

Community Energy Contact Group meeting
17 October 2013, DECC

Attendees

Peter Lipman, Community and Climate Action Alliance, Chair Transition Network (Chair)
Peter Capener, Bath and West Community Energy, Community Energy Practitioners' Forum
Garry Charnock, Ashton Hayes, Cheshire
Nigel Farren, Energise Barnet
Stephen Frankel, Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network
Dan McCallum, Awel Aman Tawe Community Energy, Wales
Agamemnon Otero, Brixton Energy, Repowering South London
Becky Willis, Independent Researcher and Community Energy Coalition
Barbara Hammond, Low Carbon Oxford

Jim Robinson, Strategy Projects Team Leader DECC
Janos Suto, Community Energy Strategy DECC
Will Walker, Community Energy Strategy DECC
Ian King, Community Energy Strategy DECC
Melissa Smith, Community Energy Strategy DECC
Lara Phillips, Community Energy Strategy DECC

Apologies

Nicholas Gubbins, Community Energy Scotland
Simon Sjenitzer, Eden Valley, Cumbria

Note:

1) Deregulation Bill

The Community Energy Contact Group (CECG) expressed their concern about the draft Deregulation Bill, and the removal of Section 19 of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 that places a duty on the Secretary of State with respect to the promotion of community energy projects.

DECC set out the context of the wider red tape challenge, and explained that Government had taken many actions e.g. Local Energy Assessment Fund (LEAF) and current work on the Community Energy Strategy (CES), that do not require the duties set out in this legislation. Despite this, the CECG remained concerned and expressed their intent to write to DECC Ministers to raise this issue now that the deadline for submitting written evidence to the pre-legislative scrutiny process had passed.

2) Draft Community Energy Strategy

The CECG were broadly supportive of the current draft CES and thanked the team for the spirit of cooperation they had taken in working with the group. The group also expressed their

commitment to work closely with DECC during the final stages of drafting, the launch and subsequent implementation of the CES to make it as successful as possible.

The CECG stressed their view that the final version of the CES would benefit from more ambition in places and a number of specific points (Restricted – not recorded in this note) regarding the tone, structure, content and implementation of the CES were raised and discussed in detail with the group. It was agreed that the group should aim to get final written comments on the draft CES to the team by Fri 18 October, but the team would do their best to consider anything members submitted after this date too.