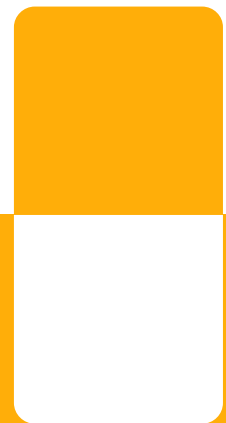


Community Energy Action Plan

Leicester City
Council

July 2026



Glossary

Distribution Network Operator (DNO). A licensed company responsible for owning, operating, maintaining, and investing in the regional electricity distribution network that carries power from the national transmission system to homes, businesses, and other consumers. DNOs manage substations, transformers, overhead lines, and underground cables, typically operating at voltages below 132kV. They do not generate or sell electricity; instead, their role is to ensure a safe, reliable, and efficient supply, respond to power outages, and provide new or upgraded connections for consumers and generators. GB DNOs operate within defined geographic areas and are regulated by Ofgem, which sets performance standards and controls how much they can charge through regulated network fees. The DNO for Leicester is National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) PLC.

Feed in Tariff (FiT). A UK government scheme (2010–2019) that provided guaranteed, long-term payments for renewable electricity generation and export. FiTs underpinned the early growth of community energy by offering stable, predictable income, enabling share offers and long-term planning. When FiTs closed to new projects in 2019, many community energy business models became unviable. Whilst the Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) replaced FiTs for exports, its lower and variable rates limit SEG's usefulness for many community-owned projects. As a result, the sector has shifted towards on-site use and long-term PPAs.

Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). A long-term contract (typically 15–25 years) under which an organisation agrees to buy electricity from a specific renewable energy installation at a pre-agreed price. A third party (such as a community energy organisation) finances, installs, owns and maintains the system, whilst the building owner or occupier purchases the electricity on-site typically at a price lower than or capped against grid rates. PPAs require no upfront capital from the Council and provide long-term price certainty, carbon savings, and community benefit. They are commonly used alongside roof or land leases.

Executive Summary

Leicester City Council is one of six local authorities taking part in a community energy capacity-building study funded by the Midlands Net Zero Hub (MNZH) and delivered by Energy Saving Trust in partnership with Marches Energy Advice. The exercise is designed to prepare councils and partners for anticipated growth in community energy activity associated with the Government's Local Power Plan¹ and forthcoming Great British Energy funding.

The research involved desk-based analysis, a survey, and three workshops exploring the local community energy landscape, opportunities and challenges. The aim was to identify how the Council can best support community energy activity without duplicating existing efforts. This document sets out the resulting action plan.

This action plan sets out how Leicester City Council and its partners can enable community energy to support net zero, reduce energy costs, strengthen resilience, and deliver wider local benefits.

Community energy activity in Leicester is active but fragmented, with strong local expertise and enthusiasm, yet limited delivery to date due to systemic barriers rather than a lack of projects or ambition. Whilst Leicester has a broad and supportive ecosystem, a shared operating framework would help coordinate stakeholders, reduce complexity, and enable delivery at scale.

The report concludes that there is a clear strategic case for community energy in Leicester, particularly to unlock projects that fall outside traditional council investment criteria and to contribute to wider social, economic and decarbonisation objectives.

The immediate priority is to establish a clear delivery framework and initiate a small number of pilot projects – particularly in schools or other stable assets – to test partnership models, develop standardised processes, and build confidence across stakeholders.

Leicester is also well placed to explore opportunities beyond traditional renewable generation. Existing district heating infrastructure, ongoing regeneration activity and a dense urban form provide strong foundations for future heat network expansion, whilst battery storage could help maximise the value of rooftop solar installations on schools, community buildings and other public assets.

Overall, Leicester is well-positioned to accelerate community energy delivery. With improved coordination, early-stage resourcing, and alignment with emerging national policy and funding, community energy can play a critical role in supporting the city's net zero ambitions whilst delivering tangible local benefits.

¹ Local Power Plan | Great British Energy

Background and current state

Introduction

The Midlands Net Zero Hub (MNZH) provides funding, grants, and strategic support to accelerate net zero projects across the Midlands, including community energy, public sector decarbonisation, and building retrofit initiatives.

Funded by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and hosted by Nottingham City Council, MNZH offers free strategic, technical, and financial support to local authorities, public sector organisations, and community groups to help take net zero projects from concept to investment-ready delivery. It covers sub-regions including the Black Country, Coventry and Warwickshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, Greater Birmingham and Solihull, Greater Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, The Marches, Stoke and Staffordshire, and Worcestershire.

The MNZH commissioned a Community Energy Capacity Building Study across six selected Midlands local authority areas, with the aim of strengthening local capacity and accelerating net zero progress through community-led energy initiatives.

Part of the commission involved engaging stakeholders through a series of three workshops in each local authority area to develop bespoke community energy action plans. This report provides the bespoke community energy action plan for Leicester City Council.

