



Ensuring Local Energy Benefits People and Communities

Insights from a People's Panel



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About this work

In 2023, supported by funding from Scottish Government, Regen, working with Shared Future, conducted a People's Panel tasked with answering the question:

'The way we use energy in our homes and communities is changing, with many communities and councils developing their own solutions. How should this be done so that it involves and benefits people in a fair way?'

The panel was selected from across Scotland, with the 22 members meeting on four evenings in April and May 2023. They heard from experts about how the energy system is changing, and the different types of local and community energy solutions being developed. They then developed a set of principles to ensure that local and community energy policies involve and benefit people in a fair way. These fall into seven main themes:

- 1. Clarity.** Making sure there are clear definitions around how projects will work, agreements around roles and responsibilities, and transparency of budgets.
- 2. Goals and outcomes.** Setting aims, success metrics, shared values and priorities, ensuring that everyone benefits, with fair distribution of benefits.
- 3. Equitable participation.** Achieved through population-based awareness raising, engagement and promotion of projects, participation opportunities across the whole community, and routes for democratic governance structures.
- 4. Support and risk.** Providing support to the community to support project engagement or delivery, and managing and minimising risks.
- 5. Local use of energy.** Enabling energy generated locally to be used by the local community.
- 6. Shared ownership.** Supporting opportunities over the lifetime of the project and ensuring companies don't make excessive profits at the expense of the community.
- 7. Government.** Ensuring government provides conclusive and resourcing support for community and local energy, as well as support and accountability for councils.



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Finally, thank you to the members of the People's Panel who showed great dedication to this work, and great trust in sharing their opinions on some very thorny issues around energy and fairness.



Section 1

Introduction

As Scotland embarks on a just transition to net zero in a time of multiple overlapping crises, community and local energy could have a significant role to play. These approaches can bring significant benefits into towns, cities and regions. Community-owned generation assets such as wind and solar PV can create new revenue streams for local areas, while local energy systems led by local authorities and wider local stakeholder partnerships can help address fuel poverty, lower energy bills, generate revenue and business opportunities, create new jobs and skills and support local climate ambitions.

However, energy is not fairer simply by virtue of being local. To fully understand how local and community energy can support all communities and regions across Scotland, Regen, working with the Scottish Government, commissioned Shared Future to co-design and run a People's Panel. A People's Panel is a deliberative process, bringing together citizens from a sample of the population to learn about a topic and 'co-design' policy recommendations. 'Expert witnesses' present on the topic in clear terms, participants discuss what they've heard, and question witnesses for more information. Over a series of sessions, participants continue to reflect and deliberate on the topic, culminating in the curation of a set of principles or recommendations.

People's Panels, and other types of deliberative processes, are particularly powerful tools for addressing policy issues that impact and involve people. They allow for ideas – such as different models of community and local energy – to be tested among the target population, they help explore barriers around engagement and participation, and they add democratic legitimacy to policy development. The goal of our People's Panel was to answer the question:

'The way we use energy in our homes and communities is changing, with many communities and councils developing their own solutions. How should this be done so that it involves and benefits people in a fair way?'

To address this question, Shared Future recruited 22 people from across Scotland to participate in four online sessions over the course of three weeks. Appendix A details the recruitment process and panel demographics, and Appendix B outlines the design of the four sessions.



Section 2

Principles for Local and Community Energy

Our People's Panel identified 20 key principles for developing local and community energy such that it involves and benefits people in a fair way.

These principles apply broad a range of local and community energy developments, such as community owned assets, shared ownership models, community benefit schemes, community led retrofit support, and local authority led energy planning and projects.

These 20 principles, detailed in Appendix B, group into seven key themes:

1. Definitions
2. Goals and outcomes
3. Equitable participation
4. Support and risk
5. Local use of energy
6. Shared ownership
7. Government

Figure 1 depicts the degree of support held by panel members¹ for each principle, grouped according to the seven themes outlined above.

Across all themes and principles, the average ratio of support (strongly support and support) to opposition (oppose and strongly oppose) is 52:1. For every vote of opposition, there were 52 votes in support, with only six total votes opposing principles in total, showing overwhelming agreement with almost all principles developed.

Further insight can be found in Appendix C, which details panel members' comments on each principle.

¹ While all 22 panel members were involved in creating the principles, only 18 voted on the them. Voting was undertaken after the end of the final session, and we were unable to collect data from the remaining four.



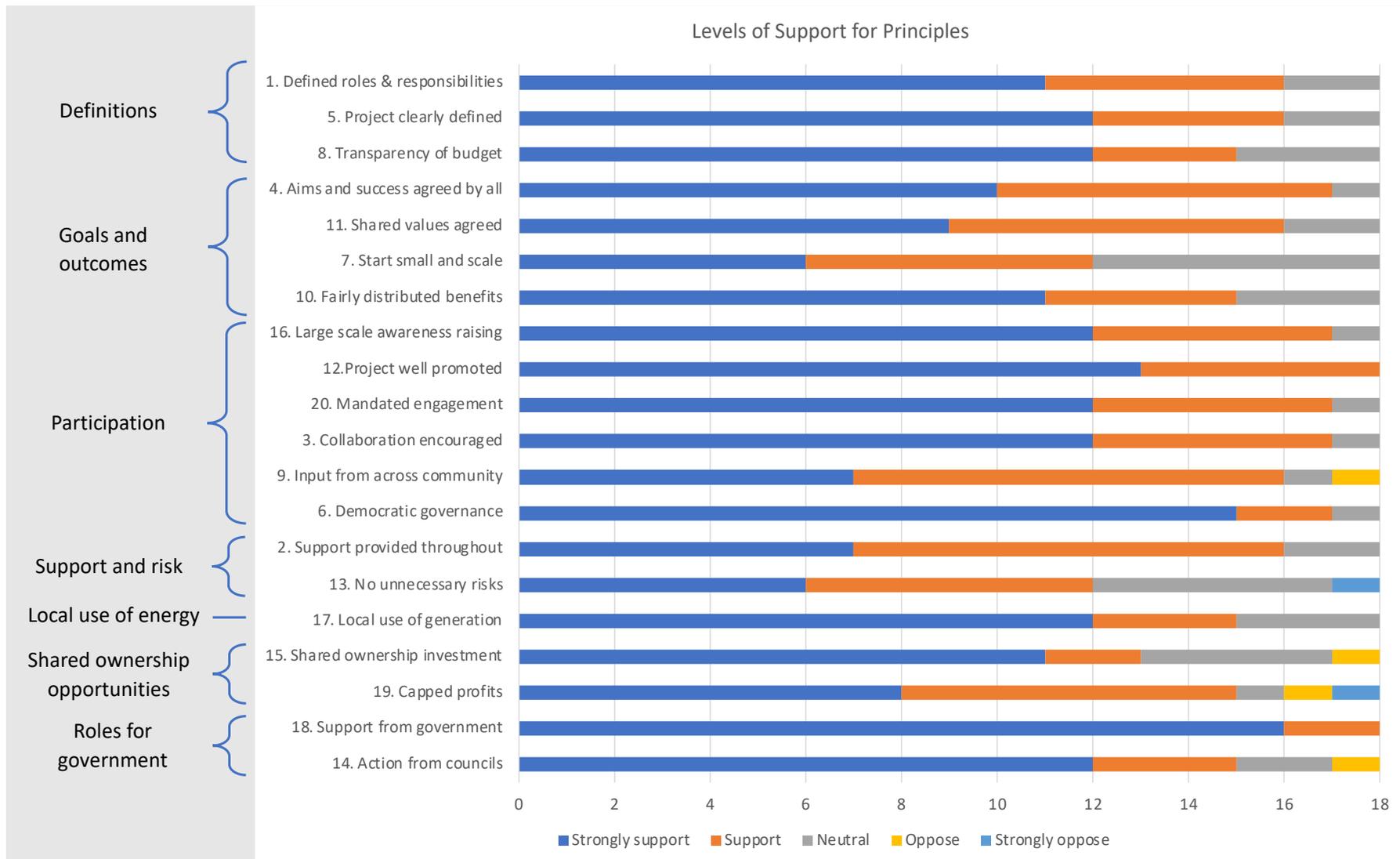


Figure 1: Degrees to which panel members supported the 20 Local and Community Principles, by theme

Theme 1: Definitions

This theme relates to clarity of definitions surrounding the energy project itself, the roles and responsibilities of those involved, and the budget.

It includes three principles:

- Principle 5. How the project will work is clear. For example, how long will it last, what are the personal and community benefits of being involved, etc. This is made easy to understand.
- Principle 1. It has been agreed and is clear what roles and responsibilities there are and how much time commitment is needed by people who want to take part. This will enable people to play to their strengths and feel a sense of ownership.
- Principle 8. Transparency of the budget is clear to all.

Participants noted that clarity was particularly important to make sure that people were able to properly understand the project and its impacts to individuals and the community. This would help set expectations around challenges and outcomes. It would also allow them to make informed choices about their involvement, and understand time and responsibility commitments for taking part. Without these roles and responsibilities clearly agreed, participants noted risks around disagreements, burnout, lack of engagement, and ultimately project failure.

Likewise, they wanted the budget – and decisions relating to it – to be clearly defined and transparent at every stage. This would avoid potential financial pitfalls, reduce risks related to financial mismanagement, and build trust among project participants, including developers and other commercial companies.

Theme 2: Goals and outcomes

This theme brings focus to how aims, success metrics, shared values, priorities and benefits are established within local and community energy developments.

It includes four principles:

- **Principle 4.** The aims of the project and what success looks like is clear to all and has been agreed by consensus.
- **Principle 11.** Shared values are agreed by all involved.
- **Principle 7.** Priorities are set, but not everything at once. Start small and scale it up as more people get interested.
- **Principle 10.** Fairness: everyone has to benefit, with benefits being evenly distributed.



The panel noted that agreeing project aims at the outset was important to ensure everyone knows what they are hoping to achieve and working towards, as well as how well the project is progressing and performing. Without this, they felt the project would lack direction of travel and buy-in from the community to succeed.

Importantly, they felt that the community had to be working toward a shared purpose with the project, and while all values may not be fully shared, guiding principles would help manage expectations and potential conflicts. These, and the project's priorities, need to be established at the outset but may evolve and scale up as the project develops.

Fairness is a key guiding factor across all these principles in terms of how people can contribute to developing the aims, values and priorities. It was also critical for the panel when considering how benefits were set out and distributed. However, many participants acknowledged challenges here. For example, one participant commented that those investing more financially may get greater financial return, whereas another outlined that "free time is the privilege of the upper classes", thus enabling them to participate to a greater degree and receive greater benefit.

Despite these tensions, the guiding factor seemed to be that fairness should ensure that those with less money are supported and enabled to participate, that it's about equality of access to the project, and that ultimately 'fairness' in terms of how benefits are distributed is something that should be determined and agreed upon by those involved in the development.

Theme 3: Equitable participation

This theme takes a very broad view of participation-related issues, including awareness raising of local and community energy, engagement and promotion within the community itself, participation opportunities across the whole community, and routes for democratic governance structures.

This theme includes six principles:

- **Principle 16.** There must be large-scale awareness raising of the concept of community/local energy so that everyone understands its benefits and what your individual/community entry point might be.
- **Principle 20.** Developers should be mandated to engage with communities at the earliest possible stage (before planning) to ensure that benefits are relevant to the community and to ensure that there is forward planning so that the community is happy with how the land, and any infrastructure, will be developed or left at the end of the project.
- **Principle 12.** The project is well promoted to everyone within the community.
- **Principle 3.** Collaboration is encouraged so that lots of people can get involved and work together, sharing lots of ideas.



