



PREVIOUS WINNERS – 2023

Public Sector Local Leadership (Sponsored by Equans)

- **Hampshire County Council** – Hampshire County Council has established a new Directorate – Hampshire 2050 – devoted to the Authority’s strategic progress including its goal to be net zero by 2050. The Authority’s strategic, evidence-based approach to developing a net zero local energy system has residents at its heart and brings a partnership approach that amplifies the benefits of community action while encouraging peer-to-peer learning.

Clean Energy Scheme

- **Keele University – Smart Energy Network Demonstrator (SEND)** – Keele University’s project incorporates 12,300 solar panels (4.4 MW), two wind turbines (1.7 MW), and an industrial-sized battery, linked to an advanced smart energy system. It includes two of the few onshore wind turbines approved in England in recent years and is the first site in the UK to combine solar, wind and battery assets.

Net Zero Energy Developer (Sponsored by Bevan Brittan LLP)

- **Thrive Renewables** – Thrive has funded and/or built 32 projects, including hydro, solar, battery storage, geothermal, tidal, renewable heat and England’s largest onshore wind turbine. These projects have generated over two million MWh – enough to power over 508,000 average UK homes, reducing emissions by 917,517 tCO₂e, and providing annual community-benefit funding of £30,000.

Community Energy Initiative

- **Energise Sussex Coast** – Energise Sussex Coast has worked to tackle fuel poverty for 11 years. Last year, their energy advice service helped 860 struggling households to save an average of £409 on energy costs per household. The group has also helped local communities and businesses deliver a wide range of community-owned solar projects.

Net Zero Energy Pioneer (Sponsored by TLT LLP)

- **Dr Irene Di Martino** – Irene is the co-founder and leader of Amp X, a disruptive digital energy platform pioneering artificial intelligence and autonomy to unlock grid-edge flexibility. Irene started her career working on coal power stations, so her

development into a net zero energy pioneer with over 20 years of experience epitomises the industry's decarbonisation journey.

Whole Energy System Innovation (Sponsored by GA Energy)

- **National Grid ESO (Demand Flexibility Service)** - The DFS allows the ESO to access additional flexibility when the national demand is at its highest – during peak winter days – which is not currently accessible in real-time. This new innovative service allows consumers, as well as some industrial and commercial users (through suppliers/aggregators), to be incentivised for voluntarily 'flexing' when they use their electricity.