

Rural Community Energy Fund:

Supporting communities to deliver Renewable energy projects

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Introduction

- The Rural Community energy fund:
Comes from Department of Business Energy & Industrial Strategy;
Delivered by North West Energy Hub and Lancashire county Council;
- Work of NW Energy Hubs is governed by representatives from each LEP region;
- Community energy:- RCEF- £1 million in NW,
- My role is to support communities to bring forward potential projects;
 - *Stage 1 – feasibility grant up to £40k*
 - *Stage 2 – Development grant up to £100k*
- All projects are put to the Energy hub management board for consideration.

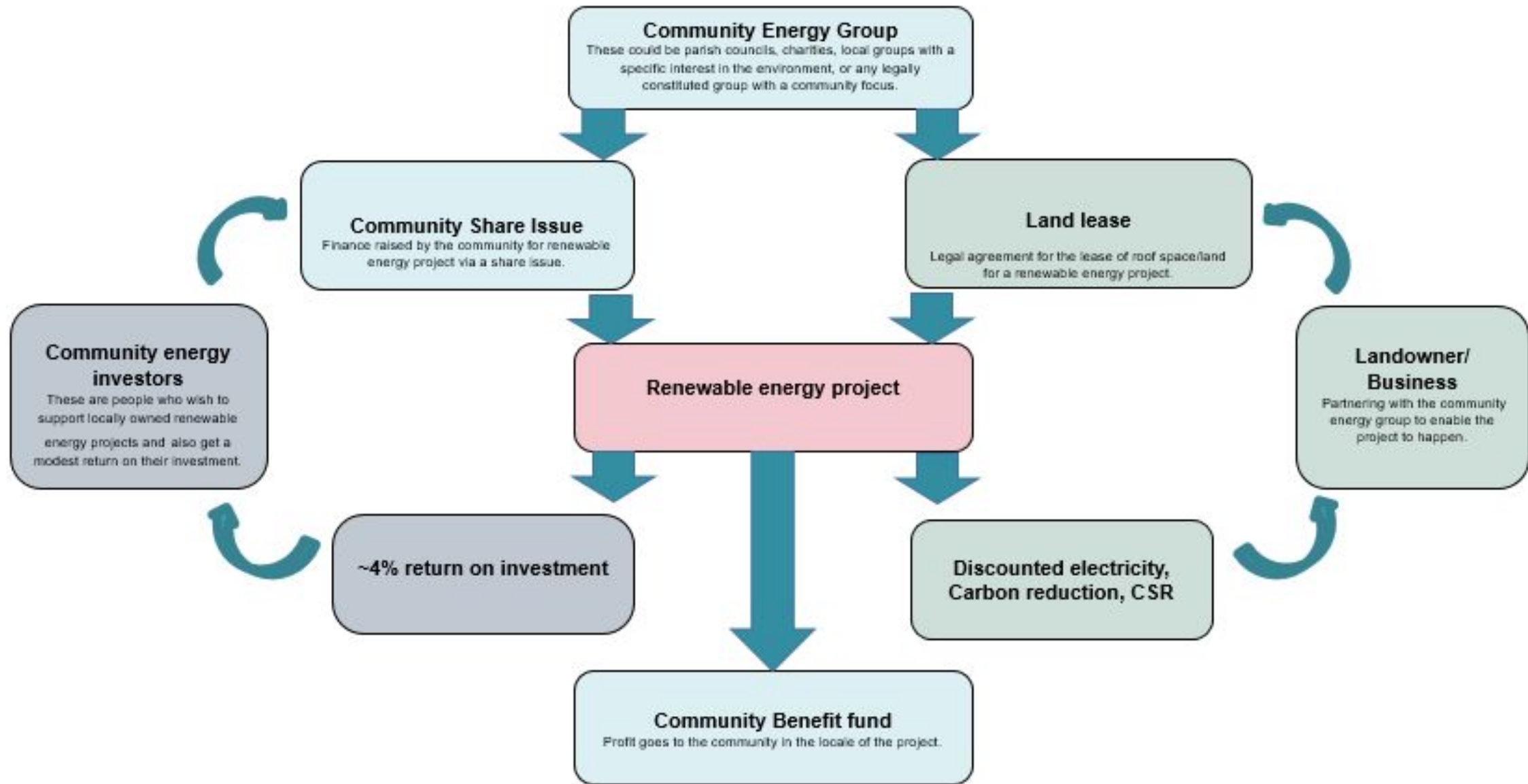
What is community energy?

