

Great British Energy Community Fund

Information webinar

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The Great British Energy Community Fund

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The Great British Energy Community Fund

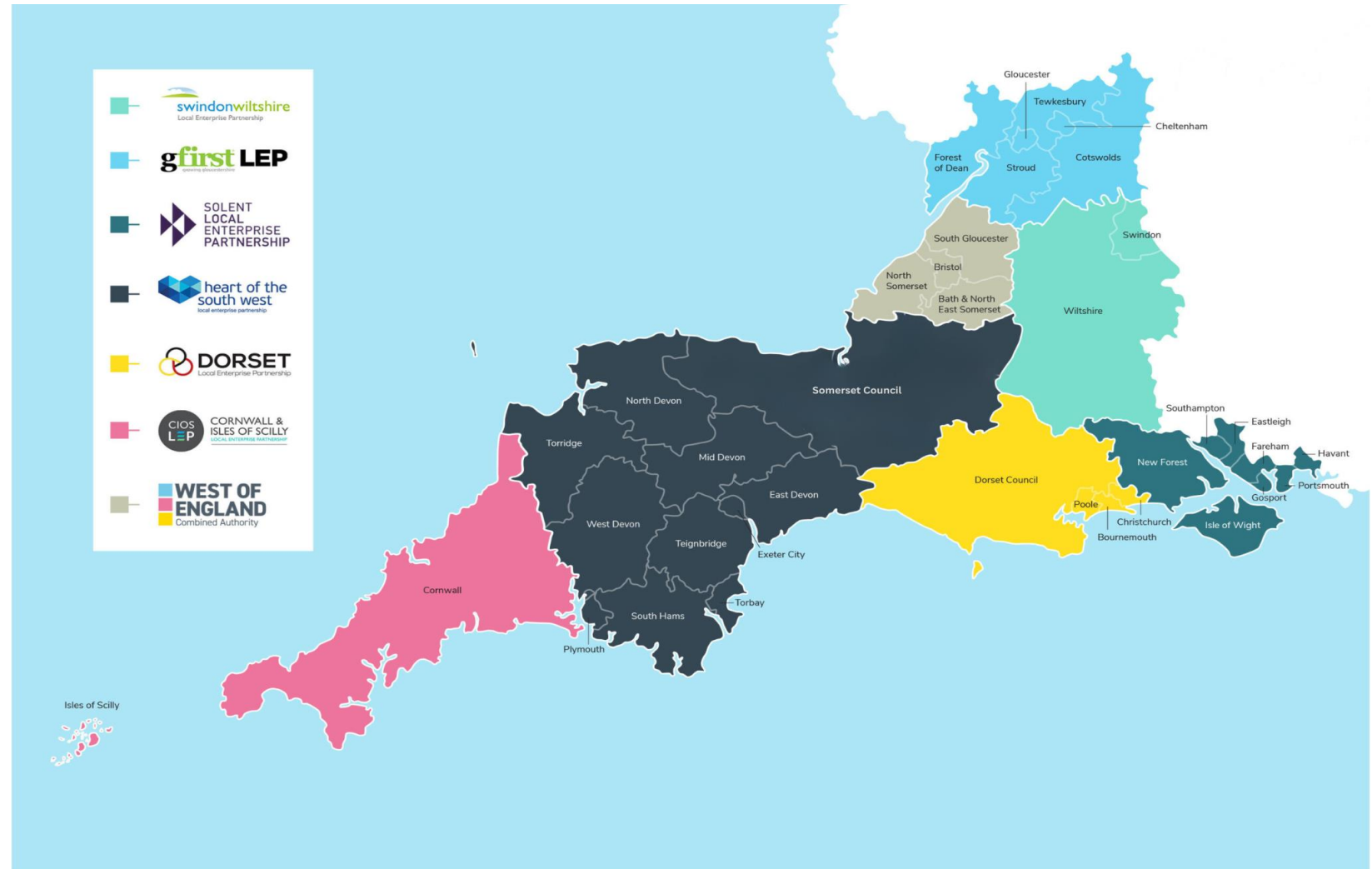
The Local Net Zero Hubs are a national network of five local partnerships, created by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero in 2018.

The Hubs provide strategic and technical support to local authorities, public sector bodies, and community groups for free.