National policy and funding context

Historically, many community energy projects in England were underpinned by the FiT scheme, which provided guaranteed payments for renewable electricity generation. The closure of the FiT in 2019 has shifted the sector towards alternative commercial and community-based models. Emerging projects are increasingly exploring PPAs and other routes such as private wire arrangements or export to the grid at wholesale rates. These evolving revenue models are shaping the financial viability and delivery pathways of community energy projects across Leicester and beyond.

The primary mechanism for supporting community energy in England is delivered through Great British Energy (GBE), a publicly owned entity established by the UK Government to accelerate the transition to low-carbon power and strengthen national energy security. A central component of its remit is the Local Power Plan which sets out the national framework for scaling locally and community-owned energy.

The Local Power Plan establishes an ambition to deliver up to 8 GW of local energy capacity by 2030, supported by up to £1 billion of investment, with a vision that every community has the opportunity to participate in or benefit from local energy generation. The Plan sets out a coordinated package of support, including direct funding and finance, capacity building and advisory services, development of scalable business models, and policy and regulatory reform to enable greater levels of local ownership and participation.

Going forward a key delivery mechanism within this framework is the rebranded GBE Community Fund. The 2024-25 programme equivalent provided structured grant funding to support the early stages of

community energy development, enabling projects to progress from initial concept through to investment-ready proposals. Typically available at two stages: the programme funded up to £40,000 for feasibility studies and up to £100,000 for detailed development such as technical design, planning, and business case preparation². In 2026 councils should expect funding to offer similar per-project grants but from a smaller overall pot, delivered via intermittent, competitive regional rounds.

The Fund supports a wide range of technologies, including solar PV, wind, hydropower, heat networks, battery storage and EV infrastructure, and is open to a broad set of community-based organisations. Projects are expected to deliver clear local benefit and incorporate meaningful levels of community ownership. Delivery of the GBE Community Fund is undertaken through the five regional Net Zero Hubs, including the MNZH, which provides both funding administration and wider technical, financial and strategic support. This regional model enables place-based delivery, reflecting differing levels of community energy maturity and allowing support to be tailored to local needs.

Leicester City Council

Strategic context

Leicester City Council's strategy framework places community energy within a broader, citywide transition to net zero, rather than treating it as a standalone policy area. The *Climate Ready Leicester plan (2023–2028, Actions updated 2025)*³ sets the overarching direction, with a strong emphasis on a “people-centred transition” that supports businesses, schools, and communities to engage in energy efficiency, decarbonisation, and green skills development. This framing highlights partnership working and local participation as core to delivery, particularly through support for SMEs, public sector organisations, and community groups, indicating that community energy is expected to emerge through collaboration with local actors rather than direct municipal ownership alone.

Alongside this, the *Carbon Neutral Roadmap (2022)*⁴ outlines Leicester's strategic energy approach: reducing demand, electrifying heat and transport, expanding renewable energy (including rooftop solar), and upgrading grid capacity. Whilst not explicitly labelled as “community energy”, the roadmap creates enabling conditions for it – particularly through large-scale deployment of distributed renewables and electrification, which are typically supported by local and community-led initiatives. The scale of ambition is significant, including the retrofit of around 65,000 buildings and the installation of solar PV on approximately 40% of roofs (c. 52,000 installations), pointing to substantial opportunities for community participation in energy generation and local energy projects.

In practice, Leicester's policy approach to community energy is therefore indirect and enabling. The council focuses on facilitating local action through grants, partnerships, and behaviour change programmes, including energy efficiency and retrofit schemes such as Warm Homes initiatives, support for private and social housing upgrades, and funding for businesses to improve energy performance. Earlier climate emergency actions (2020–2023) established the foundations for this approach, including the creation of a Climate Emergency Partnership, delivery of energy efficiency measures in housing, grant support for households and businesses, and extensive engagement with schools and communities through programmes such as Eco-Schools and climate literacy training.

Overall, Leicester adopts a mainstreamed approach, embedding community energy within wider climate, housing, and infrastructure strategies rather than treating it as a distinct, standalone community energy strategy. This reflects a deliberate emphasis on enabling community participation

² [Community Energy Fund](#)

³ [climate-ready-leicester-plan-2023-28-updated-2025.pdf](#)

⁴ [Leicester Carbon Neutral Roadmap](#)

through system-wide decarbonisation programmes, partnership structures, and distributed energy deployment, rather than developing dedicated community energy governance mechanisms.

Community energy in Leicester – the current landscape

In addition to the workshops, Energy Saving Trust carried out a survey across participating local authorities; the findings below reflect insights and responses from Leicester.