- **Principle 9.** Flexibility means that input can be heard from all parts of the community.
- **Principle 6.** The way that decisions are made is clear and agreed. It's democratic, so people are able to express views and misgivings, it's not controlled by one person, and all who have a share (no matter how small) have a vote. At least a proportion of shares must be affordable for those on a low income. Changes are consulted on.

Coming into the first panel session, only a single participant was previously aware of local and community energy. As many people across Scotland are unaware of these opportunities at present, the panel suggested it was important for Scottish Government to deliver large-scale awareness raising. This would ensure that people understand the relevance of community and local energy developments in their area, enabling them to properly engage. In addition, Scottish Government should be mandating developers to engage with households and the community at very early stages of the project to support successful and positive partnerships.

Within projects, the panel felt that all community members should have the opportunity to be informed and involved, leveraging a variety of communication channels. They noted that getting lots of people involved and working together is what makes a community a community, that failure is often the result of poor communication, and that people will respond much more positively if they feel they and their ideas are heard and valued.

They noted that it is important to ensure equal access and that there is not a monetary barrier to being involved. In addition, decision-making processes need to stay open and transparent, leveraging clear communications about the proposed projects, committees to drive ideas forward, and consultations among the community regarding any key decisions or changes.

Theme 4: Support and risk

This theme talks to the processes of delivering local and community energy developments, ensuring that support is provided to the community to support project engagement or delivery, and that risks to the community are minimised.

It includes two principles:

- **Principle 2.** There is support in place all the way through the project so that no-one feels left alone and appropriate extra training is provided. Funding for community-sourced leadership roles should be mandated where it supports equitable and consistent involvement.
- **Principle 13.** No unnecessary risks are taken.

Panel members noted that support would be important to ensure the success of the project, without which only those with adequate experience or education would be able to participate. However, there was some disagreement over funded roles and how these were defined.



One panel member noted the substantial amount of work that goes into shaping and managing the project. However, another noted concern that this could cause a division between paid and unpaid community members and, depending on the funding source, that this could create a conflict of interest between the expectations of the funder and the values of the community.

This suggests that, while financial support may be critical to enable projects to succeed, care must be taken to ensure that the funding does not create tensions with the wider community and is being used to bring something tangible and valuable to the development.

The notion of risk also created some division in panel members' perspectives. While they acknowledged that nothing is risk-free, they suggested that risks be made clear from the outset, that they are specified in terms of money, investment, people, wildlife, areas of historical importance, etc, and that mitigation plans are put in place.

As with some of the other themes highlighted here, panel members outlined that the notion of risk needs to be fleshed out by the group at the start of the development, and clearly communicated to those involved.

Theme 5: Local use of energy

This theme relates to panel members' perspectives that energy generated locally should also be used locally. It includes one principle:

- **Principle 17.** Wherever possible the energy generated should be used by the local community.

During the sessions panel members were surprised to find that energy generated locally was not used by the local community, but instead sold back to the grid. They thought this requirement seemed unnecessary. They also noted that the high standing charges in areas with large levels of local generation was counterintuitive and needs to be addressed. Panel members also commented that local use of locally generated energy makes it feel more personal, and more likely to succeed.

Theme 6: Shared ownership

This theme focuses specifically on shared ownership energy models and talks to the mechanisms through which people can get involved with shared ownership projects.

It includes two principles:



- **Principle 15.** In a shared ownership project, there must be the opportunity to invest throughout the lifetime of the project and a clearly defined timeframe for how long it will remain publicly owned.
- **Principle 19.** In shared ownership project, developers should have profits capped at a percentage level to ensure they are not making excessive profits while there are any households left sitting in the cold.

The panel had mixed feelings about larger, developer-led projects, which evolved throughout the four sessions. We heard from some panel members that they did not like the wind farms in their local areas, that they had not been consulted during the development or build process, and that they did not experience any benefit from them. Given that consultations are part of the process of all renewable energy developments, this highlights how they may be invisible or inaccessible to some community members.

However, panel members also noted that learning about the role for local and community energy, as well as having the ability to invest in developer-led projects, could change things for the better and give people more choice. They noted the importance of timescales to allow people to plan, but also raised the issue that inequalities across society may prevent some people from investing due to lack of upfront capital.

Principle 19, related to capped profits, raised several nuanced considerations. Fairness was a key component of the discussions through the four sessions, expressed in this context in frustration that non-local (often offshore) investors were making large profits from local developments while some community members were struggling to pay their energy bills.

However, panel members also raised concerns that capping profits may limit developers' incentives to invest in renewables, which is important to avoid, particularly as it may impact the attractiveness of the UK for international investment, and ultimately lead to higher energy prices.

The panel also noted that greater levels of profit would also benefit the community, if there was a community benefit or share arrangement based on a fixed profit percentage. They suggested that 'excess' profits could be put towards assisting vulnerable and low-income members of the community to participate in the project, and that the focus of the principle should be around a fair balance of profits to stimulate future investment as well as benefit the local community and local businesses and organisations.



Theme 7: Government

This theme speaks to the role for government, and the structures that need to be put in place to support the fair growth of community and local energy across Scotland. While many of the other principles and themes relate to specific instances of community and local energy development, this theme is more focused on widespread action and equality of opportunity across the country.

It includes two principles:

- **Principle 18.** There has to be conclusive and resounding support (investment and policy) from all levels of government that mean widespread community and local energy is a reality across all our communities.
- **Principle 14.** To help ensure fairness, national government needs to ensure that all councils are a) able to invest in community energy projects and be held to account if they don't do so and b) face a minimum of red tape in achieving innovation.

Principle 18 was the principle with the greatest level of support from panel members, with almost 90% noting they 'strongly support' this principle and the remainder indicating 'support'. Panel members outlined that this support had to come from all levels of government and all political parties, without which widespread local and community energy would fail. They felt that a concerted, cross-party commitment would be necessary to drive action in communities that addresses climate change and helps meet our net-zero targets.

Panel members also discussed the support and incentivisation local authorities would need to encourage action across all communities and regions. They noted the need for national-level guidelines, frameworks and assistance (including funding). They also discussed that minimising red tape would be key to get projects off the ground and make processes more efficient to navigate, though this shouldn't mean minimising regulation as regulation is important to ensure fairness of outcomes.



Section 3

Panel member messages for Scottish Government

In addition to the specific principles, we asked panel members if they had any personal messages to share with Scottish Government, in relation to local and community energy.

Radical positive change

Panel members wanted Scottish Government to be serious about promoting and driving positive change. This was reflected through statements such as:

- Act like we're in a crisis; we are in an energy crisis.
- Stop making other things a priority, make this a priority.
- There needs to be a total societal change with this, it can't be done piecemeal.

In addition, panel members noted that this change needs to be apolitical, with consensus between all the political parties and at all levels of Government.

They noted that there will need to be a major society change in order for this to happen, and that Scottish Government needs to *"be more radical, take more steps towards promoting green energy production but also to ensure appropriate energy use and look at conserving energy when that's appropriate, and ensure that there's greater fairness so that there's caps on profits and more support to the people that need it to pay their bills"*.

Listen to diverse voices

Panel members also appreciated the opportunity to participate in this People's Panel, and asked Scottish Government to *"take heed, show to be seen taking an interest"* and *"please read the report and listen to what we've said"*. They noted that they had each given 10 hours of their time, and would like to hear reflections from Scottish Government on their Principles. They did not want this to be just another report that ended up on a shelf, with nothing getting acted on. Rather, they wanted to see action taken based on their input.



More broadly, the panel outlined that it would be important for Scottish Government to continue to listen to the public on topics like this, rather than being overly influenced by special interest groups. They also asked Scottish Government to invest time to consider the nuance, that island life is different to city life, and that one size does not fit all.

Fairness

Fairness was a key theme in many messages for Scottish Government, for example:

- It's got to be fair for everybody across the board, everybody has to be treated the same regardless of what walk of life you come from.
- Don't disadvantage or disbenefit some groups.
- It needs to be inclusive in terms of getting everyone engaged.

Panel members asked that Scottish Government continue to support families, particularly in the current difficult times and to make sure to act *"in a fair way so that it involves and benefits folk"* including *"folk living remotely, in a remote rural or an island community"* as well as *"folk that are not in a position financially"*, for example to invest or take out a loan to become more energy efficient. They also highlighted that Government needs to think about how to support people in poorer communities who are currently reliant on coal supplies.

More specifically, they wanted Scottish Government to address the unfairness of standing charges.

Finance and funding

Panel members want Scottish Government to *"commit to sustaining and funding local and community energy it to help make it achievable"* and to *"be realistic, be honest but be ambitious. Community energy needs money, put your money where your mouth is, enough of the talk, now it's time for action"*.

They noted that government needs to be allocating appropriate and sufficient funds to ensure that communities can develop local energy projects, as well as doing everything they can to help lower energy prices and make the environment better for future generations.

One panel member suggested *"giving households a carbon credit where they can use a credit with accredited companies to help, whether it's in the house to get insulation or a wind turbine or solar heating"*.



Communities and councils over developers

Panel members asked Scottish Government to *"empower councils and empower local communities"* and to *"learn from other countries who are doing more than we are"*. They suggested we make better use of our own resources, and not to squander the opportunities to private profiteers or offshore developers, pointing to Norway as an example of where investments have supported pension funds for those living in Norway, rather than offshore investors.

Another suggestion for large developments was that *"a percentage should be taken of every one of these developments"* and used to both start up and finance community projects as well as helping reduce people's bills.

Empowering action

Finally, to help drive action, panel members suggested:

- Keep it simple but compelling, in terms of what the offer is.
- Transparency at every part of the process; that's where government fails, it's never transparent enough.
- Make the right legislation to back community energy projects.

They asked Scottish Government (and all other relevant authorities) to *"eliminate any unnecessary red tape, bureaucracy and barriers to innovation in the fields of energy and energy development"*. This would help minimise risk and hurdles for communities trying to get a project initiated.

They also asked for Scottish Government to support the development of a central resource that everybody can draw on so that nobody needs to reinvent the wheel. They noted *"it should be very accessible and easy to understand"* and could help communities actively find out what others have done. Alongside this central resource, panel members thought there should be better promotion – for example, in school projects, councils' websites, and on social media.



Section 4

Reflections and concluding thoughts

This People's Panel demonstrated how – over a three-week period involving four 2.5-hour evening sessions – a group of 22 individuals were brought on a journey from little to no knowledge about the energy system to developing a considered and well-supported set of principles for local and community energy.

Throughout the four sessions there were high levels of engagement from all panel members. The use of breakout rooms, as well as tools like the weather chart and mood tree (see Appendix B), supported participation. This was further enhanced by the expert facilitation, ensuring everyone had a chance to input, and picking up on non-verbal cues to seek further input which may have otherwise not been given. The technical support outside of the sessions was also important, particularly in overcoming barriers around use of the technology and increasing confidence to contribute.

Working together, the panel members identified 20 principles in response to the question:

"The way we use energy in our homes and communities is changing, with many communities and councils developing their own solutions. How should this be done so that it involves and benefits people in a fair way?"

