

# COMMUNITY ENERGY & LA PARTNERSHIP

SWNZH Annual Conference 2025

# Since 2010, raised £25 million to build out 14.6MW, matching annual demand from 5,200 homes



£4 million turnover, a staff team of 30 people and a pipeline of 55MW ground mount solar, 15MW wind and 2.5MW rooftop solar across our local area.

## We have

- Installed 5 ground mount & 37 rooftop solar systems, mainly on schools
- B&NES Council outreach partnership creating community energy networks
- Delivered a range of flexibility and local supply innovation pilots
- Launched a home energy programme in partnership with B&NES Council & Retrofit West CIC
- Distributed £430k to support action on carbon reduction & fuel poverty
- Partnership with B&NES Council central to success from early days



# BWCE's Community Business Strategy



**(1)** Increase  
Community  
Renewables

- Active participation

# Partnership – Complementary Roles



## Community Energy

- Community credibility and enhanced community support
- Source of private finance
- Technical expertise and knowledge
- Investable projects delivering carbon reduction
- Maximising participation
- Community benefit and local economic value

## Local Authority

- Leadership on climate and nature emergency
- Political support for community energy
- Source of public finance
- Public sector estate
- Convening capability
- Integration with sustainability, social housing, economic development, community outreach

# Partnership Opportunities



- Co-designed community energy strategy – integration into LA policy
- Co-operation agreements
- Joint investment
- Shared ownership/joint venture
- Joint grant funding bids
- Community renewables on LA estate
- Long term power purchase agreements
- Joint delivery of energy efficiency/energy advice services



# The Future of Energy is Local



## **Community energy offers:**

- A not-for-profit, democratic and locally accountable community business model ...
- ...offering a practical response to the climate crisis that prioritises collective action, local control and local benefit

By putting communities front and centre, renewable energy can be the powerhouse that drives a just transition to net zero

**Use us** - Put people at the heart of a just transition

## **ANY QUESTIONS?**

### **Contact Details**

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