



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

DECC Community Energy Survey

Summary of key findings

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DECC Community Energy Survey

DECC set up a survey to understand public attitudes Community Energy to inform the Community Energy Strategy¹. This summary note presents headline findings from the survey, some of which were included within the Community Energy Strategy.

The data was collected in January 2014 using face-to-face in-home interviews with a representative sample of 1,089 households in the UK. This work complemented a study of Community Energy published alongside the strategy².

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

This note provides selected headlines and is not an exhaustive overview of the findings. Please refer to the accompanying excel summary tables and excel dataset to see full responses to all survey questions.

SAVING MONEY ON ENERGY BILLS: people would consider joining a community energy group if it could save them money on energy bills.

- More than four in ten UK adults (42%) said they would be interested in joining a community energy group if it could save money on energy bills.
- A small proportion of UK adults (2%) had already joined a community energy project.

COLLECTIVE PURCHASING AND COLLECTIVE SWITCHING: there was interest in joining a collective purchasing or switching scheme in the UK.

- Four in ten UK adults (40%) said they would be interested in joining a collective purchasing or collective switching scheme.
- A small proportion of UK adults (2%) had already joined a collective purchasing or collective switching scheme.

MOTIVATION TO GET INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY ENERGY: saving money on energy bills was the greatest motivation to get involved in community energy.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-energy-strategy>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-energy-in-the-uk-part-2>

- Over half of UK adults (51%) said they would be motivated to get involved in a community energy project if it could save money on their energy bill.
- Almost a fifth of UK adults (17%) said they would be motivated to get involved in a community energy project if it would help reduce carbon emissions to prevent climate change.
- A tenth of UK adults (10%) said that getting more involved in their local community would motivate them to get involved in a community energy project.

HELP TO GET INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY ENERGY: people would find a range of support helpful in getting involved in a community energy project.

- A third UK adults (33%) said that they would find advice from other people who have done a community energy project before helpful if they were thinking of getting involved themselves.
- Having easy access to information about community energy, for example on a website, was thought to be helpful by almost a third of UK adults (31%).
- More than a quarter of UK adults (26%) said that support from their local authority would be helpful if they were thinking of getting involved in a community energy project.

TRUSTED ADVISORS ON ENERGY ISSUES: a range of sources were trusted by people to provide advice on energy issues.

- Almost one in five UK adults (18%) would trust community energy groups to provide advice on energy issues. This is higher than the 13% who would trust their energy supplier or another energy supplier.
- A quarter of UK adults (25%) would trust the Energy Saving Advice Service to give advice on energy issues.

Technical notes

The results shown here are based on 1,089 face-to-face in-home interviews conducted with a representative sample of UK adults aged 16+. Fieldwork was conducted in January 2014 on the TNS UK Omnibus, which uses a random location quota sampling method.

The questionnaire was designed by DECC and TNS BMRB drawing on a number of questions from previous surveys.

The representativeness of the data was controlled through sample design, fieldwork quotas and post-fieldwork weighting. Data were weighted for the following characteristics: sex, age, social grade, region and tenure. Results included here are based on weighted data.

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