These principles covered seven main themes: (1) Definitions; (2) Goals and outcomes; (3) Participation; (4) Support and risk; (5) Local use of energy; (6) Shared ownership opportunities; and (7) Roles for government.

These principles were the output of a series of highly engaged deliberations among participants. During the sessions, particularly the small group breakout sessions, these principles were discussed and teased out by the panel members. These discussions reflected the diverse perspectives and positionings of panel members.

The positioning panel members brought to the discussion was varied and often revealed perspectives drawn from personal circumstances, such as lack of access to finance, knowledge or support, as well as desires for a better future for children and grandchildren. These personal and experiential perspectives are particularly important in understanding the barriers to engaging with local and community energy today, as well as the opportunities for Scottish Government to address this.



However, the discussions – and resulting Principles – combined these personal reflections with analytical perspectives. One example of where this played out was in relation to Principle 19, regarding capping of profits for developers. Some panel members reflected on struggles with paying for energy, and the discrepancy between the financial hardship that members of their community were experiencing, and the large profits developers and shareholders may be receiving. However, during the discussion, panel members outlined how shareholder profits were important for stimulating further investment in renewables in Scotland. The resulting wording of Principle 19 reflects this discussion.

These 20 principles provide important insights for Scottish Government in terms of how to develop local and community energy so that it is perceived as fair, enhances inclusivity, and supports Scotland's Just Transition to net zero.

Alongside these principles, and wider recommendations for Scottish Government, this People's Panel demonstrated the currently untapped potential for engaging the public with energy system transitions. Presenting information in clear and practical terms has helped democratise knowledge, and ultimately opened up an avenue of engagement for people in vulnerable, marginalised or underserved communities.



Appendix A: Recruitment process

Given that energy transitions tend to exacerbate social inequalities, we wanted to make sure our panel included people from typically underserved demographics as well as a more general sample. Based on a review of the literature, we identified the following key population segments to include (and oversample) in our panel:

- People from lower-income areas;
- People with disabilities, particularly those with mobility issues or additional energy needs in the home;
- People from ethnic minority and migrant backgrounds;
- People living in the private rented sector.

We also wanted to ensure that our panel included good representation from different types of communities across Scotland, recognising the importance of context in community and local energy solutions. Our panel therefore included:

- A balance of urban-rural, including representation from Scottish islands;
- Geographic distribution across Scotland;
- Gender balance; and
- A decent distribution of age, with priority for over-65 and under-25.

We worked with Sortition Foundation to recruit 25 panel members, such that, accounting for drop-off, we would have a minimum of 20 panel members during the sessions.

Most of the required socio-demographics requirements could be captured from within the data that Sortition Foundation already holds about its panel members. However, our recruitment process also included a question about housing tenure to ensure good representation across tenure types, including the private rented sector.

The following figure shows our target demographics in terms of distribution among the target population (column 1), distribution across the range of potential respondents in Sortition Foundation's database (column 2), and the final distribution for those 25 members recruited (column 3).



	TARGET	POTENTIAL RESPONDENTS	SELECTED (ORIGINAL)
GENDER	<p>Male 48.8% Female 51.2%</p>	<p>Male 47.8% Female 52.2%</p>	<p>Male 46.2% Female 53.8%</p>
AGE	<p>16-29 20.3% 30-44 23.6% 45-64 32.6% 65-99 23.5%</p>	<p>16-29 4.4% 30-44 33.6% 45-64 43.4% 65-99 18.6%</p>	<p>16-29 19.2% 30-44 23.1% 45-64 34.6% 65-99 23.1%</p>
ETHNICITY	<p>White 82.7% BAME 17.3%</p>	<p>White 90.3% BAME 9.7%</p>	<p>White 80.8% BAME 19.2%</p>
DISABILITY	<p>No 70.0% Yes 30.0%</p>	<p>No 81.0% Yes 19.0%</p>	<p>No 69.2% Yes 30.8%</p>
HOUSEHOLD TYPE	<p>owner 61.4% private 13.9% social 23.8% other 1.0%</p>	<p>owner 59.1% private 17.3% social 22.7% other 0.9%</p>	<p>owner 53.8% private 23.1% social 23.1%</p>
GEOGRAPHY	<p>Islands 3.9% West S. 13.1% South S. 13.1% North E. 13.9% Central... 12.0% Glasgow 13.1% Highlan... 3.9% Lothian 15.1% Mid Sc... 12.0%</p>	<p>West S. 11.5% South... 7.1% North E. 11.5% Mid Sc... 8.8% Lothian 12.4% Central... 9.7% Glasgow 31.9% Highlan... 4.4%</p>	<p>Islands 7.7% West S. 15.4% South... 7.7% North E. 15.4% Central... 7.7% Glasgow 19.2% Highlan... 7.7% Lothian 11.5% Mid Sc... 7.7%</p>
IMD	<p>8-10 21.4% 1-4 47.3% 5-7 31.3%</p>	<p>8-10 21.4% 1-4 47.3% 5-7 31.3%</p>	<p>8-10 23.1% 1-4 53.8% 5-7 23.1%</p>
URBAN RURAL	<p>Rural 16.9% Urban 83.1%</p>	<p>Rural 15.9% Urban 84.1%</p>	<p>Rural 23.1% Urban 76.9%</p>



Appendix B: Panel design

Members of the Regen team met with members of the Shared Future team to work collaboratively and design the question for the People's Panel to address. Identifying and articulating a clear question is critical to the success of the panel. This required bringing together the deep topical understanding held by the Regen team, with experience and insights on running effective deliberative processes with the public (i.e. non-energy experts) held by the Shared Future team.

Over a two-hour working session, members of both organisations developed this question, to ensure it included the nuanced insights desired of the research, while also retaining the use of clear language such that it could be understood by people with no prior knowledge of the energy system or local and community energy.

The resulting question was: "The way we use energy in our homes and communities is changing, with many communities and councils developing their own solutions. How should this be done so that it involves and benefits people in a fair way?" This question guided the development of the session plans for all four sessions, such that the final one would culminate with the creation of a set of principles addressing the aforementioned question.

The sessions were designed to support strong interaction from all participants, and included elements such as the use of breakout groups, the co-creation of guidelines to ensure the panel design and delivery works for everyone, and the use of tools such as a weather charts and mood trees.



Session 1: Wednesday 19 April: 6:30-9pm (online)

Time	Detail
6:35	<p>Introduction from Shared Future facilitators: (10 mins)</p> <p>Who are we? independent organisation, get voices heard, experience of processes like this, commissioned by Regen (not for profit, etc) (three of us facilitators: Jenny, Mara, Pete plus Jayne and Zoe on technical support) (Pete)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Zoom: All learning together, we will make mistakes together! How we will deal with technical problems: Jayne and Zoe's role (Mara)2. Explain Zoom – reiterate 1:1 conversations you've had with Jayne (Mara)<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Different to face to face, really disciplined about not talking over each other. Some less experienced, some more experienced, need to help each other out.b. Move arrow to bottom of screen, on far left see mute, try it. If people want to speak, raise a hand, if having technical problem WhatsApp Jayne. Keep on mute as much as you can (Mara)3. Aim: refer to our question (all have on yellow card) 'The way we use energy in our homes and communities is changing, with many communities and councils developing their own solutions. How should this be done so that it involves and benefits people in a fair way?' (Jenny)4. Today's programme: (all will have received the overall programme which summarises tonight's session as follows What is the panel all about? Get to know each other a bit. Overview. What is community and local energy?) to do this we will be joined by our two commentators (outside experts) (Jenny)5. Programme for the other sessions – commentators, lots of discussions with each other and then write recommendations, report, community-led process (screenshare flow diagram (in BOX) (Pete))6. How will we run this? (ways of working) relaxed, speak as little as you want, small gaps, clear language, being anonymous, confidentiality, no such thing as a stupid question. All the sessions will be recorded, the commentators will be public, and the rest is so that Fraser and Becky can write the report they will then be destroyed and no-one will be referred to by name in the report. So, we will start the recording now (Mara)



6:45	<p>Introduction and Question and Answer with a) Fraser Stewart (Just Transition Lead) from Regen b) Jo Ives (Local Energy Team Leader) from Scottish Government (2 mins each plus up to 10 mins Q&A) (Jenny introduces)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This presentation will be video recorded but not the question and answer – the commentator presentations (not the Q&A) will then go on the Regen website. 2. Process: (how did this come about? Why are you doing this? What will happen to the group’s conclusions? What commitment is there to take action? What impact will/could this process have?) 3. Q&A session: (10 mins max). (Jenny) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Does anybody have any questions for Fraser, Becky or Jo about the People’s Panel or for us about how the panel will work? If you do please raise your hand and then I will go to you one by one. We may not have enough time to ask all the questions, but we can send questions on afterwards, if we don’t. 4. We will spend some time in one big group and some time in smaller groups (to give chance for all to speak if they want to). Never forced to speak. Now will go into smaller groups for the next 20 mins (Mara).
7:00	<p>Small group welcome. <u>Activity 1</u> (20 minutes).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Say hi and welcome everybody to the People’s Panel. 2. Check everybody is OK with the technology. 3. Reminder re Zoom: All learning together etc. How we will deal with technical problems – all have Jayne’s number (at bottom of the programme). 4. Very briefly remind everybody of the programme for the evening reassure them that they will have a much better understanding of what lies ahead by the end of the evening. 5. We want to better understand how you feel about the panel. So, we’d like you to think about – What are you <u>most</u> looking forward to about taking part? and What are you <u>least</u> looking forward to about taking part? Take 1 min on your own to think and then we’ll ask people to volunteer what they think (no pressure no need to share if you don't want to) Ask for volunteers: Raise your hand: Who are you? Say your first name and then: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are you <u>most</u> looking forward to about taking part?



	<p>2. What are you <u>least</u> looking forward to about taking part?</p> <p>Facilitators take some notes of answers to A and B to be added to the <u>yellow table below</u> at some point.</p> <p>Making the panel sessions work for us all. In same groups</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On your own write down '<u>one thing that you want us all to do to make it easier for you to be able to take part in these panel sessions</u>'. You might want to think back to your most/least looking forward to points. Have a think about when in the past you have experienced a good conversation – what made it a good conversation? As facilitators we will make notes and then feed this back to you all next week. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each person shares with the small group one thing they have come up with. Facilitator makes notes in <u>green tables below</u> (using pen and paper, to be added to doc at a later time, or straight into the table). • Facilitators will take notes of what you have said and we will summarise your thoughts (anonymously) later and share them with the whole group next week, to see if we can agree a set of guidelines for how we work together.
7:20	<p>BREAK (10 mins) (Jenny) <i>Explain how break will work: please switch off video and then come back in 10 mins (Facilitators take it in turn to have a break so facilitators are in the main room at all times first 5 minutes Pete/Zoe stays (while Jenny/Mara/Jayne has break), then swap.</i></p>
7:30	<p>Commentator 1: <u>Callum Watkins (Community Energy Glasgow)</u> (Pete) (15 mins)</p> <p>Explain commentator process, i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commentator will talk at you, best if don't interrupt otherwise their presentation will be directed by the needs of one person only. ○ Hold up red card if using jargon or complex question or don't understand what they mean. ○ Listen for 15 mins, then small groups then large group Q&A (make a note of Qs you might want to ask to share in the small group) ○ Commentator presentation is recorded



