**Expression of Interest for Community Energy Capacity Building Study**

**Summary.**

The Midlands Net Zero Hub (MNZH) seeks to support five local authorities in developing tailored community energy strategies and build local capacity to drive tangible net-zero progress through community-led initiatives.

The study will consist of four work packages that review successful UK community energy schemes, assess local Net Zero targets, and identify key opportunities for collaboration and project development. It will also examine barriers to progress, propose strategies to overcome these challenges, and provide actionable recommendations for governance structures, stakeholder engagement, and funding strategies. By working closely with local authorities and community groups, the study will assess the potential for growth and impact in the community energy sector, ensuring alignment with local climate action and strategic plans.

To participate, local authorities (LAs) in the Midlands must submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) outlining how they would benefit from engaging in this study and the potential impact it could have on their local net-zero efforts.

**What to Expect if Selected**

The Midlands Net Zero Hub (MNZH) will procure an independent consultant to support up to five Local Authorities (LAs) by delivering a structured, tailored programme for each authority. A report containing a guide to community energy capacity building will also be produced as part of this work.

The study will consist of the following work packages:

**WP1- Contextual Literature Review:**

A thorough review of successful UK community energy capacity-building schemes, identifying best practices and lessons learned. This will include detailed case studies that highlight key success factors, challenges, and innovative approaches. Additionally, strategic engagement with stakeholders will be conducted through a minimum of three meetings per area, incorporating workshops and consultations to gather valuable insights and build consensus.

**WP2- Community Energy Group Identification**

This work package involves reviewing local Net Zero targets and strategies to identify alignment opportunities for community energy initiatives, alongside assessing existing community energy groups and projects for their capacity, impact, and growth potential. Key stakeholders and funding opportunities will be mapped, with a graphic-rich report produced for a non-expert audience, using clear language and visual aids to convey insights and support project development.

**WP3- Capacity Review:**

This work package involves quantifying the potential for community energy projects in each area through data-driven analysis and local energy. The review will also identify barriers such as regulatory, financial, and social challenges and propose mitigation strategies. It will demonstrate alignment with council net-zero targets, outline strategic development approaches (including partnership models, technology options, and community engagement), and recommend specific training and mentoring requirements tailored to local needs. Additionally, an outreach plan will be developed to increase community participation, and clear guidance will be provided on the role of Local Authorities in supporting community energy development, including potential planning and financial support.

**WP4- Support for Existing Groups:**

This work package involves implementing targeted engagement plans and outreach activities to connect with a range of communities, providing light-touch support such as access to resources, networking opportunities, and expert advice. It will also facilitate the development of area-wide networks or hubs to encourage collaboration and knowledge sharing, while fostering strategic partnerships and identifying opportunities for collaborative projects that leverage local resources and expertise.

Additionally, a governance section will summarise and evaluate various governance structures for community energy groups, including community interest companies, cooperatives, and partnerships, and provide recommendations for best practices.

**Regular updates will be provided to MNZH regional officers, ensuring transparency and alignment with project objectives.**

**At the end of the study an electronic report will be created outlining the above and provided to the Local Authority and MNZH. The report will include a guide to community energy capacity building.**

**Eligibility criteria.**

The Midlands Net Zero Hub (MNZH) is initiating a study across five local authority areas to develop tailored community energy strategies and strengthen local capacity to drive tangible net-zero progress through community-led initiatives.

To be eligible, local authorities must meet the following criteria:

* Be actively looking to establish relationships with community energy organisations
* Include or be intending to include community energy targets within their local net zero plans

While the competition is open to all regions, priority will be given to areas that are currently underrepresented in terms of CEF funded community groups.

It is important to note that this competition is only open to Local Authorities within the Midlands Net Zero Hub region. For eligibility confirmation, contact communityenergyfund@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

As a condition of eligibility, findings will be made publicly available. (e.g., anonymised reports with commercially sensitive information removed).

**Terms and conditions.**

Participating councils must consider the following:

1. **Non-binding:** This document is not a contract. Completing this EOI does not guarantee that funding will be awarded to the council.
2. **Confidentiality:** All information provided will be treated as confidential. You can view MNZH's full Privacy Notice at [www.midlandsnetzerohub.co.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.midlandsnetzerohub.co.uk/privacy-policy).
3. **No obligation:** MNZH is under no obligation to proceed with any proposals and reserves the right to reject any, or all EOIs, without providing a reason.
4. **Accuracy of information:** All information provided should be accurate and truthful. By submitting this form, the applicant confirms that it has been completed to the best of their knowledge and that all information was correct at the time of writing.
5. **Costs:** Any costs incurred in preparing and submitting the EOI are the responsibility of the respondents and will not be reimbursed.

**Expression of Interest (EOI) Submission Guidance.**

To apply or inquire, contact us or submit an Expression of Interest to:

communityenergyfund@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

The deadline for EOI submission is **11:59 pm on Tuesday 22ndh July 2025**. Applicants will be notified of the outcome by Tuesday 29nd July 2025.

Please complete the form below:

1. **Expression of Interest Form**

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| **Contact Details** |
| Name |  |
| Organisation  |  |
| Position |  |
| Email |  |
| Telephone |  |
| Date |  |

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| **Information** |
| 1. **Commitment Confirmation:** Are you committed to actively participating in this project and allocating the necessary resources and support for its successful delivery?
 | Yes / No / Unsure |
| 1. **Previous capacity-building studies**: Has a capacity-building study been conducted in the past five years that is relevant for baseline use for future studies?
 | Yes / No |
| 1. **Previous capacity-building studies**: Have any previous studies conducted been used in any way to date?
 | Yes / No |
| 1. **Previous Work:** Please describe how you have previously been actively looking to establish relationships with community energy organisations and how you intend to, or already have included community energy targets within your local net zero plans

(max. 500 words) |
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| 1. **Statement of Interest:** Briefly explain why you want to be selected for the Community Energy Capacity Building Study.

(max. 500 words) |
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| 1. **Staff available to support the review:** please outline contact details for the officer who will be the lead contact for this project at the Local Authority and any other staff involved in the project.
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