

# Getting Started with Community Energy



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# Hands up.....



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# Temperature Check...



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# Development fund

- Grant funding of up to **£30,000** to cover up to 100% of eligible costs is available.
- Open now
- For quick projects to get you started
- Funding must be drawn down by **17 March 2026**.



# Development fund – Eligibility

Your organisation:

- Scottish constituted non-profit distributing organisation
- Has a community focus, a social purpose and community control
- Not engaged in energy planning before



# Development fund – not funded:

- Communities with established or well-developed community energy projects
- Energy assessments or design work on your own community or faith building. Please see our Community Buildings Fund.
- Establishing community benefit funds from commercial renewable energy projects is not funded through this fund.

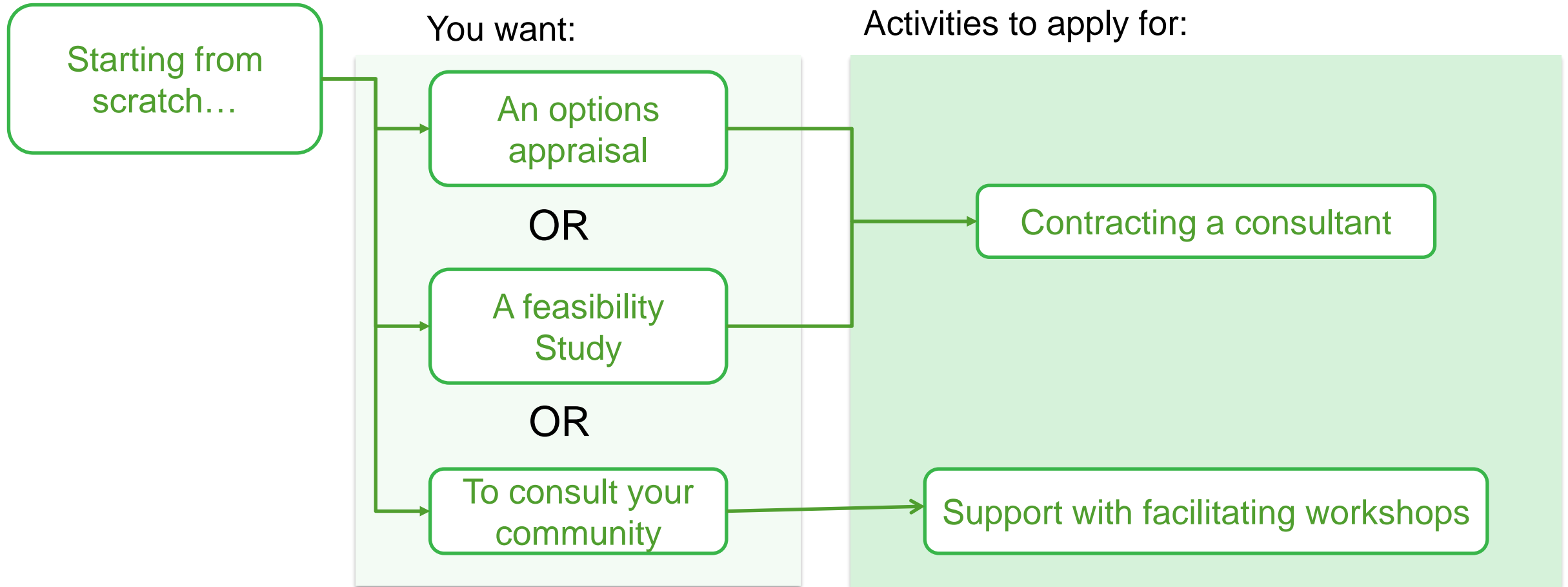


If these apply to you, we can support in other ways.

# Development fund – Project ideas



# Development fund – Project ideas



# Development fund – scoring

We will assess:

How the funding will progress your community energy/shared ownership project

## Community Mandate

For your potential project:

1. How your organisation's objectives fit
2. Any community engagement undertaken or planned
3. ambitions and potential impact.

## Deliverability

1. Activities can be delivered within proposed timeframes
2. Roles are assigned or you have a plan to assign roles
3. Your approach to spending the grant is fair and offers good value for money.



# Development fund – how to apply

1. Register on the CARES Portal
2. Provide required Eligibility info
3. Describe your project
4. Add activities and costs

If you need support with this- please reach out.