7:46	<p>Small groups to write questions (9 mins) (REMEMBER TO RECORD YOUR SMALL GROUP SESSION) (INSTRUCTIONS HERE)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Everyone placed into randomly chosen groups. 2. Explain the task of the group: i.e. a) to reflect on the commentator presentation and b) to think of a couple or so questions. 3. Possible prompt questions: <i>anything struck you about what you have just heard ? what messages do you take from the presentation?</i> (no need for the facilitator to write this). 4. What questions do you have for the commentators? 5. Each facilitator uses this space in the Miro Board to write the questions as the group comes up with them, encourage them to write down their own question (on the paper they have been sent). 6. It is helpful, if you feel there are particular questions that either a) reflect the mood of the group or b) are from someone whose voice is not being heard and should be prioritised please change the colour of the post it note with their question on, to black 7. If necessary facilitator screen shares this with everyone (in the last 5 minutes) so members of the group can check the wording and agree who will ask what. 8. All back into main room
7:55	<p>BREAK (10 mins) (Jenny) During the break please make sure you have your weather chart handy for later in the evening. Pete to do theming in break – facilitators check theming is correct <i>Explain how break will work: please switch off video and then come back in 10 mins. (Facilitators take it in turn to have a break so facilitators are in the main room at all times first 5 minutes Pete/Zoe stays (while Jenny/Mara/Jayne has break), then swap.</i></p>
8:05	<p>Commentator 1 : Commentator question and answer session (Pete) (25 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage everyone to take notes of responses to notebooks so you remember. • Facilitator asks for one question from one group (asking the group’s facilitator directly) and then goes round to each group, until the time is used up.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there are any questions that each small group facilitator feels have already been answered, quickly ask for the thumbs up from the person who wrote the question to check if they are okay with it not being answered. • Any unanswered questions can be sent later to the commentators to be answered over email.
8:30	<p>Commentator 2: Community and Local Energy: an introduction</p> <p><u>Dr. Rebecca Windemer</u> : Planning and Energy Researcher (Jenny) (10 mins)</p>
8:40	<p>Small group discussions (REMEMBER TO RECORD YOUR SMALL GROUP SESSION) (INSTRUCTIONS <u>HERE</u>)</p> <p>You've heard a lot tonight, a lot of information to process and to think about. If you get time take a few notes so you don't forget.</p> <p>But now it's really useful to hear from you all what your reaction is to this idea of local and community energy.</p> <p>I want you all to share with each other the answer to the question '<i>How do you feel about what you've heard about local and community energy?</i>' to do this please have a look at the <u>weather chart</u> we sent you and just have a think about which of the weather symbols best sums up your reaction to the idea of community and local energy. Give you 30 secs to do this.</p> <p>Then ask 1 by 1 for people to share their thoughts. No need to make notes as you are recording the session.</p>
8:58	<p>Large group <u>(Mara)</u></p> <p>Thanks, see you all next week – remind everyone of dates. Message us if you have any questions ahead of next week.</p>
9:00	Close
9:01	<i>Facilitators and technical team brief/debrief ahead of facilitator planning meeting tomorrow (Thursday 11-12)</i>



Time	Detail
6:30	<p>Welcome and introduction (5 mins) (Jenny/Mara/Pete)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder from last week: How we run this? (ways of working: i.e. relaxed, small gaps, clear language, being anonymous, confidentiality, no such thing as a stupid question (Jenny)) • Today's programme: (all will have received by email the programme) 1st commentator, small groups to reflect and discuss any Qs you may have, break, small groups discuss your ideas for principles, break, two more commentators. (Jenny) • Community Energy Projects: different types, benefits, challenges, ownership and the role that people can play • Aim: refer to our question <i>'The way we use energy in our homes and communities is changing, with many communities and councils developing their own solutions. How should this be done so that it involves and benefits people in a fair way?'</i> (Mara) <p>At last week's session we asked you to think about what we need to do to make sure 'the panel sessions work for us all' and also what you are most looking forward to and least looking forward to. We looked at what you said and have put together some thoughts on some group guidelines. We will now go into small groups to talk through what we came up with (Pete)</p>
6:35	<p>Small groups: 1) Making the panel sessions work for us all (small groups) (8 mins)</p> <p>Welcome everyone:</p> <p>In the last session we asked you to think about what we need to do to make sure 'the panel sessions work for us all' and also what you are most looking forward to and least looking forward to. From what you shared with us we would like to suggest that we should do a few things from now on.</p> <p>All panel members have been sent 'group guidelines' document (in BOX)</p> <p>(Summary of what people said last week is in last week's plan)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Go through what people said (in the guidelines document) and what the suggested guideline is. Check agreement with panel members. Any additional guidelines to be added? Add any suggestions in tables below.



	<p>d. If people don't feel they need to discuss it much use the time to ask if anything has stuck in their mind from the first session?</p>
6:45	<p>Introduce commentator 1: (Mara) (1 min)</p> <p>Explain commentator process. i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Same as last week, commentator will talk at you, best if don't interrupt. o Hold up red card if using jargon or complex question or don't understand what they mean. o Listen for 15 mins, then small groups then large group Q&A (make a note of Qs you might want to ask to share in the small group) o <u>Chris will talk about</u> how community energy projects happen in practise, what the benefits are, what different sorts of projects do (including wind, solar and heat) with some examples from Scotland and further afield, and what he thinks the future of local and community energy could look like. <p>Commentator 1: Chris Morris, Manager at <u>Local Energy Scotland</u> (14 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Commentator presentation o We will all now go into small groups to reflect and think of questions
7:00	<p>Small groups to write questions (10 mins) (REMEMBER TO RECORD YOUR SMALL GROUP SESSION) (INSTRUCTIONS HERE)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Everyone placed into randomly chosen groups. 2. Explain the task of the group: i.e. a) to reflect on the commentator presentation and b) to think of a couple or so questions. 3. Possible prompt questions: <i>Anything struck you about what you have just heard? What messages do you take from the presentation?</i> (no need for the facilitator to write this). 4. What questions do you have for the commentators? 5. Each facilitator uses this space in the Miro Board to write the questions as the group comes up with them, encourage them to write down their own question (on the paper they have been sent). 6. All back into main room.
7:10	<p>BREAK (10 mins) (Pete) Pete does theming – Mara/Jenny check it's done right (and join in) Explain how break will work: please switch off video and then come back in 10 mins (Facilitators take it in turn to have a break so facilitators are in the main</p>



	<i>room at all times first five minutes Pete/Zoe stays (while Jenny/Mara/Jayne has break), then swap.</i>
7:20	<p>Commentator 1 : Commentator question and answer session (Pete) (25 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage everyone to take notes of responses to notebooks so you remember. • Facilitator asks for one question from one group (asking the group's facilitator directly) and then goes round to each group, until the time is used up. • If there are any questions that each small group facilitator feels have already been answered, quickly ask for the thumbs up from the person who wrote the question to check if they are OK with it not being answered. • Any unanswered questions can be sent later to the commentators to be answered over email.
7:45	<p>Principles activity: Introduction: (5 minutes) (Jenny)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We've heard lots about community and local energy and we now want you to think about what might be some of the important principles that these projects must be based upon for them to work. So in a minute we will go into small groups and ask you as a group to try and complete this sentence 'if community and local energy is going to work and benefit communities and people it needs to.....' We would like you to complete the sentence by trying to think of some principles. 2. So, you are probably now thinking what do I mean by principles. So we want to try a little experiment with this. I want you to think about what for you a good night out would be like. Think about it as trying to complete this sentence 'a good night out for me, needs to.....' does anybody want to suggest what one of these principles that a good night out could be based upon might be? 3. Everybody now goes into small groups to try to do this for community and local energy. <p>Small groups, principles activity (20 minutes)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask for ideas. Remind them of the sentence we are trying to complete: '<i>if community and local energy is going to work and benefit communities and people it needs to.....</i>'
8:10	<p>BREAK (10 mins) (Jenny) <i>Explain how break will work: please switch off video and then come back in 10 mins. (Facilitators take it in turn to have a break so facilitators</i></p>



	<i>are in the main room at all times first five minutes Pete/Zoe stays (while Jenny/Mara/Jayne has break), then swap. Marker pen reminder.</i>
8:20	<p>Commentators 2 and 3: (Mara) (15 mins)</p> <p>Commentator 2: Christina Hinds, Shared ownership lead at <u>Local Energy Scotland</u> <i>talking about projects led by big energy developers, and how people and places can have some ownership of those. (6 mins each)</i></p> <p>Commentator 3: Sarah Merrick, Chief Executive Officer at <u>Ripple Energy</u> <i>Talking about the work that energy suppliers such as Ripple and Octopus are doing to try and help people have more benefit from renewable energy, locally and nationally. (6 mins each)</i></p>
8:35	<p>Small group question and answer discussions (Pete)</p> <p>All participants must choose which commentator they would like to spend more time with to ask some questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christina Hinds, Shared Ownership lead at <u>Local Energy Scotland</u> 2. Sarah Merrick, <u>Ripple Energy</u> (Jenny) 3. Chris Morris, Manager at <u>Local Energy Scotland</u> (TBC if he will stay for this) (plus facilitator – Mara)
8:55	<p>Large group <u>(Mara)</u></p> <p>Thanks, for all your hard work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On your own take one of the pieces of paper that we sent you and using the marker pen please write one word that describes how you are feeling at the moment. • Ask everybody to finish by holding up their word to the camera. We will take a photo but will blur anybody's face that is in the photo and your names. • Thank everybody for coming see you next week. • Message us if you have any questions ahead of next week
9:00	Close
9:01	<i>Facilitators and technical team brief/debrief ahead of facilitator planning meeting tomorrow (Tuesday 5-6pm)</i>



Session 3: Tuesday 2 May: 6:30-9pm (online)

Time	Detail
6:30	<p>Welcome and introduction (5 mins) (Jenny/Mara/Pete)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As people arrive, ask them to get their mood tree handout for later (Mara) Welcome back, today's programme: (all will have received by email the programme) (Mara) Aim: refer to our question <i>'The way we use energy in our homes and communities is changing, with many communities and councils developing their own solutions. How should this be done so that it involves and benefits people in a fair way?'</i> (Jenny) Heard from quite a few commentators in last two weeks. Now give you an opportunity to hear a summary from Fraser about what the commentators have shared with us so far and what the different forms of C/L energy look like (not Q and A) (Pete)
6:40	<p>Community and local energy: a refresher. Fraser (Pete) (10 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A summing up of what has been heard so far – i.e. what is community/local energy? Different categories and examples, and an explanation of what Regen particularly wants to find out from the group by the end of the process.
6:50	<p>(REMEMBER TO RECORD YOUR SMALL GROUP SESSION)</p> <p>Small groups: What do we think of community and local energy? (25 mins)</p> <p>Introduction (Pete)</p> <p>a. Now, over halfway through, earlier in the process asked you think about your thoughts on community and local energy. We want to revisit that, but not using the weather chart this time. So have ready your mood tree paper.</p> <p>Small groups</p> <p>b. Small groups: the question we want them all to consider is 'how do you feel about community and local energy at this point of the panel?' we will use the <u>mood tree</u> to do this (they were all sent a hard copy) we ask participants to reflect on the tree and choose a number which represents how they feel about C/L energy.</p> <p>b. Use this activity to really tease out some of the underlying concerns that we've heard throughout the process and encourage them to bring these</p>



