



# ENERGY

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LABOUR  
FOR A  
GREEN  
NEW DEAL



## ***Energy: Local Energy Generation***

Energy usage is the basis of carbon emissions. For example, heating and powering London's buildings accounts for around [three quarters](#) of London's carbon emissions. Investments by local Government in sustainable energy generation projects can provide a pathway to net zero for the local area and the UK grid. Local energy projects have a broad range of benefits for their councils, including providing a source of income and increasing the number of decent, unionised local jobs in the green energy sector. Crucially, unlike with bus services, there is no national law preventing the establishment of locally owned energy generation.

### ***Key policy***

***Local Government, with the support of the national Government, should invest in local renewable energy generation projects***

### ***Local Energy Generation explained***

- Energy generation can provide a stable income for local government, while also providing green energy for the UK grid.
- The nature of the renewable energy project will depend on the environmental context of the local government.
- Some examples of energy technologies which councils can invest in are heat pumps, solar panels, and batteries.
- A council can invest in an area-wide district energy system or smart grid network.

### ***Examples:***

- Camden Council - [Somers Town Heat Network](#)
  - The delivery of the Decentralised Energy Network (DEN) improves the efficiency of heating in the borough, providing heat and hot water to the residents of Camden.
  - Electricity is currently sold to the Grid but from early 2021 will supply directly to the Francis Crick Institute (Europe's largest biomedical research facility).
  - This follows on from Camden's Citizens Assembly
- Cardiff City Council - Solar PV Development on Landfill – [Lamby Way, Cardiff](#)

- Capped Landfill Site capable of providing around 8.5MW of clean, renewable energy, which could power approximately 2,900 homes for the next 35 years.
- West Suffolk Council – [12.4MW Toggam solar farm](#)
  - The solar farm was purchased post construction and electrical connection.
  - Over the last three years the amount generated by the solar farm has created more than £4 million of income which after costs, allowing for £1.2m to be reinvested into public services.
- Bristol City Council - Avonmouth Wind Turbines
  - The first Council owned Wind Farm in the UK generates 20.9 GWh a year, the equivalent to powering 5,232 homes.
- Germany - Citizens' participation in the [Energiewende](#)
  - Citizens have taken a direct stake in the transition to a cleaner energy supply through ownership of renewable energy installations.

### ***Community campaigns:***

- SELCE - [Turning SE London solar](#)
  - Selce has installed solar arrays on eleven community sites including seven local schools, two leisure centers, one church, and one hotel.
- Heart of England Community Energy - [Poplars](#)
  - a community benefit society which owns the largest community solar farm in the UK
  - With a total installed capacity of 4.98MW, Poplars has generated a total output of 4.58GWh this financial year – this exactly meets target (enough to power just under 1,500 typical homes)

### ***Further Resources:***

- [Making The Most of Local Energy: A Guide for Local Government](#)
- [Renewable Energy Good Practice Guidelines, Local Gov.uk](#)
- [Local Energy Scotland](#)
- [Local Energy Policy Statement, Scottish Government](#)