- ‘Community energy’ is activity by a community of people, joining together to find and enable solutions for carbon reduction:- via energy efficiency or renewable energy installations.
- These communities set up ‘Community Benefit Societies’ who are uniquely allowed, by the FCA, to raise investment via a share issue.
- Community Benefit Societies are not-for-profit, co-ops, 1 share, 1 vote.
- All profit goes to a community benefit fund – for allocation to community projects/works.

Why Community Energy?

- At the core of the Community energy ethos is collaboration and cooperation....
- Climate change is an egalitarian problem, we need an 'all hands on the deck' approach, communities in many cases are leading the way in innovation, motivation and determination to create change.
- There is no one big solution, but multiple small solutions, of which Community energy is a big part.
- The Community Energy Sector, supported by Community Energy England, is a national network of people trying to find and deliver solutions to decarbonise to mitigate climate change.

The Community energy model:



The Community Energy model is:

- Not commercial development undertaken by volunteers and hobbyists,
- or in direct competition with commercial developers,
- but offers a different starting point, angle of approach and financial model for potential projects.

Community Energy USP:

- *Motivation;*
- *Tenacity & resilience;*
- *Finance;*
- *Community engagement.*

The Community Energy Jigsaw Piece

- People power and the democratisation of energy!
- Community energy is more likely to bring disruptive models to the current energy system structure: Generate – sell – consume. Innovation & democratic energy.
- People voluntarily coming together to achieve a common objective for the common good.
- Additional value... social impact, fuel poverty alleviation, trusted messengers...
- Community action networks have the ability to mobilise and be resilient.
- It is important that the community energy shaped piece of the Energy Infrastructure is not overlooked.

The Ripple effect

- A Community energy project brings more to a community than renewable energy generation and profit. It also brings a host of added value and social impact:
 - Resilience;
 - Empowerment;
 - The co-operative structure;
 - Democratisation of energy.....
- There is no one big solution to decarboniation, but multiple small solutions, of which Community energy has its' part.

Opportunities in Community energy





Whalley Community Hydro
A Community Renewable Energy Scheme

[Home](#)

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[Community Benefit Fund](#)



Community Benefit Society
Community owned project
Raised over £1 million
Community benefit fund:
– education and energy efficiency



This 100kW hydroelectric generating plant on the side of the River Calder at Whalley, Lancashire began generating in November 2014.

www.gmcr.org.uk

GMCR

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FIDDLERS LANE

A 29.68 kWp solar array on the roof of Fiddlers Lane Primary School in Irlam.



Fiddlers Lane has generated over 100,000 kWh of clean energy since the solar array was switched on in September 2016. [See how much it's generated this week.](#)

IRLAM PRIMARY

A 28.62 kWp solar array on the nursery and hall roofs at Irlam Primary School.



Irlam Primary has generated over 90,000 kWh of clean energy since the solar array was switched on in October 2016. [See how much it's generated this week.](#)

MONTON GREEN

A 29.7 kWp solar array on the roof of Monton Green Primary School.



Monton Green has generated over 20,000 kWh of clean energy since the solar array was switched on in October 2019. [See how much it's generated this week.](#)

SPRINGWOOD

A 49.68 kWp solar array on the roof of Springwood Primary School in Swinton.