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# Community Energy Launchpad

Anna Philbrick

Community Energy Scotland



# Who are we?

## Community Energy Scotland

- A member-led, independent organisation
- Experts in the practical support of community energy and engagement
- Enablers of valuable networking opportunities
- The voice for community energy at UK Government, Scottish Government and sector decision-maker level



# What do we do?

- Champion community-led action in the transition to a low-carbon future
- Enable development and delivery of decarbonisation projects
- Strengthen community capacity and provide technical support
- Promote the understanding and impact of community energy



# Why start a community energy project?

There are many reasons to start a community energy project:

- Lower energy costs – for local organisations and local people or both
- To generate income to spend on local projects
- To decarbonise and contribute towards net zero agenda
- To give local people more control over local assets

Interested in starting  
your own **community  
energy** project?



## Community Energy Launchpad aims to:

- Raise awareness of community energy
- Build capacity in community groups to start renewable energy projects
- Support early-stage project scoping
- Offer support through collaboration and expertise from technical experts at CES and DTAS (governance, democratic finance or technical input)
- Prepare groups to submit strong CARES funding applications





**Community Energy Officers** provide in-person and online support across Scotland and are based at your regional climate hubs.

They can:

- Advise you on what renewables would best suit your community group
- Signpost you to relevant resources and funding in your local area
- Conduct a Community Building survey
- Help you complete CARES Expression of Interest and application forms
- Identify next steps

# Community Energy Launchpad also offers:

- Workshops offering practical guidance for early-stage project development, with financial support for childcare and travel
- Tailored support for emerging projects, including help with governance and setting up community benefit societies or similar structures
- Tools and confidence to explore renewable energy and shared ownership options

# Have you recently undergone a successful community energy project or hoping to do so?



Become a **mentor** and get paired with a community group who would benefit from your experience!



Become a **mentee** and let our Community Energy Officers know what support you might need so we can match you with an appropriate mentor

# Am I eligible for Community Energy Launchpad support?

If you:

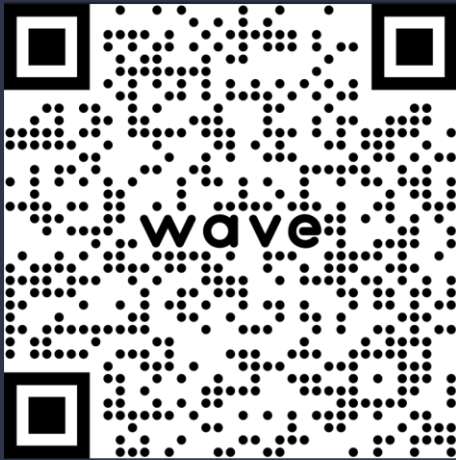
- ✓ Are a community group, charity, or community organisation
- ✓ Are interested in developing a community energy project
- ✓ Have not had CARES funding before

You are probably eligible. If you're not sure, ask one of our Community Energy Officers!



# Keep in touch

[launchpad@communityenergy.scot](mailto:launchpad@communityenergy.scot)



Civic



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# Introducing our team



**Becky McClean – Framework Director & EIA/Consenting**

Director of Sustainability at Civic with strong expertise in Environmental Impact Assessments and complex project delivery. Becky navigates planning processes efficiently and is known for driving projects forward. Becky's practical, results-focused approach ensures communities achieve progress quickly while maximising public value



**Becca Thomas – New Practice (part of Civic) – Project Lead**

Creative Director and co-founder of New Practice (part of Civic), Becca is an award-winning architect specialising in retrofit and meanwhile projects, with a focus on community-led development and urban transformation. Her expertise is in community led projects which deliver change at all scales from engagement programmes to buildings.



**Mark Hull – Community Energy Scotland**

CES' chief technical officer, Mark has supported community-focussed energy programmes for over two decades. He has overseen 100+ community energy developments in domestic, community and commercial settings. Success has been possible by adopting a creative and innovative approach to community development.

Quick explainer

**Community Consultation**

**Feasibility study**

**Options Appraisal**

01

# Community Experts

You



02

**So what happens after  
you get an award?**



03

# The Project Stage



**Think big.**

**And then  
think bigger.**

# Temperature Check...



# 2pm – 3pm Afternoon sessions

Block 2 (2pm – 2.55pm)	Room
Delivering solar partnerships – how communities and the public sector can work together	Auditorium B
Developing, delivering, and maintaining a sustainable community or faith building	Auditorium C
Community engagement for shared ownership	Room 4 and 5
Repowering wind farms – an opportunity for communities	Room 6 and 7

# Contact Us



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