, for example, how to encourage and support initiative takers, public engagement, local and neighbourhood planning, renewable heat and business models for renewable energy development.
- It was suggested that community energy business models – involving community ownership and investment – should be promoted to the EBG
- It was suggested that the 'branding' of Stroud's Carbon Neutral 2030 commitment should be nested within that of the Gloucestershire Energy Strategy.

FB to circulate the strategy when published.

3 Stroud Carbon Neutral 2030

Stroud District Council's Environment Committee has unanimously agreed a motion, 'Achieving Stroud District Carbon Neutral 2030 Commitment' (see [here](#)).

Transition Stroud (TS) has been pro-active in seeking to move discussion forward about how the motion could be implemented. The following papers were circulated with the agenda:

- a) A TS paper on scoping and delivery of a Carbon Neutral 2030 Plan of Action – this has been submitted to SDC Alliance leaders
- b) A workshop proposal, 'Mobilising Local Stakeholders for a Carbon Neutral Stroud 2030' – drafted in discussion with the convenors of the 'Stroud 2030 – Carbon Neutral' facebook group – also submitted to SDC Alliance leaders
- c) TS comments on 'Stroud District Local Plan: Emerging Strategy 2018' – these have been submitted in response to consultation (see [here](#)).

JD and NK provided further information about the motion, including the amendment concerning funding. The latter is to be subject to the Council's normal budgeting process, and should be addressed in the Council budget being considered by Strategy and Resources Committee on 17 January.

Points made in discussion included the importance of:

- promoting active and visible support for the commitment as a plan is developed and implemented;
- good governance arrangements and processes for motivating and involving stakeholders across the district;
- understanding the scale of the challenge;
- understanding how community energy initiatives can help realise the commitment, including contributing to a very substantial increase in renewable energy in the district;
- considering the role of 'flagship' elements in a plan of action, for example, rooftop PV on all suitable school rooftops; and
- considering the potential for case studies or 'toolkits' for community initiatives.

It was agreed that **FB** should consider how discussion could be most effectively taken forward at the next meeting of the group.

4 Capacity Building and Learning

A note on potential case study site visits was circulated with the agenda. **MP** offered to explore the scope for a visit to Gwent PV and EV charging facilities. **RH** offered to explore the scope for a visit to the Coaley Mill hydro scheme.

Interest was also expressed in attending Regen's [community energy workshop](#) in Cardiff in March. It was agreed that **FB** would circulate details so that travel arrangements could be agreed. **RH** also offered a lift for anyone interested in attending WPD's annual stakeholder workshop in Bristol on 6 February. **FB** to circulate details.

5 AOB

MP reported on the Government's announcement of consultation on a proposed 'Smart Export Guarantee' to replace the Export Tariff. **FB** to circulate details.

6 Next Meeting

FB to circulate a doodle poll to find a date for the next meeting in the second half of February. Local energy trading was suggested as a potential topic for discussion.

COMMUNITY ENERGY ACTION GROUP – LIVE ACTION TRACKER

Updated 9/01/19

Action	Topic	People	Progress	Done
1	Energy Local Club – Dudbridge Hydro	DM/PB/ FB	PB undertook initial assessment of local grid - looks promising, including Tricorn House. Delayed planning application for loft conversion and cladding at Tricorn House finally submitted, so FB has contacted agent to seek a meeting.	
2	PV on schools	MP	Minchinhampton scheme proceeding. Salix loan applied for and pre-accreditation being sought. Proposal also being considered by Forest Green school. MP to report progress to next meeting.	
3	Stratford Park Lido	FB/AW	Lido working group awaiting SDC funding for business plan development, which will include an assessment of the cost effectiveness of practicable heating options. FB to maintain liaison.	
4	St Laurence Church	AW/HR/ FB	Position as at last meeting. Limited scope for renewable installs due to church use patterns (militating against heat pumps) and listed building status (preventing PV install on visible roof). AW to maintain liaison.	
5	GFirst Energy Strategy	FB	Draft strategy discussed at 8/01 meeting. FB to circulate final version when available.	
6	Skills inventory/member biographies	FB	Document with brief biogs of 9 members now in the group's dropbox facility. FB to invite PS to join dropbox facility.	
7	GIS mapping	RE/MP	NCAT have decided to proceed with initial local resource mapping exercise. Action group keen to consider potential wider applicability at an appropriate time. RE/MP to report back on progress.	
8	Hydro potential in Stroud District	FB/RH	Further information to be sought on Bristol Energy Cooperative proposed scheme at Netham Weir (RH) and SDC scheme at Ebley Mill (FB).	
9	Potential GCEC solar farm acquisition	FB/GCE C	6.9 MW site/s in Gloucestershire acquired by CORE partners. Skype call about potential transfer to GCEC scheduled for 11/01/19. FB to report progress.	
10	GCEC application to 'Next Generation Community Energy' grant programme	FB/PB/ I G	GCEC submitting an application in partnership with SWEA, focussing on a smart energy – low carbon renovation of the Olympus Theatre in Gloucester. FB to report progress.	
11	Stroud District Council climate	JD/NK/ F B	SDC motion and ways forward discussed at 8/01 meeting. FB to consider how to most	

	declaration, carbon neutral 2030		effectively carry discussion forward at next group meeting.	
12	Learning and capacity building	MP/RH/ FB	MP offered to explore the scope for a visit to Gwent PV and EV charging facilities. RH offered to explore the scope for a visit to the Coaley Mill hydro scheme. FB to circulate details of Regen's community energy workshop in Cardiff in March, and WPD's annual stakeholder workshop in Bristol on 6 February.	
13	Horsley village initiative	NK/MP/ FB	NK has formed a group to take forward thinking about the potential for local renewable energy. FB/MP/NCAT will liaise and support as appropriate. NK to report back.	
14	'Smart Export Guarantee'	FB	FB to circulate details of Government consultation and consider agenda item for next meeting.	