Springwood has generated over 35,000 kWh of clean energy since the solar array was switched on in December 2019. [See how much it's generated this week.](#)

Community energy groups: <https://brightonenergy.org.uk/home/our-projects/>



Solar Schools [See all our Solar Projects](#) Vacancies Blog How it All Works ▾ [Subscribe](#)

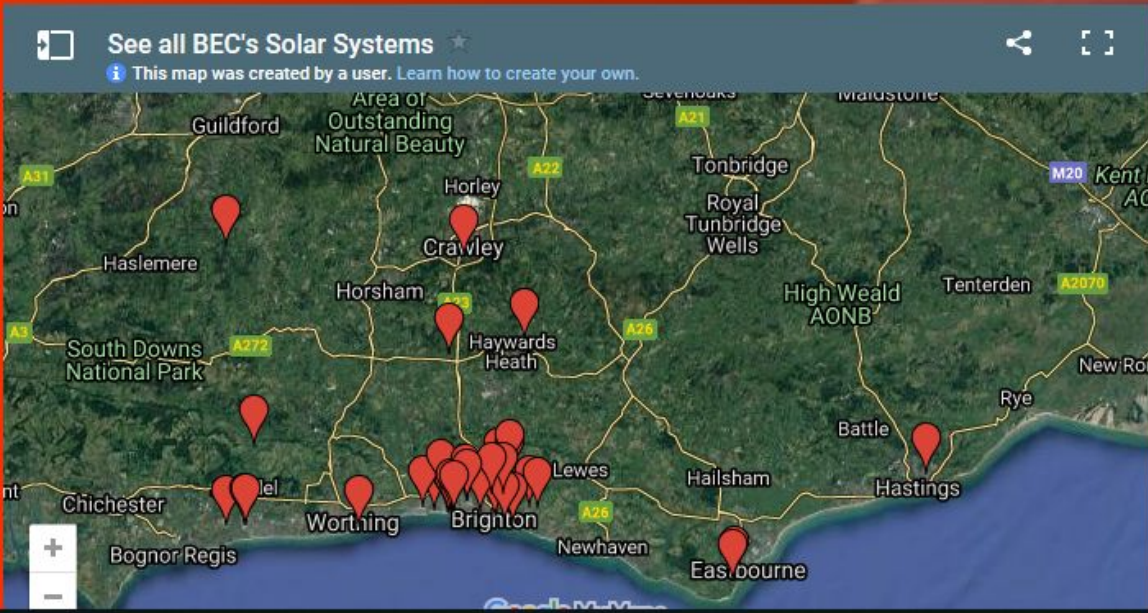
Since 2010 BEC has raised over £3,000,000 from the local community to build some of the largest solar PV systems in the South East region.

We are now the proud owners of 60+ community-owned solar arrays.

Our solar partners range from schools to businesses, and from blocks of flats to a football stadium!

Our solar systems are funded by our members – hundreds of people who joined us over the past ten years, to build renewable energy systems for our city.

Our members receive a 5% return on their



<https://www.edinburghsolar.coop/about-us/>



SOLAR INSTALLATIONS



Davidson's Mains Primary School



Drumbrae Leisure Centre



Oaklands School



Carrick Knowe Primary School – completed 50kW 8th
July 2016. / 40,000kWh per year



Currie High School



Ratho School

The Community heat project at Firle

BHESCo – Kayla Ente – the ultimate Heat Diva:

Pioneer in community energy, especially around energy efficiency models ‘pay as you save’ and now Community heat.

