

PLYMOUTH ENERGY COMMUNITY

South West Net Zero Hub
Annual Conference 2025

WORKING TOGETHER FOR NET ZERO: COMMUNITY ENERGY AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- Why Community–Local Authority Collaboration Matters
- The Give and Take
- What has the collaboration enabled?
- Top 5 Countdown



WHY COMMUNITY-LOCAL AUTHORITY COLLABORATION MATTERS

- Local authorities have unique powers: planning, land, borrowing, services
- Community groups bring trust, local knowledge, agility
- Collaboration creates local energy ecosystems essential for net zero & just transition
- Supports Climate Action Plans and Local Area Energy Plans



HOW PCC ENABLED PEC'S SUCCESS

- Start-up support: shared staffing, access to council skills
- Partnership: nominated council directors, ongoing collaboration
- Trust and integration across departments (planning, housing, etc.)
- PEC delivers faster due to fewer procurement constraints



WHAT PEC BRINGS TO THE TABLE

- 34 dedicated team members
- 140+ referral partners, strong community relationships
- Innovation through Virtual Power purchase Agreements, Retrofit coordination, etc.
- Trusted delivery partner across advice, retrofit, renewables
- £1.1m+ household savings, £400k of health benefits in 2024
- 5,200 MWh of clean power generated in 2024



LESSONS FOR OTHER COUNCILS AND GROUPS

1. Success needs council resourcing + community capacity
2. Embed CE in net zero and energy strategies
3. The up-sell - Community groups offer agility and legitimacy
4. Build trust early through shared values and collaboration
5. Understand each other's limitations - expectation management



FINAL THOUGHTS

- Community energy can amplify local net zero delivery
- PEC–PCC show what's possible with vision, trust, and support
- As funding tightens, these partnerships are more vital than ever
- Success looks like a considered, resourced and collaborative partnership rather than a source of money for CE groups.

