

Community Energy

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Community Energy England



Topics

- Community Energy England
- What is community energy?
- CE- a journey through time
- Benefits
- Challenges and obstacles
- Next steps

Community Energy England

- Founded June 2014
- ~180 members
 - c. 70% community groups
 - Leading renewable energy developers
 - Local authorities, NGOs, independent energy supplier & others
- The voice of community energy

www.CommunityEnergyEngland.org



What is community energy?

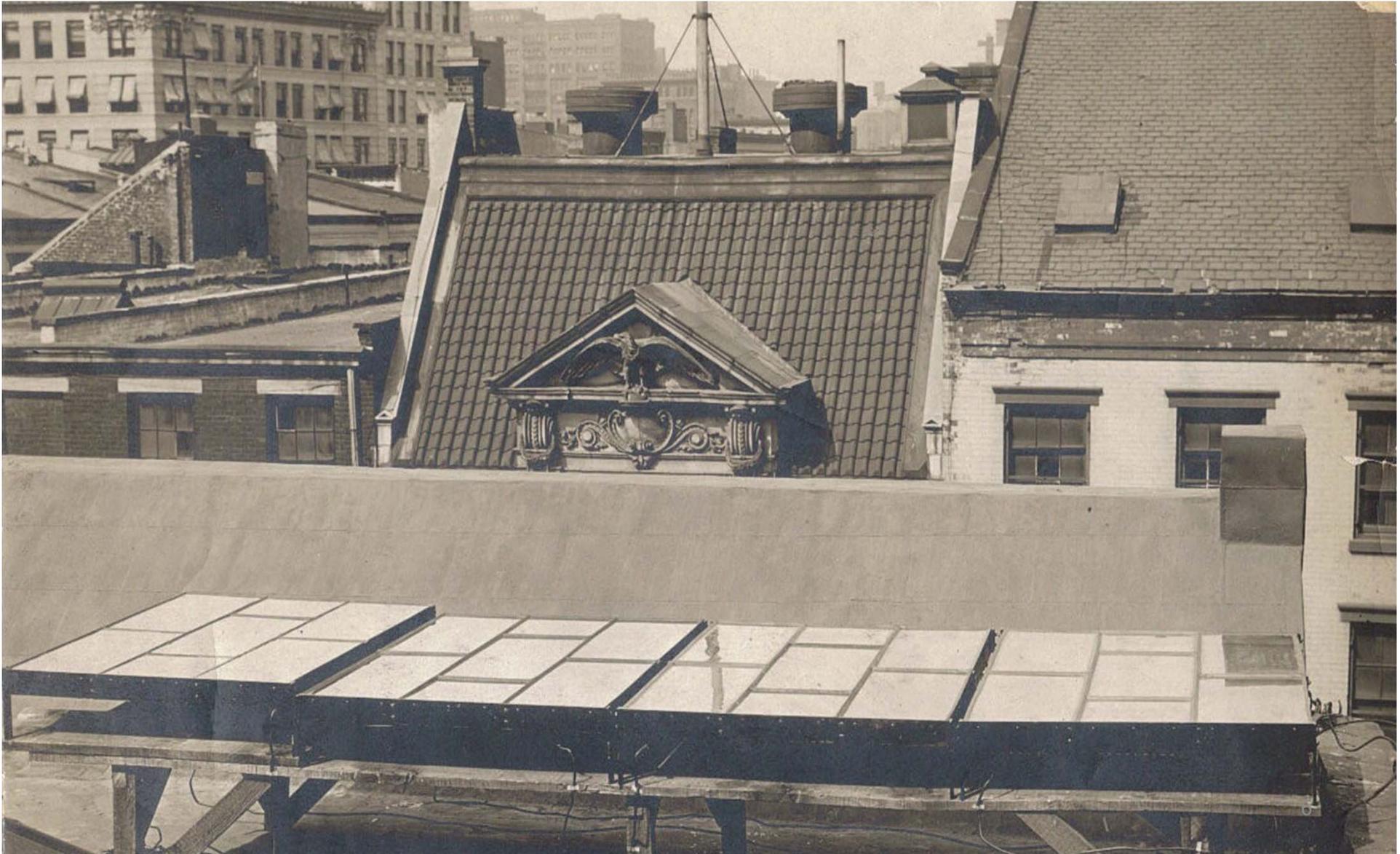
- Emphasis on community ownership, leadership or control where the community benefits
- Four strands:
 - Reducing energy use
 - Managing energy better
 - Generating energy
 - Purchasing energy
- Not just geographic communities