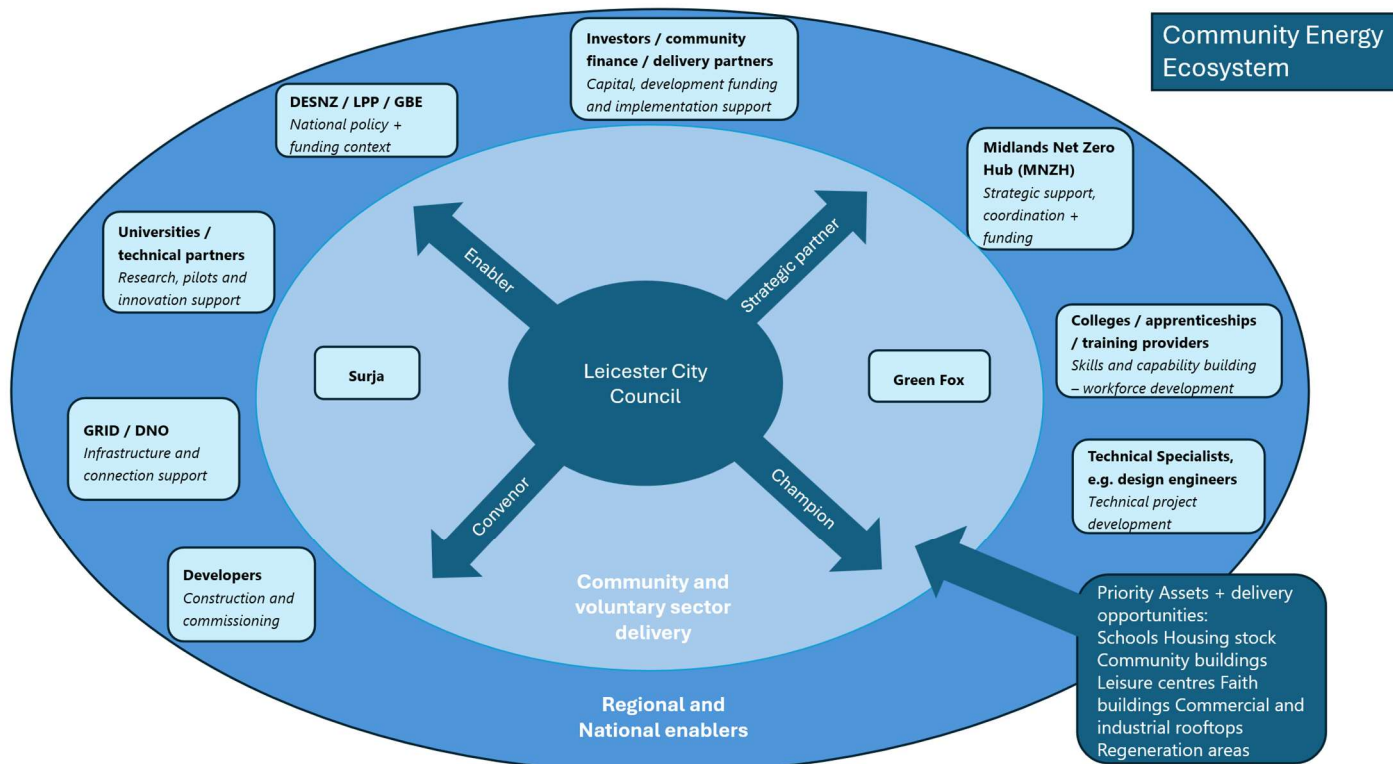
Community energy activity in Leicester is active but is largely focused on early-stage development (e.g. feasibility, planning, and project design), with fewer projects progressing through to implementation and operation, reflecting a more constrained national funding context as of 2026.

Community Energy Group	Role	Projects
Green Fox	Community benefit society Renewable generation (solar, emerging wind involvement) Community engagement and advice Partnership delivery with local authorities and national bodies Exploration of shared/ community ownership models.	Active projects (outside of Leicester City Council unless otherwise stated): - Leicestershire Solar Schools Programme (with County Council) 80kWp solar PV installation on a school in Hinckley - Capacity building and Community Energy Forum - Solar mapping for >50kWp opportunities - Energy advice provision across Leicester and Leicestershire - Work with GB Energy and DESNZ on shared ownership models (Leicester). e Planned projects: - Large-scale renewables (including rooftop solar and battery storage) - Expansion of energy efficiency advice and new community energy models.
Surja	Emerging organisation, delivery partner, and innovator Developing community-owned renewable energy projects Participating in feasibility and early-stage project development including site identification Contributing to: Partnership development and new delivery models (e.g. shared ownership, blended funding)	Planned and potential pipeline - School-based solar PV projects, particularly where capital constraints limit direct delivery by trusts - Community and faith-owned assets with suitable roof space and long-term stability - Participation in pilot projects (e.g. small clusters of sites) to test

Community Energy Group	Role	Projects
	Local strategy and framework discussions (e.g. procurement routes, partnership structures, and risk-sharing models).	- delivery models and identify barriers - Exploration of local supply models and revenue optimisation approaches alongside generation projects.

