

Initial Approach

1.1 Overview

The outline of energy challenges in your community may have been put together by multiple people and organisations, or by an individual person or organisation. Either way, it's a good idea to consider a wider list of stakeholders who could be helpful in the development of your Community-led LEP, such as:

- Individuals or organisations in your community who can support the process of developing the LEP. They may offer time, knowledge, experience or capacity to gauge local opinions, for example
- Organisations with access to relevant data, information or regulatory knowledge
- Organisations that could provide financial support for elements of the LEP process

You can create a simple checklist to keep track of who might become involved as the LEP develops, by using a stakeholder-mapping exercise.

You can see an example of the checklist [here](#).

1.2 What do I need to know at this stage?

It's useful at this early stage to try to summarise what efforts have previously been made to improve local energy needs. Include projects or programmes of works that have taken place and ideas that have been abandoned.

Things that may already have taken place include:

- Insulation improvements (e.g. solid wall insulation or top-up loft insulation) or other building fabric upgrades (e.g. new double glazing) in local housing
- Individual householders or businesses that have installed solar PV electricity panels (or other low-carbon energy generation)
- Energy-efficiency advice provided by Scottish Government- or UK Government-backed schemes (e.g. Home Energy Scotland, Energy Efficient Business Support, Energy Commitment Obligation [ECO])
- Community-owned energy generation (e.g. wind turbine, run-of-river hydropower scheme, solar PV ground-mounted array)

You can also check if there have been any previous feasibility studies about the potential for community-owned energy generation, such as wind turbines or local heating schemes. These may have been shown to be unviable from a technical point of view, or deemed too expensive. They may also have been shown to be viable, but finance was not secured at the time of the study.

Right now, it's not the details that matter. These can be looked at during later stages. Instead, the focus is on organising local knowledge and understanding all the work that has been done so far.

1.3 Data, knowledge and understanding

To develop your LEP, you'll need to understand local energy requirements, including how energy is provided via services such as mains grid electricity, supply of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), biomass fuel, etc.

To implement projects, you'll need to comply with relevant planning and associated legislation, and, ultimately, to secure funding.

It's not necessary to think about all these aspects or identify everyone who could be involved yet. But it is useful to reflect on the existing knowledge, data and support your local community can contribute.

For example:

- Community development trusts (or similar) – work on community energy and associated issues that has been done so far
- Registered social landlords – work on existing property or housing redevelopment
- Local authorities – each local authority in Scotland has access to significant data relevant to the LEP. This includes data about its own buildings and facilities, as well as local planning and development policies and practice

You may find it useful to discuss with relevant organisations the challenges facing your community ([as laid out in Module 1: Initial Challenges document](#)) and preliminary ideas about how to improve energy and transport energy needs.