

Shared community ownership newsletter

Shared community ownership has been successfully developed in many parts of the world to encourage sustainable energy production and to help diversify ownership of generation infrastructure. It is now being introduced in the UK as an innovative part of the government's Community Energy Strategy.

This first newsletter on shared community ownership is being sent to you because you registered on the sco-res.uk website for the shared community ownership newsletter.

Policy and regulation

Shared ownership taskforce

The [Taskforce](#) delivered [its report](#) to the secretary of state on 6 November 2014. The report proposed a voluntary protocol under which developers of renewable energy projects worth over £2.5m would enable local communities to take a share of the ownership, if they so wish.

The government says it will respond formally to the report early this year. Meanwhile, developers are expected to adhere to the voluntary protocol for all new projects initiated after 6 November 2014. Many leading developers are also investigating where the protocol can be applied to existing projects already in the pipeline.

The Infrastructure Bill

In parallel, the government is continuing to legislate within the [Infrastructure Bill](#) to give it the powers to make shared community ownership a mandatory requirement.

The 'Community Electricity Right' incorporated into the bill provides the primary legislation, i.e. an enabling power. Secondary legislation would then be required before any mandatory obligation could come into force; and the government has consistently maintained that it does not intend to proceed with this, if the voluntary protocol proves successful in practice. The Infrastructure Bill is expected to specify a date (probably in 2016) before which legislation cannot be implemented. This is to allow time for the protocol to achieve results on a voluntary basis.

The Infrastructure Bill is currently at the committee stage in Parliament. It was first [debated on 8th January](#) and this stage is scheduled to continue on 13th. Community Energy England (CEE) submitted a [briefing](#) last week to inform debate on the shared ownership provisions.

The voluntary protocol

Developers are now starting to [register their new projects](#) to help them identify suitable community partners.

Dozens of community energy enterprises across the length and breadth of the country have already [registered their interest](#) in partnering with commercial developers on shared ownership projects.

Last week Community Energy England's partner finding service started matching community groups to development projects and notified the first 45 potential partnerships to the community groups and developers involved.

- If you are a developer with new projects worth over £2.5m, and have not yet started to identify suitable community ownership partners; it takes only a few moments to register your projects [here](#) for CEE's partnership finding service.

- If you are a community energy enterprise with an interest in partnering on shared ownership projects, and have not already done so; you should register [here](#) to indicate the size, type and location of projects which would be suitable for you.

It is clear from discussions with developers that many are still having to concentrate their efforts on completing their pipelines of projects in hand before the 1 April deadline. We therefore anticipate that the number of new projects starting to engage under the shared ownership protocol will accelerate towards the end of the first quarter.

10 MW projects under feed in tariffs

On 13 November 2014 the government published its response to the consultation on community Feed-in Tariffs. The full response is available [here](#).

Probably the most important proposal relates to the government's earlier undertaking to extend the Feed-in Tariff ceiling from 5 MW to 10 MW for community projects. As further described [here](#), it will in future be possible for two neighbouring projects of up to 5 MW each to be registered under the Feed-in Tariffs, provided that at least one is community owned.

If you are a developer with projects in the 10 MW range, therefore, you will now be able to pursue these under the feed-in tariffs, provided that they are undertaken as 5+5 MW split ownership projects with community partners.

Community Energy England is planning to review DECC's planning database to identify projects in the 5 to 10 MW range which might be suitable for this approach. Later this month it aims to notify these projects to those community groups which have registered their interest in shared projects.

Information about shared community ownership

The website www.SCO-RES.uk is now fully operational with full details about the background to the [protocol](#) and how it operates. It also includes guidance documents both for [developers](#) and [communities](#) and these are available for free download.

A [new page](#) has been added about the [5+5MW opportunity](#) under FiTs, and this will be kept updated as the details are confirmed by DECC and Ofgem.

Future newsletters

We expect to send newsletters relative infrequently, unless things change fast, and there is a lot to say!

You are receiving this newsletter because you registered on the sco-res.uk website for the shared community ownership newsletter. If there are other people in your organisation who would like to be added to the circulation list please [let us know](#). Similarly if you do not want to receive updates in the future please [unsubscribe](#).