The local community energy landscape, as evidenced through the survey and workshops, is relatively concentrated, with Green Fox acting as the primary delivery organisation. Its portfolio reflects a mixed model of activity, combining project delivery (e.g. solar installations), enabling functions (such as energy advice and opportunity mapping), and system-level innovation through partnerships and emerging models, including shared ownership and engagement with initiatives like GBE. Whilst there is a clear pipeline of potential projects – particularly across solar generation and storage – many remain at development stage rather than fully operational, highlighting the current challenges to project implementation. Green Fox remains the primary established community energy group in Leicester, with emerging activity from Surja Energy and growing interest among faith-based and community organisations in hosting projects

A range of enabling activity is already underway. This includes solar mapping for larger rooftop opportunities (50kWp+), delivery of the Leicestershire Solar Schools Programme in partnership with the County Council, and the provision of energy advice services across Leicester and Leicestershire. These initiatives demonstrate a strong foundation of technical capability, partnership working, and local engagement, which – if supported by clearer governance and coordination – could be translated into a significant increase in operational community energy projects.



Challenges

Asset security, governance and procurement complexity

Community energy models require long-term asset access (e.g. 20–25+ year leases) and stable PPAs. However, there are ongoing uncertainties around asset security that limit the ability to provide this long-term certainty. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) introduces uncertainty around future asset ownership and control, but this is compounded by longer-standing factors, including sustained financial pressures on the council that have led to continual review of asset retention and potential disposal. Additional uncertainty arises across parts of the estate that are not directly controlled by the council on a long-term basis. This includes commercially leased assets and Community Asset Transferred (CAT) properties, where tenant turnover and changing occupancy can undermine the stability required for long-term community energy agreements.

At the same time, Leicester lacks a formal community energy framework, with no agreed approach to partner selection, accreditation, due diligence, or risk sharing. This creates ambiguity in how the council engages with community energy groups, particularly where multiple organisations are involved. As a result, projects can face delays, higher transaction costs, and challenges in scaling delivery.

Capacity, coordination and process limitations

Officer capacity is stretched, and engagement with community energy organisations often occurs late in project development. There are no standardised processes – such as templates, site screening criteria, or clearly defined engagement pathways. This leads to fragmented coordination and limits the council's ability to efficiently identify, develop, and scale projects across its estate and wider partnerships.

Financial barriers and investment misalignment

Access to early-stage funding (e.g. feasibility and development) remains a challenge, particularly for smaller or emerging community energy groups. This is compounded by a mismatch between council investment criteria – which are often focused on short payback periods – and community energy models, which typically rely on medium- to long-term returns. This can reduce the overlap between council priorities and viable community-led projects.

A further financial barrier identified during the workshops is the mismatch between the timing of renewable energy generation (particularly solar PV) and when energy is used in buildings. Solar PV systems generate electricity primarily during daytime hours, whilst many community buildings (e.g. faith and community centres) are predominantly used in the evenings. This results in low levels of on-site consumption, reducing the financial viability of projects that depend on maximising self-use of generated electricity. A similar issue affects schools, where peak PV generation occurs during the summer months when buildings are largely unoccupied, leading to surplus generation and limited value capture. Collectively, this acts as a significant constraint to developing community energy projects on otherwise suitable sites, particularly for community buildings and schools.

Technical and heritage constraints

Heritage designations and building-specific limitations – particularly across council and faith estate assets – restrict the deployment of solar PV and other energy technologies. This reduces the pool of technically suitable sites and can add complexity, cost, and time to project development.

Opportunities

Priority asset classes: schools, faith and community buildings

Schools present a high-potential delivery route due to predictable daytime demand, relatively stable ownership, and compatibility with established landlord-tenant models. Similarly, faith-based and community-owned buildings offer strong opportunities due to large roof areas, long-term stewardship, and alignment with social value objectives. The Diocese of Leicester, with its net zero ambitions and diverse estate (churches, clergy housing) provide a particularly strong foundation for partnership.

Integration with retrofit and housing programmes

Leicester's social housing and wider retrofit programmes create a significant opportunity to integrate community energy within broader decarbonisation activity, delivering both carbon savings and direct financial benefits for residents.

Emerging local supply and market models

Innovative approaches (e.g. Energy Local, Unity, Consensus Power) offer opportunities to improve financial viability by linking local generation with local demand. Anticipated regulatory developments, such as P441, are expected to further enable flexible local energy trading and strengthen these models.

Workshop discussions highlighted strong interest in expanding local use of renewable electricity, particularly to address the mismatch between generation and demand. In this context, there was broad agreement on the potential of 'virtual local supply' or local energy supply models, which would allow community energy groups to sell surplus renewable electricity directly to local consumers, rather than exporting it to the grid at lower rates (e.g. under the Smart Export Guarantee).