The Hubs support projects from the earliest stages of development and feasibility to investment and delivery.

The South West Net Zero Hub

The Hub covers the south west – currently following the boundaries of 7 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)



The Great British Energy Community Fund

Community Energy Fund (CEF) - £1m per Hub per year, 2023 to 2025.

Great British Energy Community Fund - £1m per Hub 2025/26.

Stage 1 grants - up to £40k for feasibility study.

Stage 2 grants - up to £100k for project development.

Funds must be allocated by March 2026.

GBECF - Aims and scope

The aims of the fund are to:

- Increase the level of community and locally owned renewable and low carbon energy assets to make progress towards the Government's net zero carbon emissions targets.
- Support communities by helping them to reduce energy costs or generate income through community owned energy assets, reinvesting income locally, or services to reduce energy demand.
- Promote growth through the creation of jobs and volunteering opportunities in the communities where projects are located.

GBECF - Aims and scope

“The fund will achieve its aims by removing barriers to investment that are preventing the development of community-scale projects.”

Community ownership

Any projects developed through GBECF should be designed to be at least 50% community owned.

Scale

Applications based on single buildings will only be eligible if they create an asset that benefits the community beyond meeting the building's own energy needs.

GBECF - Aims and scope

Stage 1: Feasibility studies

Stage 2: Development of feasible projects

Type A: Community energy asset project

Type B: Community energy efficiency or advice project

GBECF - Eligibility

Type A projects:

- Anaerobic digestion
- Biogas heat network
- Bio liquids/gas/fuels
- Biomass heat network
- Electric vehicle infrastructure (publicly available, incorporating generation/storage)
- Heat pumps
- Heat pump-fed heat networks (e.g., heat zoning for a village)
- Hydropower
- Solar (photo voltaic)
- Solar (thermal)
- Wind power
- Battery storage

GBECF - Eligibility

Type B projects:

- Advice targeting fuel poor households
- Advice available to all households, or targeting households that are not fuel poor
- Bulk-buy scheme for energy efficiency measures (multiple households)
- Bulk-buy scheme for renewable and low carbon energy (multiple households)
- Other energy efficiency retrofit programme (multiple households)
- Other renewable energy retrofit programme (multiple households)
- *Up to £80k is available for type B projects in the SW. This will be a competitive process between all type B applications. We do not intend to accept Type B applications after Window 1.*

GBECF - Eligibility

Applications must be submitted by an eligible group:

- Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
- Community Benefit Society (CBS or Bencom)
- Community Interest Company (CIC)
- Co-operative Society
- Development Trust
- Pre-commencement society
- Registered charity (including eligible faith groups, sports clubs, etc.)
- Registered provider of social housing (this can include local authority or social landlord owned social housing)
- Registered Society
- Town or Parish Council

GBECF - Application process and timeline

Application deadline 7th July at midday.

Submit your application via email.

Assessment and moderation, July and August.

Funding award decisions, September. Grant Funding Agreements, October.

Stage 2 applications can be submitted on a rolling deadline and we will work with groups to ascertain when the project is ready for Stage 2.

We expect to have at least 1 more application window, (tbc but likely closing in the Autumn).

GBECF - Top tips

- Let us know if you are intending to apply.
- Look at the feasibility study template - this will give you a good feel for the type and level of work we would expect to see during a Stage 1 project.
- Answer all of the questions and use the full word count and add supplementary documents.
- Grant is paid quarterly in arrears, (note the advance payment checkbox)
- Sharing Learning and best practice - don't miss this section
- Consider partnerships and bringing in expert advice.

GBECF - Consultants

- The procurement section of the application form is scored and we do want to see evidence that you have assessed the quality and cost of your proposed consultant(s).
- The Guidance requests 3 quotes and we do scrutinise this.
- A list of companies that are happy to be approached about GBECF opportunities can be found on the Community Energy England website:
<https://communityenergyengland.org/pages/community-energy-fund/>

GBECF - Forms and Guidance

- The application forms and guidance are to be published imminently
- We expect them to be very similar to the CEF Guidance and forms:

<https://www.swnetzerohub.org.uk/what-we-do/community-energy/community-energy-fund/>

Q&A

Thank you for your time!

Stay in touch:
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