Has driven this project through Stage 1 & now Stage 2 of RCEF

- 84 mixed tenure residential, commercial buildings and a school

- 4 shared ground loop sourcing heat

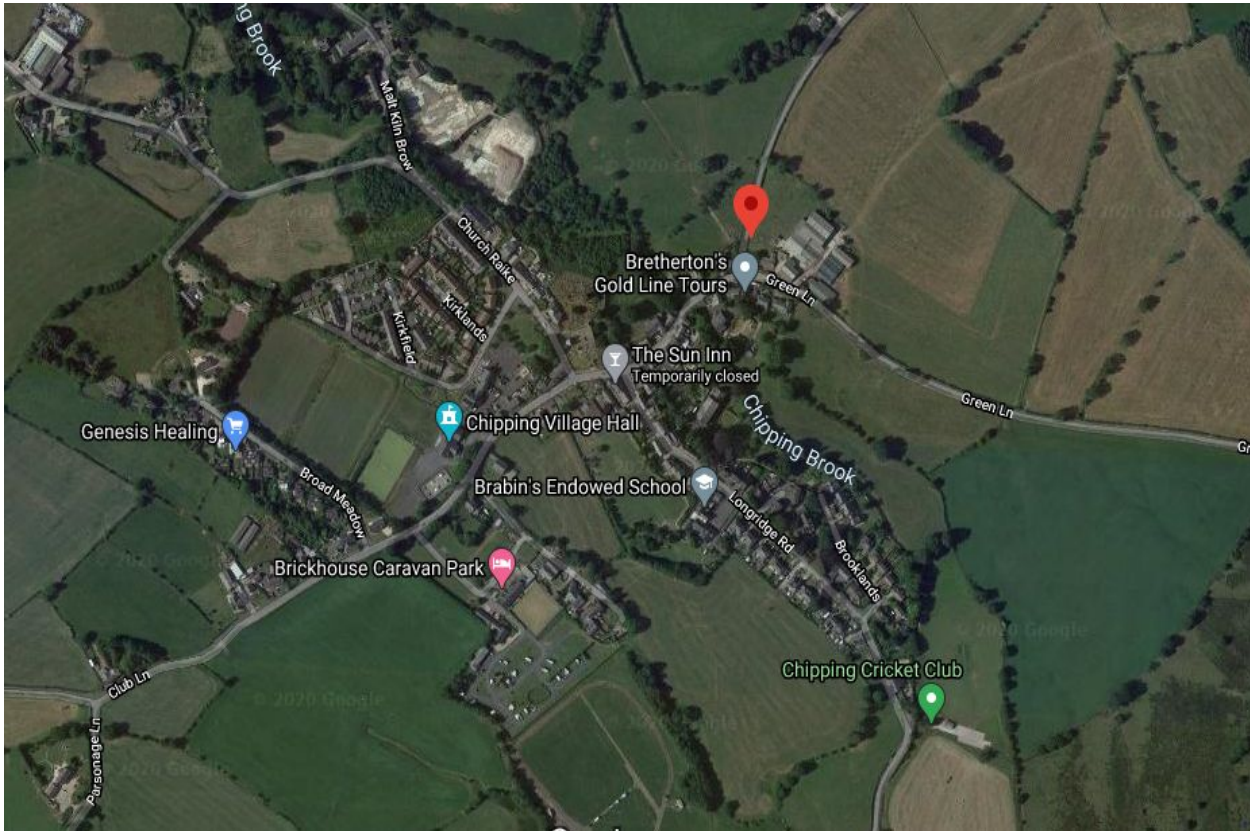
- 3 borehole locations

They want to start building next summer.....



Swaffham Prior – Cambridgeshire County Council – village with 300 homes – previous Heat Diva presentation

Our copy cat project at Chipping



- Off gas grid
- Relatively high density housing for a village
- Approx 180 houses, 2 churches, 2 schools 2 village halls, commercial buildings, some social housing with interested RSL
- No major trunk roads dissecting village
- ENW doing grid constraints mapping
- Community already undertaken community projects
- Engaged in low carbon agenda and a collaborative community.