	<p>concerns to the fore in the question-and-answer session. You may want to refer to some of the concerns/challenges youve heard people say so far if the conversation is slow.</p> <p>b. Record their conclusions in the <u>tables below</u>.</p>
7:15	<p>Introduce commentator 1: (Mara) (1 min)</p> <p>Explain commentator process. i.e:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Same as last week, commentator will talk at you, best if don't interrupt. o Hold up red card if using jargon or complex question or don't understand what they mean. o Listen to our two commentators (10 mins each), then small groups then large group Q&A (make a note of Qs you might want to ask to share in the small group) <p>Commentator 1: Joe Cullinane from North Ayrshire Council: (10 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Talking about the work they have been doing around local energy, which focuses on things the local authority is doing and how they are using profits to support local communities. o Commentator presentation. <p>Commentator 2: <u>Martin Mathers: The Heat Project</u> (10 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Heat project is an energy advice service for households and small to medium businesses throughout Perth and Kinross to help them become more energy efficient and reduce their energy bills. o We will all now go into small groups to reflect and think of questions.
7:35	<p>Small groups to write questions (10 mins)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Everyone placed into randomly chosen groups. 2. Explain the task of the group: i.e. a) to reflect on the commentator presentation and b) to think of a couple or so questions. 3. Possible prompt questions: <i>anything struck you about what you have just heard ? what messages do you take from the presentation?</i> (no need for the facilitator to write this). 4. What questions do you have for the commentators? 5. Each facilitator uses this space in the Miro Board to write the questions as the group comes up with them, encourage them to write down their own question (on the paper they have been sent). 6. All back into main room



7:45	<p>BREAK (10 mins) (Pete) Pete does theming - Mara/Jenny check its done right (and join in) <i>Explain how break will work: please switch off video and then come back in 10 mins (Facilitators take it in turn to have a break so facilitators are in the main room at all times first 5 minutes Pete/Zoe stays (while Jenny/Mara/Jayne has break), then swap.</i></p>
7:55	<p>Commentator 1 and 2 : Commentator question and answer session (Pete) (25 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage everyone to take notes of responses to notebooks so you remember. • Facilitator asks for one question from one group (asking the group's facilitator directly) and then goes round to each group, until the time is used up. • If there are any questions that each small group facilitator feels have already been answered, quickly ask for the thumbs up from the person who wrote the question to check if they are OK with it not being answered. • Black out questions asked on Miro board. • Any unanswered questions can be sent later to the commentators to be answered over email.
8:25	<p>BREAK (10 mins) (Pete) <i>Explain how break will work: please switch off video and then come back in 10 mins (Facilitators take it in turn to have a break so facilitators are in the main room at all times first 5 minutes Pete/Zoe stays (while Jenny/Mara/Jayne has break), then swap.</i></p>
8:35	<p>Principles activity: Introduction: (2 minutes) (Jenny)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You will remember we asked you about what you thought might be some of the important principles that community and local energy must be based upon for it to work. We put together what you have given us and tried to merge some of them and make them easier to read. So in a minute we will go into small groups and ask you as a group to reflect on these and see if you want to add any more, or if we have missed any off from your conversations. 2. Reminder of conversation about what a principle is (night out) <p>Small groups, principles activity (22 minutes)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Principles we have so far are here in a table. You can share screen with your group. 2. Remind them of the sentence we are trying to complete: <i>'if community and local energy is going to work and benefit communities and people it needs to.....'</i>



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Ask if they are happy with the principles as they stand. Are they worried about any of them? Any they particularly like? Do they think there are any edits that could be made? Or additions (if there are suggestions for additions try to see if their point is covered elsewhere or could be added to an additional principle. 4. If there is time remaining tell them about the idea of strengthening the principles by trying to work out what needs to be in place to make sure these principles become a reality. So, using our night out example 'some people might say a principle is 'a need to be clear what the arrangements are well in advance', so to make this a reality we could say 'everyone will hear by text who is coming along, meeting, at what time and where'. 5. Looking at our draft principles what might be some things that should be put in place to help make these a reality? Add these to the table in the comments column and highlight them.
8:59	<p>Large group <u>(Mara)</u></p> <p>Thanks for all your hard work..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank everybody for coming see you Thursday. • Message us if you have any questions ahead of the session
9:00	Close
9:01	<i>Facilitators and technical team brief/debrief ahead of facilitator planning meeting tomorrow (Tuesday 5-6pm)</i>



Session 4: Thursday 4 May: 6:30-9pm (online)

Time	Detail
6:30	<p>Welcome and introduction (5 mins) (Jenny/Mara/Pete)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome back, today's programme: (all will have received by email the programme – summarise the structure of the programme, so all are clear what the session will look like) (Mara) • Aim: refer to our question <i>'The way we use energy in our homes and communities is changing, with many communities and councils developing their own solutions. How should this be done so that it involves and benefits people in a fair way?'</i> (Jenny) • What after today? Voting booklet etc. hopefully receive tomorrow, then have til Wednesday midday (Pete)
6:35	<p>Final commentator: <u>Dr Jess Britton, Research Fellow at the UK Energy Research Centre</u></p> <p>Jess is working on local and regional energy systems and governance.</p> <p>(Pete) (10 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce commentator, explain process • Commentator presentation (10 mins) • Individual reflection (2 mins) i.e. think on your own about what you've heard. Anything strike you in particular. Any questions you might have. • Large group Q&A (facilitators to message Pete on WhatsApp if he's missed someone for a Q or someone who is less confident looks like they want to pose a Q.) (18 mins)
7:05	<p>(REMEMBER TO RECORD YOUR SMALL GROUP SESSION)</p> <p>How could this work? Small group conversations using three different scenarios. (45 mins)</p> <p>Introduction (Pete)</p> <p>a. Remember our overarching question is: <i>'The way we use energy in our homes and communities is changing, with many communities and councils developing their own solutions. How should this be done so that it involves and benefits people in a fair way?'</i></p> <p>b. As you know Regen (Fraser/Becky) will be taking your thoughts on this Q to Scottish government. They will be using the principles you have come up with (and we'll be looking back at them shortly), but they also want to better</p>



understand what you like/don't like about the idea, any possible benefits and crucially what you think would need to happen in your community for any of this to work. So, to help look at this in more depth we will look at three different scenarios or situations: 1. Community energy, 2. Shared ownership, 3. Local authority.

- c. Everyone is added to small groups:
 - a. Community energy: Fraser/Pete
 - b. Shared ownership: Becky/Jenny
 - c. Local authority: Jess/Mara

Small groups

- a. Our task is to look at the scenario and then have a discussion about: Firstly, what do you like and what do you not like about this idea? And then some other questions about whether it's fair, the benefits and who should lead such a situation. Facilitator shares the slide for their group.
- b. Facilitator reads through the description of their scenario (see descriptions below)
- c. Facilitator asks Fraser/Becky/Jess if they want to add anything to clarify the scenario.

Scenario 1: Community energy

A group of people in your local community have decided to start a community energy project.

They want to generate electricity from solar panels on a bit of unused local land, which they will sell to local buildings such as a college and a hospital to make money.

To raise the funds, they will get some money from Scottish Government.

They will then hold a community share offer, where local people can invest their own money in return for a small return on that investment of about 5% per year.

Any of the remaining profits will be re-invested in the local community.

Scenario 2: Shared ownership

A big energy developer has decided to set up 20 wind turbines near your local area. They have already got planning permission and a grid connection but have not yet installed the turbines.

They have approached a few local community councils to see if local people would like club together to own one of those wind turbines.

Profits from that turbine would go into a community benefit fund to be spent on local issues. The community councils involved would decide how the money is spent.



	<p>Scenario 3: Local authority</p> <p><i>The local authority is making plans for a big local energy system in your town. They want to install wind turbines, solar farms, and some district heat networks on public land and buildings. This could generate millions of pounds per year.</i></p> <p><i>They have gone to people in the town to ask how they would like to be involved with this, and what they think the benefits should be.</i></p> <p>d. Use the time to try and get through as many of the following Qs you can, don't worry if you can't get through them all (if you have Fraser/Becky in your group you may want to ask them to probe around a Q or ask if they want to carry on with a particular topic or move on):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you like and what do you not like about this idea? 10 2. Do you feel it is fair? And what would have to happen to make sure this is fair for everyone in your community? 10 3. Who should be responsible for leading or making decisions? 12 4. How do you feel about the benefits? 12 <p>e. It is essential that you try to relate any points that they make to the principles here, so you may want to say, 'Ah, ok so is your point covered by the following principle?'(refer to principles doc) '...or do we need a new principle here? Please make notes of any changes/additions in these tables</p> <p>e. Note there is no need to make any other notes of their conversations Fraser/Becky are happy that we are audio recording the sessions and they will take their own notes. (However, it is the case that you will need to do a brief summary of the conversation for the 8pm small groups, so you may want to take some brief notes</p>
7:50	<p>BREAK (10 mins) (Jenny) <i>Explain how break will work: please switch off video and then come back in 10 mins</i></p>
8:00	<p>Small group discussions: (20 mins) Two rounds of visits to look at other scenarios.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitator (with help of Fraser/Becky/Jess if needed) summarises the conversation from the previous group and any changes to principles that were made. 2. Question is posed: Has the previous group missed anything in your opinion? (once again any edits to principles/additions need to be added to the tables below)



8:20	<p>Message for Scottish government (Jenny)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenny (2 minutes introduction) • As you are all aware this process is about advising Scottish government (through Fraser and Becky at Regen) on what needs to be in place to make community and local energy work. • The principles that you have come up with will be shared back with you for you to prioritise and comment on them. These will then be shared by Fraser and Becky with Scottish government alongside their report which will draw on your conversations from the small groups. However, we want to give you the opportunity to also give your own message directly to Scottish government. I will now give you five minutes to think about what you would like to say to government on this issue. We will then have a break and after the break we will go into small groups for you to share your message with each other – this will be recorded so your wording can be used.
8:27	<p>BREAK (10 mins) (Jenny)</p>
8:37	<p>Small groups (12 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everybody placed into three randomly selected groups. • Each person is invited to share their message with each other (depending on time available a maximum of one minute each?) <p>If you have time remaining you could use the following prompts: i.e. 'What message might you have for government in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What needs to happen to make sure more people and places can get involved with local and community energy?</i> • <i>What needs to happen to make sure more people and places can benefit from local and community energy?</i>
8:50	<p>Large group (Jenny) Thanks, for all your hard work..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank everybody for coming • What next? (Pete) • Final words Fraser/Becky? • Vouchers (Jayne)
9:00	<p>Close</p>



Appendix C: Principles for local and community energy

This Appendix outlines the 20 Principles for Local and Community Energy that were developed by the panel during the four sessions.

Following the end of the fourth session, these principles were sent to each panel member. Panel members were asked to vote on each statement, noting their level of agreement (strongly support, support, neutral, oppose, strongly oppose). They were also given the opportunity to provide written feedback against each statement.

[Figure 1](#) shows the levels of support among the panel for each of the 20 principles, ordered in this figure such that those with the greatest level of support are at the top, and those with the least are toward the bottom. However, even the least-supported principle is supported by two-thirds of panel members, and only opposed by one member.

The following text provides the feedback from panel members for each principle.

Principle 1. It has been agreed and is clear what roles and responsibilities there are and how much time commitment is needed by people who want to take part. This will enable people to play to their strengths and feel ownership.

I fully support the idea of clarity regarding roles, responsibilities and time commitments which may be required by participants, however still will depend on the 'project' being considered and a smooth progression going forward with no unnecessary delays either in the planning process or local objections.