This could improve the financial viability of projects on sites with low on-site consumption (e.g. community buildings and schools), enable greater local retention of value from renewable generation, and strengthen the link between local generation and local energy use.

External infrastructure and system support

DNOs are providing support through tools such as opportunity mapping and connection "surgeries," helping to reduce early-stage uncertainty and accelerate project development.

Blended delivery and pilot approaches

There is strong potential to combine council-led investment (for short-payback projects) with community energy delivery (for longer-payback sites). Pilot projects – particularly in schools – could test delivery models, build confidence, and establish scalable approaches.

This also presents an opportunity to better align roles across the local energy system. Community energy could be targeted towards projects that fall outside the council's investment thresholds, particularly larger or more complex installations requiring additional capital. These may be well suited

to shared ownership models, enabling collaboration between the council and community groups to, unlock delivery and maximise both financial and social value.

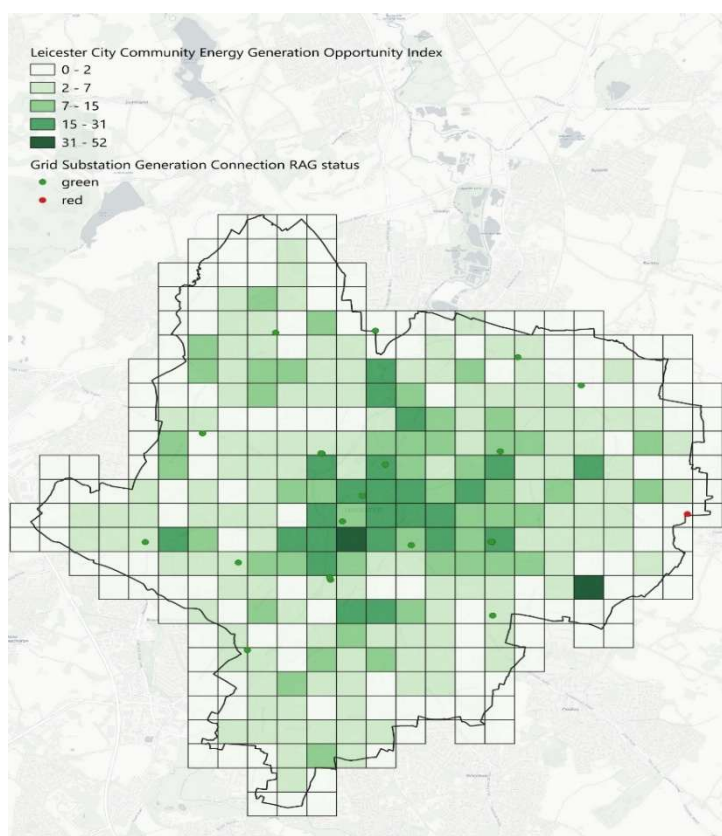
Framework and capacity development

Developing a local framework – including standardised templates, clear engagement pathways, and defined approaches to working with multiple community energy groups – presents a major opportunity to reduce transaction costs, improve coordination, and enable scale.

Unlocking potential of rooftop solar PV on community buildings and council-owned assets

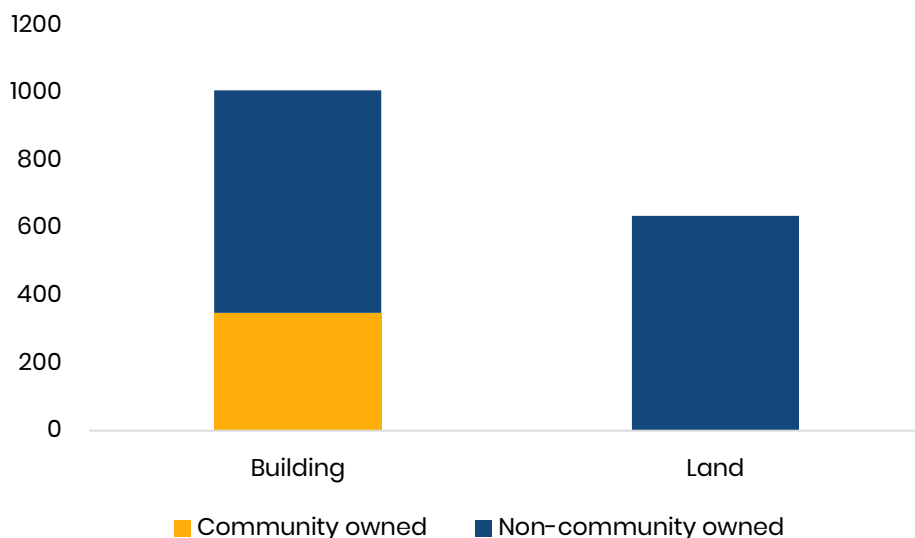
Although there are challenges posed by LGR in the short term. There is significant untapped long-term potential for rooftop solar PV on community buildings, leisure centres and council-owned assets. Community energy audits offer a practical entry point to identify viable sites and develop investable projects. As a starting point, Energy Saving Trust's in-house non-domestic analytics database was used to identify buildings suitable for community energy generation projects. The building categories are informed by insights and learnings from the CARES programme in Scotland, which is administered by a partnership led by the Energy Saving Trust and funded by Scottish Government. These categories include community buildings, public buildings, faith buildings, educational facilities, and healthcare-related buildings. In addition, we incorporated several publicly available datasets, including the Local Authority Land Database, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) dataset, the Renewable Energy Planning Database, and National Grid's Network Opportunity and Development Map.

