



Energy Learning Network
Rhwydwaith Addysg Ynni

Peer Mentoring

Get Support for Your Community Energy Project

Apply for free 1-to-1 mentoring through the Energy Learning Network

If you're looking for structured, practical support to move your community energy project forward, the Energy Learning Network (ELN) can match you with an experienced mentor who will act as a sounding board, listening ear and critical friend - helping you work through the issues that matter most. Whether you're just starting out and new to community energy or scaling up, this free programme is designed to boost your clarity, confidence and momentum.

Thanks to National Lottery players, Ashden and partners across the UK deliver a mentoring service that offers up to **three days of tailored support**, helping community groups maximise their impact while supporting newcomers to the sector.

Why mentoring?

Mentoring gives you objective insights, practical advice, confidence building support, and fresh external perspectives from people experienced in community energy. Mentors bring topic-based expertise - such as solar, retrofit, business models and technical issues - or process-based skills like leadership, partnership working and engagement. You choose the support you need.

Examples of past mentoring include:

- Exploring a new community energy generation project (e.g., solar, wind, hydro, heat)
- Establishing an appropriate governance structure for a group
- Developing a community engagement strategy to make planned initiatives more accessible to local communities
- Building knowledge of how to fund community energy, from grant proposals to community-share offers
- Supporting the development of new partnerships between organisations and local authorities, net-zero hubs and DNOs
- Providing guidance on how to approach the monitoring and evaluation of a community energy project's impact

What mentees say

The programme has a strong track record:

- **Over 80% rated their mentoring experience as “Excellent”**
- **91% felt more confident delivering projects.**
- **100% felt more confident about their next step.**
- **64% built new links** with councils, funders or CE groups, with many strengthening existing ones.

Participants say that mentors gave them *“sector knowledge that helped us progress far faster,” “copy-and-paste experience from someone ahead of us,”* and *“an invaluable voice to question our approach.”*

Who can apply?

Community organisations and groups exploring energy projects for the first time, or existing community energy organisations wanting to expand into new areas of work. You may be a volunteer, staff member or trustee wanting to lead on an energy project. Mentoring is almost always for one individual who takes the insights back to their organisations. Around **15 places** are available each year. If places are full, you can join a waiting list.

How it works

1. **Apply and outline your needs** - topic or process-based, individual or team.-based.
2. **We match you** with a suitable mentor, and you can accept or request alternatives.
3. **Sign the mentee handbook and meet your mentor** to agree pace, format and focus.
4. Receive **up to three days of flexible support** via video, phone, email or in person.
5. **Share feedback** to help improve the programme.

Common areas of support include governance, project development, fundraising, community engagement, technical challenges, work with councils/DNOs and impact communication. Every mentoring journey is tailored.

What mentoring is (and isn't)

Your mentor won't deliver technical or consultancy services - they'll help you explore options, share experience, provide examples and support decision-making so you can build capability and confidence.

Apply for free ELN mentoring

Apply by filling in this form: [Mentoring Application Form - Energy Learning Network – Fill in form](#)

Once you apply, we'll assess your needs, match you where possible, or keep you updated if you're placed on the waiting list. Please note the next application deadline on the form. Application rounds will open at least twice a year.