This allows people to make an informed choice.

Without clarity on roles and responsibilities, projects wouldn't progress effectively.

To become involved in running a community energy scheme will be a daunting prospect. People need to know what they are letting themselves in for.

In order to get this up and running it needs to be run as a project with project management skills a key requirement. It will not be a part-time role at the start and will need full-time commitment. Once up and running the community will then play their part in maintaining. It should be much easier once the asset/s are installed and operational.

Always important to understand how much is expected before proceeding.



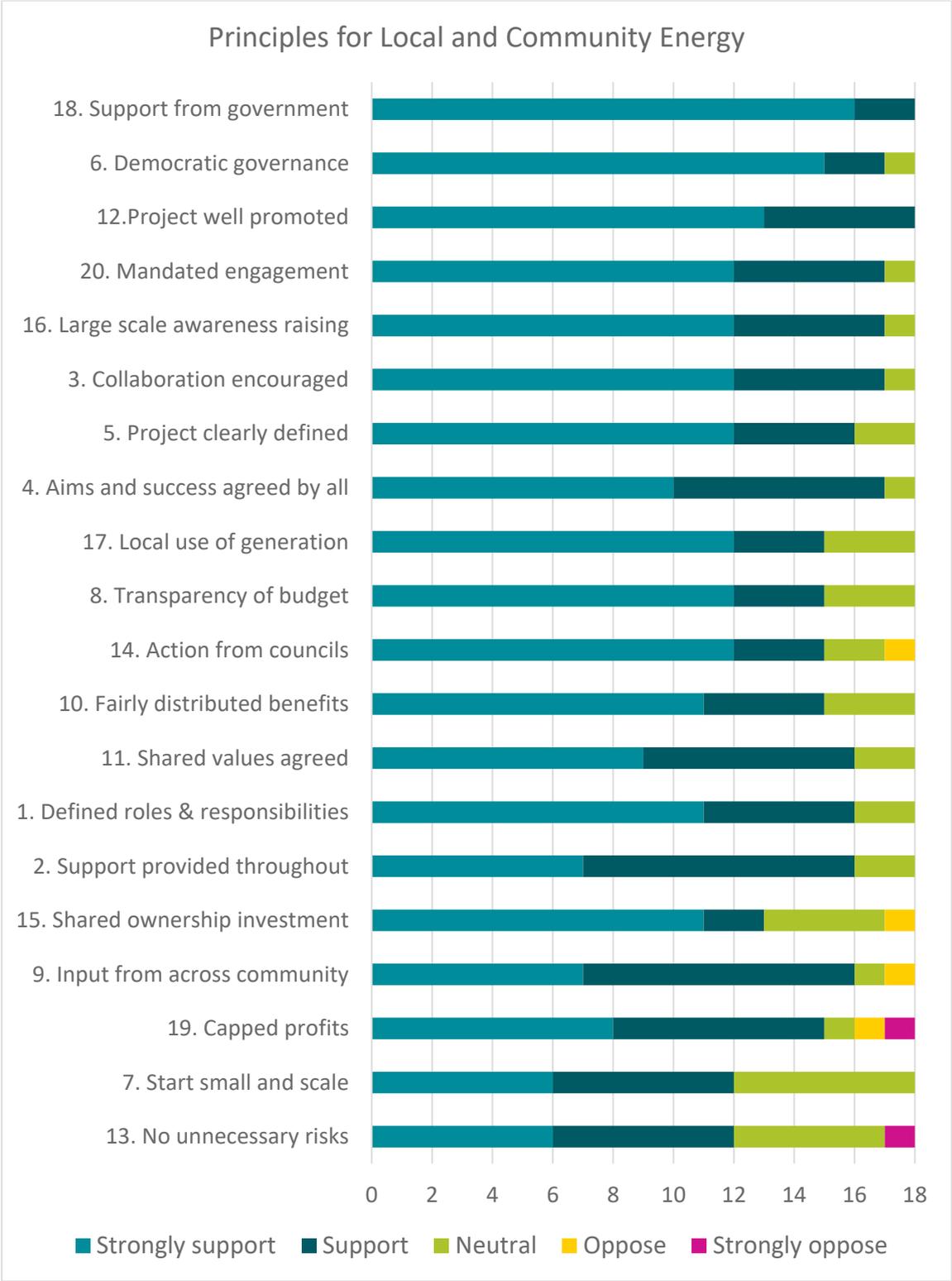


Figure 2: Levels of support for each Principle for Local and Community Energy, organised from most-supported principle at the top, to least-supported at the bottom.



While very important to be as clear as possible, projects are most likely to develop and evolve. As such they should not be stifled by any pre-determined 'roles and responsibilities'. However, where possible, participation should (in some way) be open to those wishing to play a part.

This is important to avoid unclear roles and duties in the project/s which could lead to disagreements, burnout or lack of engagement.

I have seen several group projects fail, and the members fall out, because the roles and responsibilities were not clearly defined or communicated.

Quality outcomes arise from people feeling responsible for issues – the sense of ownership allows for a level of control that empowers people, improving their self-confidence and giving them motivation to really consider the detail of their project and how it affects them. If people do not feel that they have any control over a process, they will be disengaged and the outcome will not be optimal – it could even be detrimental to the community

I made the above choice because I have some ideas about the pros and cons of such projects. However, we never got to explore them in great length. I suppose it'll happen once such projects are kickstarted.

Principle 2. There is support in place all the way through the project so that no-one feels left alone and appropriate extra training is provided. Funding for community-sourced leadership roles should be mandated where it supports equitable and consistent involvement.

I do not mind or object to payment of expenses incurred due to commitment and involvement, however there should not be salaried posts for community leadership.

Particularly important to ensure success and prevent the project from failing due to lack of support and guidance.

Without adequate support only those with a lot of experience/education would be able to participate. This would not be fair; everyone should be enabled to be involved.

It needs to be hearts and minds from the outset. Spend time and effort getting inclusivity from the get go otherwise it will fail. If people feel valued then for their input they will take full ownership.

I support this where the person concerned is bringing something tangible and valuable to the project other than just 'being' from the community/representing the community.

Support and access to resources is important to keep momentum going when projects hit slow or difficult patches. Committing funding for the relevant experts in the community to oversee projects, train others and share knowledge is imperative to avoid wasted time (e.g.



currently experts spend large % of time seeking funding/grants), keep projects streamlined and efficient, and maximise communities' access to expertise.

Uncertain about this one. There are two points made in this principle. The first sentence, I agree with – that will give the project the best chances of success rather than being abandoned after an enthusiastic start. Projects that actually reach the finish line are clearly preferable to those that don't – the outcomes then exist and can hopefully benefit the community, and resources are not wasted in unfinished attempts. The second sentence is thankfully caveated by the funding being made available only “where it supports equitable and consistent involvement”. I recognise that money motivates, that people who do labour – mental labour, give up their time etc to work on the project – do deserve some reward for that effort, however I'm concerned that it could cause a division between the paid and unpaid people involved, and that depending on the source of the funding, there could be a conflict of interest between the paid workers who are trying to “perform” as per their wagepayer's expectations vs the community's best interests or decisions.

I totally agree that funding for community-sourced leadership roles should be mandated. There's a lot of groundwork and skills that'll go in shaping the present and future of the project. Although it's a community project, a project of such size will need constant management just like a small-scale business.

Principle 3. Collaboration is encouraged so that lots of people can get involved and work together sharing lots of ideas.

The more that people are involved with the project/idea, the better it has of succeeding.

This is an essential part of working together – it is from sharing ideas that a consensus can be reached on the best way to progress.

It is important the everyone in the community gets involved. All ideas should at the very least be heard.

This would ensure involvement and ownership and, if well managed, good ideas.

It's the only way. That is the heart of what makes a community a community.

Any mechanism set up to constructively enable/promote the exchange of views/ideas between interested parties would be a good thing.

No community organisation should have to start from scratch/reinvent the wheel when getting these projects under way. There could be a central resource/website/hub where experience, resources, links, contacts, success & failure stories, and other relevant information are all available to the public. Councils should all also be involved in this to minimise wasted time/resources and maximise efficiency in delivering these projects.



As these projects are supposed to help the community they need to be inclusive and welcoming. It would be bad if one sub-group dominated the projects for developments that helped them over the rest of the community. For example, a football club having improvements made to take their building from a B to an A energy efficiency when the same funds could take an E grade building to a B.

Collaboration between stakeholders is key to achieving outcomes that suit the majority of persons involved, however stakeholder engagement also has to be weighted, priority given to the persons most affected.

Collaboration is a key to any community project. There are several examples one can easily find around us of community projects such as repair cafes, community shops, community gardens, etc. Such projects bring people together irrespective of their differences in building self-sustaining projects. Such projects are possible simply due to engaging in meaningful dialogues, informed decision making and more importantly bringing out versatile skill sets on the table.

Principle 4. The aims of the project and what success looks like is clear to all and has been agreed by consensus.

There is no point going forward with a project if the local community are apathetic or against it (Nimby)

Similar to the 'collaboration' principle – people need to have agreement on the aims of the project before undertaking the work.

I believe that everyone should know what they are working towards and know if they have arrived.

Unless there is clarity and understanding the project will lack direction.

Without this clear vision from the start and the buy in from the majority it will be a struggle to get this in action.

What you want to achieve and how success will be measured are key factors in any project. If the aims are worthwhile, and achievable then consensus would be a given.

There shouldn't be any surprises anywhere in the process for people wanting to get involved. Perhaps communities should hold meetings/undertake polling to find out what the most important aims are for each community. (This seems closely linked to point 1 about clarity of roles. People equally need clarity of purpose to feel and stay engaged in the process.)

Communication is key in any project.



Yes, vision is important and allows for leadership and for the outcome to be performance assessed. The outcomes of that monitoring/evaluation/outcome assessment should then be shared as a 'lessons learned' for other groups attempting similar projects. It is also important however that all involved are made aware/in agreement that there requires some flexibility. The project should be agile and respond to changing circumstances during the course of the project or it risks being out of date and not optimal by the time it is realised.

As I said earlier (Q.1.), there is still ambiguity around the project. From what I understood, this project is going to take years to materialise. A lot is going to be changed by then and including the unforeseen challenges that'll crop at the time of executing it. However, I totally understand the aim of the project and I believe it has been agreed by consensus.

Principle 5. How the project will work is clear. For example, how long will it last, what are the personal and community benefits of being involved, etc. This is made easy to understand.

It must have clear goals – i.e. lifetime of project from start to finish, disruption to local area, benefits to community and pride of being involved and helping both community and in personal commitment.

This is needed in order for people to make informed choices and to be aware and realistic about the length of the time frames involved and how long it will take before any profits can be achieved.

As above, clarity on commitment and success is crucial and should be clear from the start.

People need to know and understand what they are signing up to. Full information of all the implications for the community at all stages is required. E.g. what happens if it breaks down, how will any equipment etc be removed when no longer required.

This will be the fuel that will provide the energy to deliver the outcomes. Without this being fully understood by all it will stutter and fail.

If seeking support and involvement from the 'community', then it has to be clear what the benefits would be along with any potential downsides (risk/benefit).

Yes, very important to have transparency across all facets of these project/s.

Communication is key in any project.