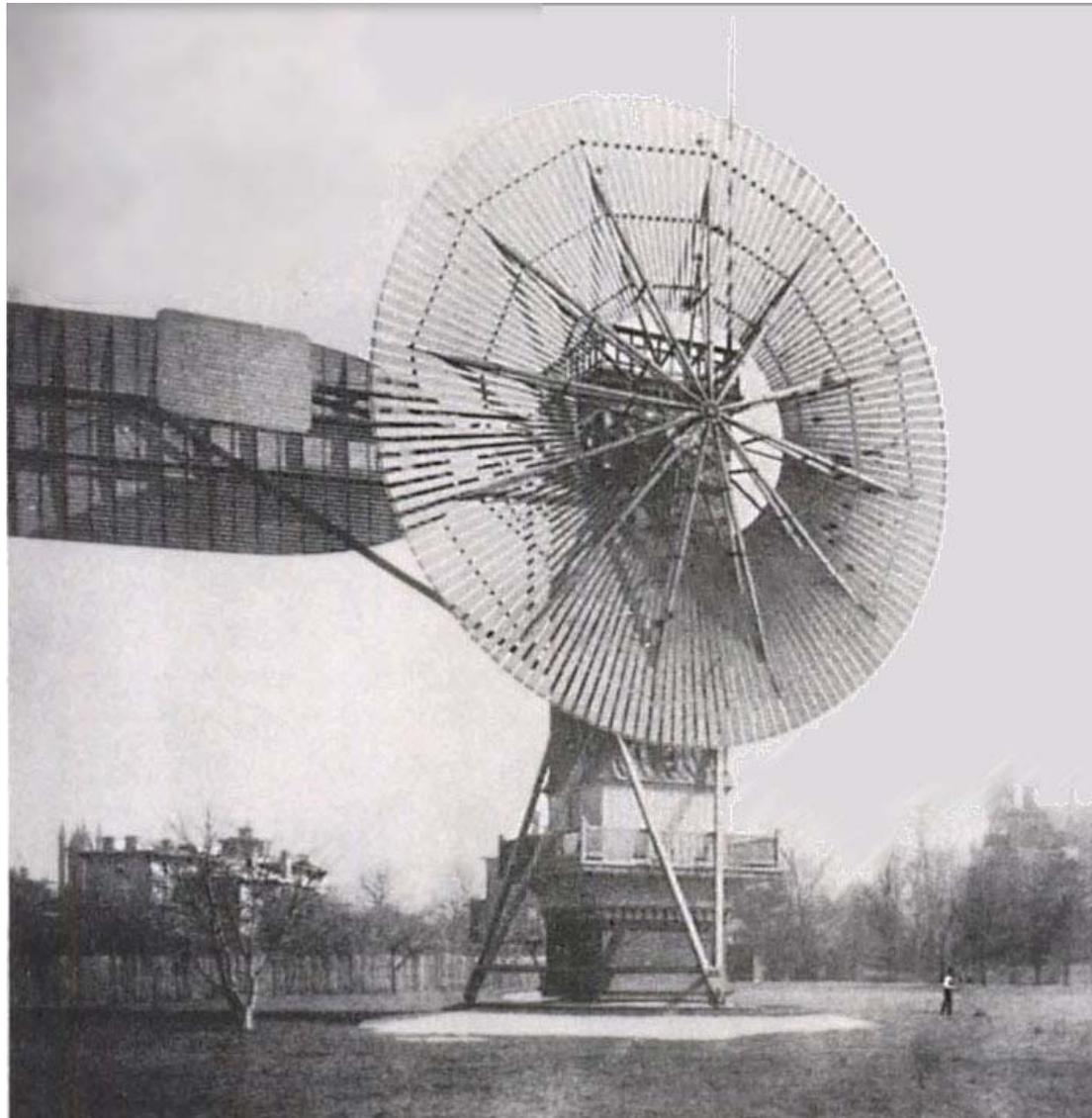
Shared community ownership

“We expect that by 2015 it will be the norm for communities to be offered the opportunity of some level of ownership of new, commercially developed onshore renewables projects”

Fritts solar array - 1884



Brush's wind turbine (1888)



Back to the future

Early public energy supply was by communities

... then it was nationalised

but that was seen as inefficient

... so it was all privatised

but that's proving irresponsible and exploitative

and community energy is again 'the way forward'

Community Energy now

- At least 600 community groups with strong interest in renewables
- 150 – 300 of these have delivered or are actively delivering projects
- Approx 66MW of community renewable electricity capacity installed, 200MW in development
- Over 40 shares offers, raising around £17m from approx 10,000 community member investors

What could CE look like in 2020?

- 3GW capacity (solar PV, onshore wind and hydro)
- 14% of total capacity of these technologies
- 1.4% of total electricity consumption
- 2,300 community energy organisations
- 500,000 members
- 10% of UK households having direct contact on a regular basis
- <£1.3b re-investment via community funds

Benefits of community energy

Benefits

- Democratising energy supply
- Giving local people a stake in local energy projects
- Reinvesting in local communities
- Moving from the Big 6 to the Big 6,000.....
- Increase take up of renewable energy, reduce carbon emissions and improve energy security
- Others...

Challenges and obstacles

- Finance – ‘at risk’ and capital
- Grid connection
- Planning
- Feed in Tariff degressions
- Timescales
- Direct supply of energy to community members
- Lack of data

From 'fracking village' to solar powerhouse



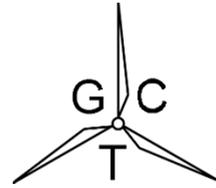
2013 Cuadrilla come to drill for oil in Balcombe. Cue protesters, riot police and a divided community.



2014 Villagers form an energy co-op called REPOWERBalcombe to power the village with solar.



2015 Balcombe's first community owned solar panels are installed on a local farm. backbalcombe.org



CarbonCo-op



Next steps for the sector

- Capacity building
- Immature investment sector
- Commercial and/or philanthropic?
- Professional and/or just voluntary?
- Small and/or large scale?
- One project or multiple?
- Income for energy efficiency?
- Data and evidence – social impact

CEE Mission

To help create the conditions within which the community energy sector can rapidly grow such that community energy projects become a normal part of the work of local communities and the organisations that support them.

Or.....

Moving Community Energy from
'Niche to Norm'

For more information

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*“Moving community energy
from niche to norm”*