The potential number of opportunities across both buildings and land was analysed, excluding existing renewable installations and areas designated SSSI. The resulting map, shown below, highlights the potential number of community energy projects across the study area. We also mapped out the electricity grid substations and their contracted generation RAG status, providing an indication of the likelihood of obtaining a generation connection in each location.



The opportunity profile combines a strong base of community-owned building assets with a large pipeline of non-community-owned buildings and land, highlighting considerable potential for future community energy projects through partnership and asset-owner engagement (Chart 1).

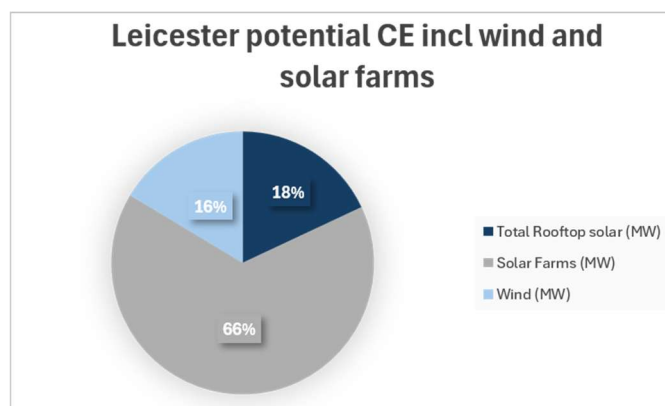
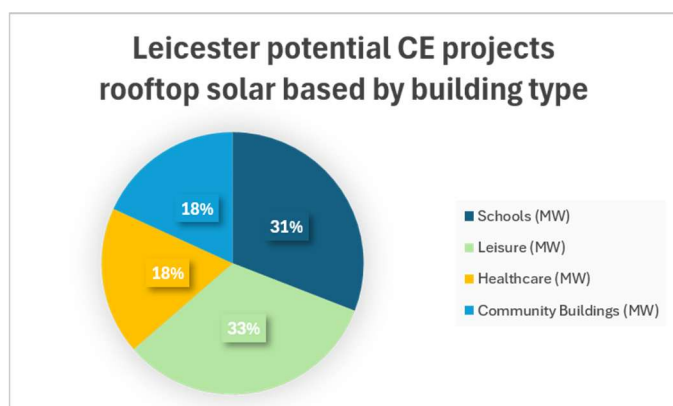
Chart 1: Ownership and Site Type Distribution of Green RAG Sites (Leicester)



An assessment of the available community or publicly owned buildings, based on the lowest end of probable capacity reduced by 40% to allow for non-participation, and including only assets which are noted as green in terms of grid mapping, showed the potential for getting some community energy projects off the ground quickly in Leicester to achieve around 5.5MW capacity – generating around 4.95GW per year. The conservative assessment of wind and solar farm potential in rural areas was also considered, and this offers significantly more capacity, of an additional 25MW but could take significantly longer to deliver and could inform a longer-term target.

The following table shows conservative estimates for potential rooftop solar capacity on different types of community buildings in Leicester, and the same for ground based rural community solar and wind projects. They have used only sites which are green on grid mapping, used the most conservative estimate of capacity and lowered this by 40% to allow for non-participation.

Local Authority	Schools (MW)	Leisure (MW)	Healthcare (MW)	Community Buildings (MW)	Total Rooftop solar (MW)	Solar Farms (MW)	Wind (MW)	Total (MW)
Leicester	1.7	1.8	1	1	5.5	20	5	30.5



Longer-term opportunities: Heat networks and battery storage

Leicester has one of the strongest foundations for heat network development in the region, supported by existing district heating infrastructure, a dense urban form and ongoing regeneration activity. This established track record provides a strong platform for future community-led or partnership-based heat network projects. High-density housing, mixed-use developments and areas experiencing fuel poverty may be particularly well suited to networked heat solutions that can deliver both decarbonisation and wider social benefits.