Clear timelines, updated when needed (maintaining some flexibility per my comments in Principle 4 above) are important as without them any urgency and enthusiasm could be lost – projects may lose pace or be abandoned all together if the route to fruition is unclear. The community must remain engaged with the process throughout, or they will begin to drift onto



other matters. Less quality input = a less quality output. Managing expectations, and clear communication about progress, is a form of pre-emptive conflict management. The community should be benefited, not detrimented, by a project – they should feel closer after it, not divided.

I'm clear of what the project is about and how the community will be benefited as a whole. I'm also aware of the individual benefit one will reap personally. However, I'm not aware of how long it'll last, what kind of model it's going to be, investments, infrastructure, etc.

Principle 6. The way that decisions are made is clear and agreed. It's democratic, so people are able to express views and misgivings, it's not controlled by one person and all who have a share (no matter how small) have a vote. At least a proportion of shares must be affordable for those on a low income. Changes are consulted on.

This would be in the prospectus outlining the proposed project, from there a committee would be formed to bring forward ideas, views to be decided and voted on at a further community meeting. If at a later stage changes are or have to be made regarding the project, then full consultation must take place. Shares must be made affordable to those on low income.

Partnership working is essential so people feel supported and listened to. Those on a low income should be able to access shares without any stigma or bureaucracy.

It is important to ensure that decision making remains open and transparent. It is important that there is not a monetary barrier to being involved.

Transparency and equality in everything regardless of ability to pay. It will be crucial that everyone has 'skin in the game' regardless of how small. But it must be one man/woman/one vote regardless of how much to invest.

The co-operative model is the most appropriate one for achieving this. We cannot have a scenario where it is one vote per share. It has to be one vote per shareholding (i.e. irrespective of the number of shares an individual/entity may hold).

Equal access even for those on lower incomes is important (either government funded, or funded from the potential 'left-over' pot of money if developers' profits are capped?, or funded by large energy companies/developers as part of their social responsibility – could be incentivised by free advertising through councils or similar?). Transparency and full participation in the process helps with engagement and ownership, therefore hopefully resulting in projects having a greater chance of succeeding as people won't just lose faith and interest if they feel left out of the process.



Excluding poorer people will only increase the wealth gap. We have too many people reliant on food banks to allow the rich to cash in on projects that are supposed to help everyone.

There is a lot here. Essentially people want to be involved, to have some control, and not to be discounted from the process due to their financial situation. That seems fair, and compassionate, and that's what communities should be.

Totally agree! I have nothing more to add or subtract here.

This worries me, it makes like everyone has to buy into it, like a tax – 80s Tory government sold off British Gas with the same kind of logic that we could all be a part of it, the fact was we already owned it and look at the fuel poverty we now face. In short, be careful this isn't another step that might sound good and tick boxes for big energy companies but will do nothing to close the gap between those that can afford to heat their house and those having to choose between heating and eating.

Principle 7. Priorities are set, but not everything at once. Start small and scale it up as more people get interested.

It would depend on the size or scale of the project. A possible scenario is that a smallish group could do all the ground work in setting up and researching the feasibility of a project, spending their time and money, only for others who then decide that this is a good idea. It could cause resentment.

The aims and priorities principles are quite similar – the 'aim' being the end result and the 'priorities' being what to look at in small achievable steps in order to achieve the aim – perhaps have as one principle?

This is relative. As long as the aims and goals are clear, it doesn't need to start small. Small for one community might be big for another community. It depends on education and available resources.

This may not be applicable for all schemes. Sometimes starting small scale may not work.

Do not try and boil the ocean from the start, prove it small and scale it big from the learnings.

Good planning should ensure that one does not bite off more than one can chew.

I think this will naturally start small and scale up, point 3 is important here to assist the scaling up with a minimum of waste and unnecessary failure by sharing knowledge.

It's one method. If this is the methodology that the people involved want, then fine. Other communities may be less risk averse for whatever reason and/or want as much information as possible up-front. In which case, they can do that.



Absolutely support this point. We scale it up as we progress.

Principle 8. Transparency of the budget is clear to all.

Without transparency, not only of the budget, but of decision making, then there is no point.

Budgets and finances should be published online and freely available to the community online.

This needs to be transparent at all stages.

When it comes to money every penny needs to be accounted for what it is spent on and how income is generated and shared.

There should be no hidden potential financial pitfalls or any scope for financial mismanagement. That is, appropriate financial controls throughout the duration of the project.

Yes, it's important but already covered by point 5 (?) – transparency across all aspects of the project/s is imperative, especially when people know companies are likely to greenwash for commercial benefit and there might not really be a benefit to communities or individuals. Full transparency can help counteract this suspicion.

This is the most important aspect. Without transparency it is too easy for someone to commit fraud. A good financial record detailing unexpected costs etc. helps to improve the model for further projects.

Yes – budgets need to be provided in various formats – narrative, annotated, visual aids, discussions, etc, as few laypersons can read even standard financial accounts well.

Principle 9. Flexibility means that input can be heard from all parts of the community.

Agreed, however once meetings and ideas have been discussed and an agreed format is taken, subject to viability, then too much flexibility can be a drawback.

There has to be a number of methods in place to distribute and collate information and input from all and encourage participation.

Not sure that flexibility is the right word here.

Not everyone in the community will want to get involved, but we would need to give them a platform to understand their concerns and take those on board. Feedback and communicate on all of them.

Input should not just be heard but taken into consideration (wherever possible/viable).



Yes, very important to engage all parts of communities and find out what is important to everyone and where the greatest benefits to a community lie.

Keeping the aims and goals broad will allow for greater flexibility, and more projects to be undertaken to help as many of the community as possible.

Is that what flexibility means? I don't think the wording is correct or concise here. A comprehensive approach, that hears input from all parts of the community, seems fair. A flexible approach, that takes those inputs into consideration throughout the process, seems useful.

Principle 10. Fairness: everyone has to benefit, with benefits being evenly distributed.

Everyone has to benefit because without fairness what is the point.

I feel the fairest way to achieve this would be to have energy directly to the community so every household benefits. I think, in reality, that only certain people and groups in the community will benefit so fairness may be a difficult principle to achieve.

It may not be feasible in all cases to distribute benefits evenly. Care needs to be taken so that this doesn't mean 'equally'. In some cases, some individuals might gain more because they've invested more.

This will be difficult to achieve but it is essential that schemes are fair and that those with less money are enabled and supported to participate.

There will be the have and have nots in the community. All must benefit equally from the energy produced and any income shared.

It depends on the individual project and its scope. Perhaps 'everyone' needs to be moderated to 'everyone within the scope of the project parameters' (?)

Yes, though fairness does not always mean the distribution of benefits will be completely even, e.g. there could be a provision for lower-income members to have access to some of the 'community pot', in effect wealthier people who've invested more up-front would subsidise lower-income sections of communities (by agreement if the community is happy with this sort of structure). It's more about equality of access than fairness per se.

It will be difficult for some projects particularly small ones to benefit everyone. It may also be that some areas are already in a good place and the focus of energy efficiency projects need to be on areas with poor energy efficiency.

There are two points made here. I agree that everyone who wants to be involved, should benefit in some way. The 'way' is the nuanced part – should that benefit be tangibly,



intangibly, financially, through training, by gaining the experience of working on a project team, by learning about energy? The second part of the sentence deals with the extent to which benefits should be distributed – but there's always the question of whether people who contribute more time/effort should be rewarded more., but "free time is the privilege of the upper classes". It's easiest to just reward everyone involved equally. Ultimately, however each project group decide on what fairness means in this example, is what fairness should mean in that project.

Principle 11. Shared values are agreed by all involved

This comes back to fairness and should be at the heart of community, however my values may not be the same as someone else. We all have different moral codes.

Particularly important before deciding how any profits will be divided in a way that is fair to every single household.

While this may be challenging in a large community, it is important for any project to be of benefit to the community.

Can't just talk about requiring distribution of benefits to be fair without defining what fair means.

It will be at the heart of the collaboration enterprise. If they are not agreed do not even start the project.

Those involved should be working towards achieving a shared purpose for the project. That does not mean that all values will necessarily be 'shared'.

Yes, for example as above, if all in a community agree that equality of access to renewable community-owned energy is a necessary value, then financial structures can be put in place to make that possible.

It is almost impossible to have everyone agree on anything, and with whole communities it will be even harder. Their needs to be an agreed minimum robust level of support like 80% ~ 90%.

Guiding principles set at the beginning are a good way to manage expectations and any potential conflicts further down the line. Worth the investment at the outset.

Principle 12. The project is well promoted to everyone within the community.

Everyone, or as far as possible within the community should have the opportunity to be informed and involved with the project. Possible via local leaflet or via council.



Everyone living in the community and particularly those living remotely should have the detail of the proposal.

Everyone should have an opportunity to participate.

There needs to be steps taken to ensure people understand what is about, what is involved and how people can participate.

Communicate, communicate, communicate. This will be so important at the outset. Too many failures are a result of the poor communication as to what is being proposed. People will respond much more positively if they feel they are being valued and reached out to to get involved.

Marketing! People need to be informed what is intended; what the perceived benefits are; how they can participate/become involved/get more info.

This seems to go hand in hand with point 9, in order to get input from all members of the community it must be effectively and well-promoted, using all possible avenues of communication.

It is not a community project if the community is not aware and able to get involved.

Yes, needs to be. It's the best way to avoid objections, the best way to involve people, the best way to create a diverse project team and bring about an outcome that is beneficial to the majority of the community. It should be promoted in an organised 'comms plan' way – over a period of time, and with different formats (leaflets, discussions, exhibits, etc) to capture as much, if not everyone, in the community. Once people are aware of it, they can decide whether to opt in or out of being involved. The promotion/communication with the community needs to continue from the outset, through the process, to the project being delivered, and beyond. Crafting a piece of promotion/communication also forces the project team to (a) make progress and (b) articulate the progress. It's a reflective exercise in a sense that will contribute to better-quality outcomes.

Principle 13. No unnecessary risks are taken.

Sometimes risks are necessary to get or make things happen. No innovations would have occurred if pioneers in the past did not take risks or pursue their ideas and inventions. In an ideal world it would be great for all things to be equal.

I feel this principle needs to be clearer – is this specific to risks with money, investments, people, wildlife, areas of historical importance?

If it's opened up to allow participation of those with limited income they need not to be put at large financial risk.



No-one sets out to include risks in any project, however things happen that may have been foreseeable if we had taken time to put together a risk and mitigation plan for all eventualities that are known at the outset.

....but nothing is 'risk free' and the potential risks should be made clear from outset.

I think the community-run, shared value, democratic structure would result in this principle anyway, especially as people would be aware they may not get a second chance at this type of project.

This sounds hard to define and pinpoint when it has happened. The risks should be transparently communicated with reasons why they are being taken.

Too vague for me. Risk as a concept is highly personal, and risk management is a massive discipline. If a group doesn't understand their own risk appetite, they can't properly make decisions at any stage in the process. What constitutes a massive risk for one person or community – and which they might therefore see as 'unnecessary' – could be considered an essential, low-risk action for another person or community depending on their familiarity with risk, their risk appetite, their safety nets, etc. Without risk there is no reward. Risk isn't inherently negative. 'Unnecessary' shouldn't be defined in hindsight. This concept definitely needs to be fleshed out by the group in advance.

As these projects take years to put together it could be the case that cheaper more efficient methods of building wind turbines and solar panels come in. Also new technology for generating energy could be cheaper. It will always be a bit of a gamble.

