

## COOPENERGY Action Plan Report

**Joint-Action:** delivering community-led renewable energy across Kent

**Collaboration model used to deliver this action:** Sheppey Community Energy Trust

### About the joint action

In 2014 the Government published the first UK Community Energy Strategy. It set out plans to increase community energy projects in the UK, focussing on four strands: reducing energy use, managing energy better, generating energy and purchasing energy. It emphasised community ownership and leadership where the community benefits and highlighted the role public authorities can play to support this.

To support this initiative locally, Kent partners decided to work together to take advantage of the significant opportunities for communities in Kent to develop their own local energy solutions and generate on-going income for their areas.

### About the Collaboration model

Kent County Council (KCC), working with Swale Borough Council (SBC), decided to concentrate their support in one area where community renewable energy (RE) opportunities have already been identified – the Isle of Sheppey in Kent. It is hoped this area can provide a model for community-led renewables which can be applied in other areas of the county.

To begin this work, KCC, SBCI and individuals across the Isle of Sheppey community, formed the Sheppey Community Energy Trust. The **key aims** of the Trust are:

- To establish and encourage the installation of more community energy projects on the Isle of Sheppey.
- To provide an organisation that RE developers can approach to negotiate community energy benefits for large scale RE developments
- To approach the owners of community buildings and land in order to provide information and advice to install community RE technologies.
- To ensure the benefits of any RE systems are kept within the local community.
- To ensure any benefits that are identified are distributed fairly and will aid the reduction of fuel poverty on the Isle of Sheppey

To deliver this programme, the Trust has developed the **following plan of action**.



## Sheppey Community Energy Trust Action Plan

ACTION	DEADLINE	STATUS	PROGRESS
Develop a partnership between the regional authority, local authorities and community individuals in Kent, to realise community-led RE opportunities across the Isle of Sheppey.	May 2013	COMPLETED  ONGOING	Development of the Sheppey Community Energy Trust to support the delivery of community-led RE across the Isle. The Trust will appoint trustees and will select a Chairman and a Secretary to take the Trust forward. The Trust is also investigating becoming a social enterprise.
Establish and deliver 10 community RE measures across the Isle of Sheppey.	December 2017	IN PROGRESS	Two community buildings have been surveyed for Solar PV. One building will have PV installed, free of charge and the second building is being investigated further. Friendship House has installed 4kWp of solar PV and is claiming the FIT.
Work with large commercial energy developers, in order to provide local community energy benefits.	Ongoing	IN PROGRESS	Airvolution are planning 4 wind turbines near Eastchurch. It is going to a planning appeal as not being granted by local authority may lead to loss of community benefits. Possibility of community benefit fund from Sheerness Port wind array.
Reduce the amount of households in fuel poverty, by helping them to install energy saving measures and access better energy tariffs.	December 2017	IN PROGRESS	
Reduce carbon emissions in Kent.	December 2017	IN PROGRESS	
Raise awareness – and provide advice - on community RE measures to the community.	Ongoing	IN PROGRESS	Radio interview, and extensive press coverage regarding the installation of Solar PV at Friendship House 12/6/2015.
Identify financial mechanisms to deliver community-led RE projects.	Ongoing	IN PROGRESS	A Kent Community Energy Funding Guide has been developed. The Guide will be updated monthly to identify further sources of finance for community energy projects.
Provide training to community energy groups to enable self-development.	Ongoing	IN PROGRESS	Looking at the Governments own website and tools for community energy, as a way of disseminating to local groups the necessary information to start a community energy project.



Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe  
Programme of the European Union



Work with existing local authority contacts and other organisations to develop community energy projects.	Ongoing	IN PROGRESS	
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------	----------------	--