Future opportunities could focus on areas of concentrated heat demand, including city centre locations, regeneration areas, social housing estates and clusters of public sector assets. Within these areas, major heat users such as council buildings, universities, hospitals and leisure facilities could provide important anchor loads for heat network development⁵. Publicly owned assets may also provide suitable locations for energy centres and network infrastructure, creating opportunities for phased expansion over time. Leicester's established community energy sector could support local engagement, governance and community benefit arrangements, helping to build support for heat network projects as they develop.

Although battery storage was not a major theme within the workshops, it represents a valuable longer-term opportunity. Pairing batteries with rooftop solar installations on schools, places of worship, community centres and other community assets could increase self-consumption, reduce grid exports and improve project viability. Schools may be particularly well suited to solar-plus-storage models, allowing excess daytime generation to be used for evening activities, community programmes and wider building operations whilst also increasing local energy resilience.

⁵ Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. (2025). *Heat network zoning opportunity report: Leicester*.

Actions

The following actions have been developed by Energy Saving Trust based on evidence gathered through desk research, a survey, and stakeholder workshops. They are intended as a starting point for discussion and refinement. Leicester City Council and its partners will now need to consider, adapt and take ownership of these actions, evolving them into a jointly agreed plan with defined responsibilities and delivery timescales.

Short-term delivery (Quick wins)

	Action	Owner	Target Deadline
1	Identify 2-3 pilot sites (e.g. schools/public buildings) for community energy projects; engage procurement teams early to address risk.		
2	Establish a Leicester community energy network and connect with Midlands-wide groups.		
3	Introduce a single referral pathway between council and community groups.		
4	Create a shared directory of services with clear roles and contacts.		
5	Identify “catalyst” showcase projects and begin testing communications channels and local media.		
6	Explore local supply models and funding opportunities.		
7	Explore whether planning policy could be updated to encourage community energy in new developments.		

Building the sector (Strategic actions)

	Action	Owner	Target Deadline
1	Conduct strategic survey of sites (schools, leisure centres, land, faith buildings, social housing, industrial estates) Explore bundled projects (e.g. multiple roofs/streets/estates/industrial clusters) to de-risk blended finance.		
2	Launch community energy internship programme.		
3	Formalise a Leicester Community Energy Framework (preferred over standalone action plan) to support new groups and ensure quality/due diligence.		

	Action	Owner	Target Deadline
4	Develop standard templates (roof leases, PPAs, business cases) informed by pilot projects.		
5	Establish a shared digital resource hub (templates, case studies, FAQs) for council, community groups, and partners.		
6	Strengthen support for funding applications (e.g. consortium bids with roles agreed in advance).		
7	Upskill council officers and appoint energy champions.		
8	Use pilot projects to demonstrate benefits and attract investors/volunteers and run regular communications campaigns.		
9	Explore and develop partnerships around local supply/sleeving pilots.		

Creating the conditions for growth (Policy areas)

	Action	Owner	Target Deadline
1	Set city-wide targets for community renewable energy and develop a long-term growth plan for community energy.		
2	Integrate community energy into local strategy (e.g. Climate Ready Leicester Action Plan, Local Area Action Plan).		
3	Enable shared ownership models with private developers.		
4	Maintain a local register of community energy groups for partnerships.		
5	Establish procurement frameworks that support community ownership alongside council delivery.		
6	Scale rollout of renewables across public estate.		
7	Deliver large-scale deployment pipelines (solar, retrofit, local supply).		
8	Build a self-sustaining ecosystem of community energy (community groups, council, private partnerships).		

Note that some actions may begin in the short term (e.g. role clarification, planning policy exploration, standard templates and processes), with their full value realised over time.

Engagement Plan

	Action	Owner	Target Deadline
1	Improve senior leadership and councillor awareness of community energy benefits using Leicester and national case studies; position community energy as supporting net zero, fuel poverty, and local economic benefits.		
2	Identify 1 – 2 high-confidence pilot areas (e.g. regeneration zones with strong local organisations and community readiness) and use these as deep engagement demonstrators as well as delivery sites.		
3	Promote successful projects and pilot outcomes through council and regional communications channels to build visibility and trust.		
4	Support community-led outreach engagement, particularly targeting hard-to-reach or previously disengaged residents, working through trusted intermediaries (community groups, faith organisations, local networks).		

NB A separate document is being produced focused on how Local Authorities can successfully support community energy.