Principle 14. To help ensure fairness, national government needs to ensure that all councils are a) able to invest in community energy projects and be held to account if they don't do so and b) face a minimum of red tape in achieving innovation.

National government should publish guidelines to ensure a framework for councils to invest in community energy projects if required and there should be a mechanism for redress if they are unwilling. Depending on the proposed project, every assistance should be given and as little or no hindrance with red tape. However there still must be rules and regulations in place.

I feel that national government needs to talk to all local councils and encourage them to talk to one another and learn from successful models that are working in local authority areas.

Guidance and strong regulation will be critical. There should also be some visibility from the national government.



There was I think a clear view that the development of the greater use of green energy was too important to leave just to small-scale local projects and that national and local government require to be promoting and undertaking major significant projects.

Politics and red tape is the one thing that will turn everyone off with local councils. They need to collaborate at cross-party level for the good of the people they serve, not be self-serving.

Set reasonable expectations for councils to explore/develop community energy projects and demand that these expectations are met. It is in the interests of the local communities involved as well as the nation as a whole. The general public should be kept advised as to what is happening on both a local and national level to develop/promote energy projects. With regards to 'red tape' there is much that the national government could be doing to help encourage smaller projects to get off the ground and therefore much more do-able.

Yes, national government should provide the funding to make these projects achievable. I don't know if it's just national government that needs to look at removing the unnecessary red tape around creating renewable energy projects – all relevant parties need to do this, perhaps national government can mandate these changes that need to be made by local government and energy companies. (This also enables principle 13, removing a lot of the risk to community organisations by removing many of the barriers.)

While I agree with this aim, the failures of both Westminster and Holyrood makes me apprehensive about their involvement.

I believe local authorities should be able to invest in community energy projects, and be held accountable if they don't do so. 'A minimum of red tape' suggests minimum regulation – I disagree. Important things need to be regulated, especially if they are to be long-term investments that impact many individuals. Often, regulation is what ensures fairness. Unregulated markets are usually controlled by those with the most wealth. Those with the most wealth are usually a concentrated few. Small elites rarely have the masses' best interests at heart. I understand that the intention behind section (b) of this principle is to make the processes more efficient – I agree with that but think the wording is off.

This is a very, very important point. Red tape plus corruption can derail the project. Not to mention, people will lose the trust in such projects in the future. I would recommend that the government should pass it as a law. So that if someone negatively meddles in the project, can be held responsible by law.

Maybe a) able to invest in sustainable green energy projects _____



Principle 15. In a shared ownership project, there must be the opportunity to invest throughout the lifetime of the project and a clearly defined timeframe for how long it will remain publicly owned.

I would assume that this would be included in the ownership documents and deeds regarding investment opportunities and that any community project would be for the lifetime of said project, unless the community decide otherwise by an overwhelming vote for change.

Personally speaking, I'm surrounded by wind turbines which have been developed and built in this area and which I was not consulted about and will never benefit from. If this principle became a reality that may change things for the better in the future and give people choice.

Would need also to be clear what was happening to it if it ceased to be publicly owned.

Needs a beginning, middle and end. What is the exit strategy for the asset/s.

Not sure about all projects being 'publicly owned' (?) That is not my understanding of what is generally meant by shared ownership. Happy to have as many publicly owned projects as can be... but in the near term... we need MORE than that.

Yes, it needs to be accessible and not just for a limited timeframe, and the clearly defined timeframe falls under the transparency principle.

With the current cost of living crisis it is only the wealthy that have spare money to invest. Even with the schemes of only needing to invest a pound many people can't afford it.

Yes, the ability to become involved throughout the lifetime of the project is important – people may have been unable to invest in the initial period due to their own financial circumstances at the time – ultimately if any investment creates benefit, it should be considered/allowed – the timing isn't really relevant; the benefit is. A clearly defined timeframe is good expectation management, allows people involved to plan ahead, and keeps up the pace of the project and makes it more likely to come to fruition – gives a little bit of urgency to decision making.

Don't believe private investments in energy, we have that at the moment and the shareholder of these companies are posting all-time high profits as others are cutting themselves off. Energy is a necessity and should be for benefit of all in society equally.

Principle 16. There must be large-scale awareness raising of the concept of community/local energy so that everyone understands its benefits and what your individual/community entry point might be.

Agreed, as per point 12.

Important to reach every person living in the area in a way that is easy to understand.



I believe this is crucial. A lot of people don't know anything about community energy.

At the moment only a small number of individuals will know about or have the opportunity to participate which is why point 14 is really important.

This needs to be tied to net zero and why it is so important for the security of energy for Scotland going forward. The energy costs are so key to the cost of living. We need to address head on. Doing nothing is not a choice this hard message needs to be landed in the community.

This would link to 12 and 14.

Yes, related to point 12, these go hand in hand as people need to understand the relevance of any possible community/local energy project in their area, in order to engage with it.

Same comments as Principle 12. This feels like a duplication.

Awareness of the project is important especially when it comes to the community project. Social media is a strong tool and it can be effectively used to amass support and investments.

Principle 17. Wherever possible the energy generated should be used by the local community.

I assume that the idea of a local energy community project and the energy generated would be put to use within the local community. However circumstances can change and it would be for the members of that community to decide what benefits derived can and should be used for.

This is a very important principle and should be in the top 3 (not at number 17)

This will eliminate the need for 'big energy' to get involved and eliminate the need for grid access. Also, energy is lost (as heat) during transmission. The government needs to create schemes (like subsidised batteries for energy storage) to encourage usage of locally generated energy. If community energy is to succeed in the long term, local energy usage should be at the heart of it.

The requirement to sell back to the grid seems unnecessary. The high standing charges people living in some areas (much of Scotland) where energy is being produced locally seems counterintuitive. Energy generated locally should be used locally and standing charges abolished.

It becomes personal and that way people will work harder for it to be a success.

It costs to transport energy. The more it is transported the more energy is actually lost in the process.



Yes, there are complications with connecting to the national grid that I don't fully grasp, but my preference is more for stand-alone projects that don't need this step and can be fully owned, maintainable and run by local/community groups, and they use the energy. Perhaps there'll be more cost-effective power storage solutions in future that would make this even more achievable.

It is expensive and difficult to move large amounts of energy. The infrastructure will also use up land that may be needed for other things like growing food.

It sounds nice in concept, but a community may be keen to be involved only if they can sell the energy abroad for high prices and spend their income on a new minibus to take their local hockey team to tournaments down South. Depends what the local community project team want – it's their project.

If it helps remote areas have the same cost from energy as those in the city that would be good.

Principle 18. There has to be conclusive and resounding support (investment and policy) from all levels of government that mean widespread community and local energy is a reality across all our communities.

Without commitment from all levels of government, whether national, local or community, then local energy projects have little or NO chance of success.

National government should drive this support forward by bringing representatives from all local authorities to sit on a working group with national government and make this a reality.

Without clear policy and government support, this will fail at the infant stage. The government needs to believe in it.

A lot of the earlier principles are about setting up small schemes in a fair way, which is important, but the most important thing is for national and local government to act.

Make it feel that we are reacting to the climate emergency not just tinkering at the edges. Go big or go home on this. Time is running out we are missing all our net zero targets. If we are to be net zero by 2045 in Scotland, we need to be world leading in this. Government can make this compelling with a commitment on funding. People will get on board the more compelling we make it.

Not just all levels of government but all political parties.

Yes, very much related to point 14. It also needs to be more than lip service, and needs to utilise (and pay appropriately) existing passion and expertise in the renewable energy sector.



Yes. A concerted, cross-party commitment is necessary due to the urgency of the energy problems people are facing.

The North Ayrshire council approach looked at the kind of policy that could have the largest impact to most equally. Also the 'Heat Project' in Perthshire seems something that has a real impact. New housing schemes in the future need to be more responsive to existing technology such as heat network and new ideas on energy-saving/creating methods.

Principle 19. In shared ownership projects developers should have profits capped at a percentage level to ensure they are not making excessive profits while there are any households left sitting in the cold.

Developers will have to show goodwill throughout the project and will have to explain and detail costs and projections going forward at the initial stage before development. It can then be agreed what percentage level profits should be set.

I'm not sure if all developers will agree to this but it may lead to more ethical developers and businesses becoming involved.

What is 'excessive' profit? Our concept of profit or excessive profit may not be the same for gov't or organisations. Some of these projects require huge sums of upfront investment. It is difficult for government to cap profits when they haven't invested. We also need to be careful not to discourage investment. Government cannot pay for these things themselves so they have to leave some of it to private investors. If people/organisations sense that they cannot make money, then they will not invest. Once organisations hear the word 'cap', they will not invest. This should be re-worded and made broader so there is clear understanding from all parties that while there is profit to be made, it is not a free for all; neither is it a charity and organisations are encouraged to invest for money.

Green energy needs to be developed and provided to those who need it. That should be the key aim, not providing profits to shareholders.

Profit not a dirty word. The more profits the more the community benefit based on a fixed % on profits agreed at the outset of the contract.

While I support the statement, one has to ensure that 'developers' are given sufficient encouragement in terms of 'potential profits' or they would have no reason to participate.

Yes, the developers could be incentivised in other ways such as their company getting free advertising/promotion (both word of mouth and possibly from government/council) because of their actions providing so much benefit to communities. 'Excess' profits could be put towards assisting vulnerable and low-income members of the community to equally participate in the project.



Support, if it's even possible to do it in a way that benefits people overall. In reality, this would be a massive undertaking and have serious knock-on economic effects – it would affect our compliance with international competition law, our country's ability to attract inward investment, that could lead to less marketplace competition which typically means higher prices for consumers. It's a massively nuanced and difficult topic that would need lots of that 'red tape' which, perhaps ironically, we've tried to avoid in Principle 14.

It's the least we must have if we don't have full ownership (which isn't impossible – EDF 100% French state-owned). Laws to stop energy companies breaking into house and installing even more expensive pay meters need to go, it's barbaric and points to the fact we can't trust shareholders to run this service.

Principle 20. Developers should be mandated to engage with communities at the earliest possible stage (before planning) to ensure that benefits are relevant to the community and to ensure that there is forward planning so that the community is happy with how the land, and any infrastructure, will be developed or left at the end of the project.

Points 19 & 20 go hand in hand. Communities must be consulted at the earliest stage regarding plans for their local area. They must also be kept informed once planning is granted on an ongoing basis as to how the project is progressing. There should also be a plan in place for the end, if any regarding the future use of the land area.

I feel this should be mandatory and developers should write to every single household in the area to make them aware of the project before the planning stage.

Developments could have positive and negative consequences as byproducts. For example, the development of any roads required for example could be a blot on the landscape and require to be covered over etc after development. On the other hand, roads round windfarms, etc, could be developed as cycle tracks, running routes. Ideas need to be explored at an early stage.

Relationships with the community and developer needs to positive from the start. How they engage with each other over time will ensure a successful partnership they are part of the collaboration that has been discussed previously. This will be a legacy project and people will change overtime as will the developers, perhaps. This relationship needs to be transparent, strong and focused from the beginning, middle and end.

Communication is all important.



This should be part of the environment impact assessment – a local community is part of the environment and utilises its local environment so its concerns and any impacts on it should be considered equally important.

This is very important but timing is key. As seen with the High Speed 2 project, not enough planning was done and the cost has snowballed. Had more planning been done it would have been clearer that the project needed a far larger budget. It clearly does not benefit everyone.

Yes.





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