



County Durham Community Energy Network

Terms of Reference

Purpose: The County Durham Community Energy Network provides a collaborative space for organisations delivering, funding, or supporting Community Energy initiatives across the county. The group aims to share best practice, coordinate activity, build collective resources, and strengthen the development and uptake of Community Energy across County Durham.

Membership: Membership is open to all relevant stakeholders engaged in Community Energy within County Durham and is expected to change as developments are made across the county. All members are expected to share agreed actions from the group within their respective fields of work and partnerships they attend.

Current membership

Name	Organisation
Lindsay Henderson	Durham Community Action (Chair)
Isla Ballard	Durham Community Action
Stephen McDonald	Durham County Council
Aaron Ruddick	Durham County Council
Lawrence Callender	Durham County Council
Louise Austin	Durham County Council
Vicky Prendergast	Durham County Council
Andrea Baxter	North East Combined Authority
Hilary Anderson	Rural Design Centre
Sue Manson	NEY Net Zero Hub
Susan Ross	Edge Innovation Ltd
Ellie Mackay	Edge Innovation Ltd
Julia Bentley	Groundwork
Roy Williams	Weardale Renewables
TBC	East Durham Trust
Eilidh Skinner	VONNE
TBC	Horden Heat
TBC	Northern Powergrid
John Taylor	Community Energy England
TBC	Centre for Sustainable Energy
Fiona Dyer	Climate Action Durham

Group aims and member responsibilities:

- **Share knowledge and practice:** facilitate regular exchange of experience, learning and practical guidance among organisations involved in community energy.
- **Strengthen collaboration:** support partnership working between delivery partners, funders, local authorities, regional bodies, community groups and support organisations.
- **Develop and pool resources:** create and share tools, materials, research and guidance that help advance community energy initiatives.
- **Increase adoption of community energy:** promote, champion and expand the use and visibility of community energy across County Durham.
- **Identify opportunities and challenges:** provide a forum to discuss policy changes, funding opportunities and barriers, and explore joint responses or solutions.
- **Support local capacity:** build capacity within community organisations through skill-sharing, peer support and collaborative problem solving, ensuring community engagement is at the heart of any discussions and developments.

Meetings

- **Frequency:** Quarterly, to be held in March, June, September, December.
- **Length:** 2 hours with 15 min networking break.
- **Venue:** In person at DCA Offices: 9 St Stephen's Court, Low Willington, County Durham DL15 0BF with option for hybrid.
- **Administration:** Durham Community Action will Chair and facilitate the meetings and circulate agendas, papers and action notes one week before/after each meeting.
- **Meeting notes and actions:** DCA will forward meeting notes to relevant Strategic Partnerships on behalf of the group in partnership.