

**Email:**

██████████ has just asked me if you have ever produced any guidance for community groups wanting to set up a wind energy scheme, or if you know of any guidance. Any info gratefully received.

**Answer**

Hi ██████████

Hope the following helps with community-owned wind schemes.

Kind Regards  
Caroline

**1) Resources:**

[www.planlocal.org.uk](http://www.planlocal.org.uk) – this is the most comprehensive source of information that I'm aware of. It has been made by Centre for Sustainable Energy, a charity similar to MEA, but working in the Bristol area. It includes short videos, case studies, exercise for groups considering community owned renewable to work through etc. It covers funding options, getting the local community on board, choosing a technology (be it wind or something else), planning permission etc etc. The entire resource is available both on this website and in the form of a physical pack - a lever archer file with all the resources in it. I would recommend ordering the physical pack (it can be ordered for free via the website) if you think you might be dealing with groups who are considering community wind as it's a really useful resource to have to hand. Community groups can also order the pack for themselves. You can also subscribe to receive email alerts from CSE when they create extra resources for the pack or update bits of it.

[www.cse.org.uk/thesource](http://www.cse.org.uk/thesource) - CSE has also recently launched 'The Source' – a section on their website where they pull together all the resources on community renewables which they consider to be good.

[www.acre.org.uk/news/2011-news/news-2011-get-generating-guide](http://www.acre.org.uk/news/2011-news/news-2011-get-generating-guide) - an easy read with lots of case studies. Written with village halls in rural communities in mind, but may be useful to others too. This is much less comprehensive than Plan Local, but it's also a much less daunting read and good for beginners.

CSE have also produced a document which takes common concerns re: wind power and provides evidence-based answers using peer-reviewed academic research. Useful if someone is opposing a wind turbine project for a daft reason!:

[http://www.cse.org.uk/downloads/file/common\\_concerns\\_about\\_wind\\_power.pdf](http://www.cse.org.uk/downloads/file/common_concerns_about_wind_power.pdf)

**2) Events:**

Last year we ran some events with CSE in the East Midlands (including one which took place at County Hall in Matlock). CSE are doing something v. similar in Milton Keynes on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept: [www.cse.org.uk/news/view/1673](http://www.cse.org.uk/news/view/1673).

**3) Existing local(ish) projects:**

Some projects in the Midlands which groups could visit for inspiration:

- Torrs Hydro Project (Derbyshire-based): <http://torrs-hydro-new-mills.blogspot.com/>
- SHOCK (Nottinghamshire based): [www.sustainablehockerton.org](http://www.sustainablehockerton.org)
- Tutbury EcoPower (Staffordshire based – still in the planning stages, but they already have plenty of learning to share): [www.tutburyecopower.co.uk](http://www.tutburyecopower.co.uk)
- North Kilworth (L'shire based): [www.northkilworth.com/sustainability/](http://www.northkilworth.com/sustainability/)

They're not all wind projects, but they would be able to explain the process they went through to get their projects going, some elements of which will be the same regardless of the technology. Some of them hold open days and others have good info on their websites.

#### **4) Some orgs who can help with funding:**

[www.energy4all.co.uk](http://www.energy4all.co.uk)

[www.puretrust.org.uk](http://www.puretrust.org.uk)

[www.energyshare.com](http://www.energyshare.com)

[www.energyshare.com/make-energy/funding-and-grants-information/](http://www.energyshare.com/make-energy/funding-and-grants-information/)

It's also worth groups keeping an eye out for a potential second round of LEAF funding later this f/y - <http://www.greencommunitiescc.org.uk/>. If this happens I will be letting groups know straightaway through my e-bulletin mailing list (see below for how to subscribe). This might fund things like community consultation or feasibility studies.

#### **5) Further advice and ongoing info:**

Groups are welcome to subscribe to my monthly e-bulletins by emailing 'subscribe' and the name of their group to [ccan@mea.org.uk](mailto:ccan@mea.org.uk). I regularly include news items related to community energy, including any new funding opportunities or new resources. Back issues can be read here: [www.everybodys-talking.org/communities-area/community-bulletins](http://www.everybodys-talking.org/communities-area/community-bulletins).

Groups in Derbyshire can contact me through the CCAN's Ask Me a Climate Question Service with any questions they have and I will do a few hours desk-based research for them: [www.everybodys-talking.org/communities-area/community-support](http://www.everybodys-talking.org/communities-area/community-support)

CSE has recently begun offering email and telephone advice on community-owned renewables to groups anywhere in the country:

[www.cse.org.uk/downloads/file/CSE\\_support\\_for\\_communities.pdf](http://www.cse.org.uk/downloads/file/CSE_support_for_communities.pdf)

[www.energyshare.com/make-energy/supportandadvice/](http://www.energyshare.com/make-energy/supportandadvice/)