Appendix 1: Governance structures

Legal form	What is its governing document called?	Can it issue shares? ¹		Does it have to register with a regulatory body?	Is it suitable for charitable status?	Does it have an asset lock? ²	Membership voting
		Standard shares	Community shares				
Company Limited by Guarantee	Articles	No	No	Companies House	Yes	No (unless charity)	One member one vote
Company Limited by Shares	Articles	Yes	No	Companies House	No	No (unless charity)	One vote per share
Community Interest Company (limited by guarantee)	Articles	No	No	Companies House & CIC Regulator	No	Yes	One member one vote
Community Interest Company (limited by shares)	Articles	Yes	No	Companies House & CIC Regulator	No	Yes	One vote per share
Charitable Incorporated organisation	Constitution	No	No	Charity Commission	Yes	Yes	As per the constitution
Co-operative societies	Rules	Yes	Yes	Financial Conduct Authority	No	No	One member one vote
Community Benefit Societies	Rules	Yes	Yes	Financial Conduct Authority	Yes	Yes (optional)	One member one vote

Appendix 2: Useful organisations and resources

National organisations and policy:

- [Community Energy England](#) – Sector body supporting and representing community energy groups.
- [Great British Energy](#) – UK Government initiative supporting community and local clean energy projects.
- [Department for Energy Security and Net Zero \(DESNZ\)](#) – Leads national energy policy and funding programmes.
- [Local power plan](#)
- [Energy Saving Trust](#) – Delivery partner for programmes such as the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES), and provider of community energy support.
- [Regen](#) – Independent organisation focused on accelerating the transition to a zero-carbon energy system, providing policy insight, market analysis, and support for community energy and local energy systems.
- [Energy Systems Catapult \(ESC\)](#) – Independent, government-backed innovation centre focused on transforming the UK energy system. ESC supports whole-system energy planning, local energy systems, flexibility markets, and innovative business models, including through Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP).

Delivery models and innovation:

- [Energy Local/Energy Local Clubs](#) – Local energy supply model enabling communities to benefit directly from locally generated energy.
- [Energy Garden/Repowering London](#) – Established community energy delivery and engagement models, particularly in urban contexts.
- [Solar for Schools](#) – Model combining solar deployment with education and student engagement.
- [Community Energy Pathways](#) – Organisation supporting the development of community energy projects and groups across the UK.

Finance and investment:

- [Ethex](#) – Platform for community share offers and ethical investment.
- [Co-operative & Community Finance](#) – Specialist lender providing finance to community and cooperative enterprises.
- [Power to Change](#) – National body supporting community businesses through funding and capacity building.

Tools and platforms:

- [Loomio](#) – Digital platform supporting the development of local energy projects and community energy schemes, including tools for project scoping and supplier engagement.
- [LAEP datasets/tools](#) – Used by local authorities to identify opportunities and prioritise local energy interventions.
- [Community Energy Go](#) – National support service providing expert guidance, resources, and capacity-building to help community groups develop energy projects from early-stage ideas to fundable proposals, including support on governance, planning, and access to funding.

Appendix 3: Leicester Green RAG Sites by Local Authority and Site Category

Site categories	No sites
Amenity Green Space	166
Care / Nursing Home	128
Indoor / Outdoor Leisure / Sporting Activity / Centre	124
Place Of Worship	114
Residential Education	94
Public / Village Hall / Other Community Facility	88
Ground Lease – Industrial	70
Children's Nursery / Creche	64
Church	45
Primary School	42
Allotments	41
Church Hall / Religious Meeting Place / Hall	41
Play Area	35
Ground Lease – Miscellaneous	28
Park	28
Access	26
Other Educational Establishment	26
Health Centre	25
Rack Rent – Miscellaneous	23
Surplus Land	20
Land/Bldg in Advance	19
Preparatory / First / Primary / Infant / Junior / Middle School	19
Activity / Leisure / Sports Centre	18
General Practice Surgery / Clinic	16
Health Care Services	16
Car Park	14
University	14
Open Space	13
Secondary School	12
Brooks	11
Library	11
Recreational / Social Club	11
Sub-Station	11
Community Car Park	10
Ground Lease – Office	9

Misc Highway Land	9
Vacant Land	9
Adopted Highway	8
Community Service Centre / Office	8
Community Services	8
Ground Lease – Retail	8
Special Needs Establishment.	8
Further Education	7
Grazing	7
Hospital / Hospice	7
Infant School	7
Junior School	7
Landscaping	7
Playing Field	7
Recreation Ground	7
Agricultural	6
Racquet Sports Facility	6
College	5
Mosque	5
Secondary / High School	5
Cemetery	4
Hospital	4
Local Government Service	4
Bridge	3
Central Government Service	3
Communication Mast	3
Depot	3
Development Site	3
Fire Station	3
Towpath	3
Ambulance Station	2
Flood Plain	2
Football Facility	2
Gipsy & Travellers Site	2
Heritage Site	2
Job Centre	2
Law Court	2
Long Lease w/Peppercorn	2
Sports Pitches	2
Storage	2
Advertising Hoardings	1
Asset Under Construction/Refurbishment	1
Community Use	1

Development Land	1
Farm	1
Garden Extension	1
Gas Governor	1
Golf Course	1
Gurdwara	1
Hospice	1
Long Lease – Rack Rent	1
Marina	1
Monument	1
Museum / Gallery	1
Recycling Centre	1
Temple	1
Waterways	1