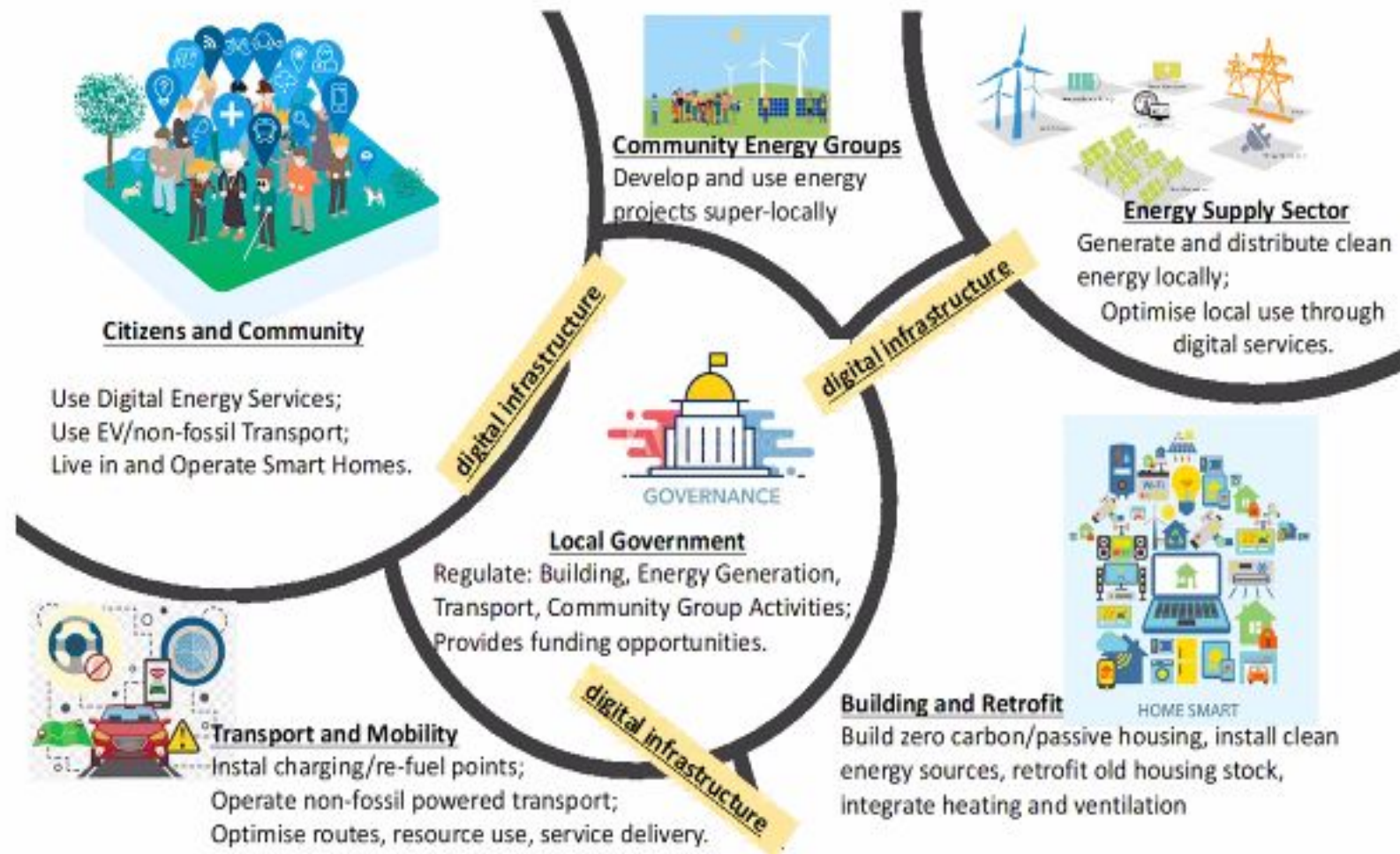
Other RCEF projects

1. Accrington: 2.5MW ground mounted solar (tucked away waste land), Selling ~60% electricity generated to a local factory. Next step: Development grant for planning
2. Cheshire: 30MW ground mounted solar (low grade arable, waterlogged and flooded for large parts of the year.) development grant for planning
3. Windermere residential centre: on oil – Water Source Heat Pump/ Air Source Heat pumps. PV on roofs
4. Cheshire Hydro: 65kW turbine (FIT accredited) – development grant, currently being built.
5. Lake District Hydro: 40kW – small turbine sized to run at maximum capacity and sell the electricity to the local hotel.
6. Cheshire 2.5- 5 MW ground mounted solar – previously a Good Energy project that they pulled out of when the FIT was stopped.

Next steps:

- The Community Energy England website is a huge resource for communities thinking about undertaking a project:
- <https://communityenergyengland.org/>
- Get in touch with me and I can help scope potential projects or discuss ideas;
- Kate.Gilmartin@Lancashire.gov.uk
- 07763 756549

SLES: System of Systems (SoS)



Operational
Independence

Managerial Independence

Evolutionary
Development

Emergent Behaviour

Architecture through
Interfaces