



The Big Energy Summit 2026

Local energy, local climate, local action



24 – 25 February 2026

Birmingham Conference and Events Centre, Hill Street,
Birmingham, B5 4EW

Programme day 1

Tuesday 24 February 2026

09:00	Registration
10:30	Introduction – Phil Brennan, Head of APSE Energy
10:40	Session One

The current local landscape – a DESNZ perspective

- Big picture - Outcomes from COP
- Looking ahead - developments in world of WHP, LPP and NWF

Patrick Allcorn, Head of Local Net Zero Demonstration and Delivery, DESNZ

Great British Energy – questions and answers

- What GBE is trying to do
- Local government and GBE working together
- Practical support for the sector

Helen Seagrave, Director of Local Energy, Great British Energy

An update on the Local Net Zero Hubs

Jack Hayhoe, Head of Net Zero Programmes, Midlands Net Zero Hub

Audience question and answer session

11:40 Break

12:00 Panel session:

Investing in local authorities

Panel chair: Justin Olosunde, Senior Finance & Investment Manager, West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and South West Net Zero Hub.

Panel speakers: Mark Whitworth, Sustainability and Climate Change Service Manager, Sheffield City Council and Dominic Brown, Net Zero Project Manager, York & North Yorkshire CA

12:50 Session Two: Interactive discussions: run concurrently and delegates can attend one session of their choice

Discussion One

Developing street lighting – meeting the challenge

- Reducing costs and carbon
- Addressing nature, biodiversity and safety
- Examples, evidence and innovation

Karl Rourke, Street Lighting Service Manager, East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Discussion Two

Residential solar PV

- Innovation in microgrids - a UK-first model
- Cost savings, fuel poverty alleviation and carbon reduction
- A scalable solution for others to follow

Jason Powell, Head of Operations - Hackney Light and Power, London Borough of Hackney

Discussion Three

Securing internal support for Net Zero

- How to get people on board
- Individuals driving culture
- Ensuring long term buy in

Chris Moon, Assistant Director - Environment, Sustainability & Culture, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

Discussion Four

Working with the wider community

- The practicalities of working collaboratively
- Focussed attention – SMEs, CVS, farms and care homes
- Seeing results and long term impact

Jos Holmes, Climate Change Strategy Manager, North Yorkshire Council

13:30 Lunch

14:30 Session Three

The importance of local leadership: experience from Dorset

- Making sure 'we're all in this together'
- Within and without the Council
- Keeping actions and targets in line

Steven Ford, Corporate Director SPS, People and Workforce, Dorset Council

'Modelling net zero interventions'

- Where's the value - costs, carbon reductions, financial savings, political?
- What's the process?
- Using the data

David Trousdale, Principal Advisor – Climate Change, Newcastle City Council

Financing Net Zero

- Where do the funds come from?
- Prioritising spend
- Getting the most from your money

Alexandra Snelling-Day, Local Net Zero Accelerator - Programme Lead, Greater South East Net Zero Hub

Audience question and answer session

15:55 Break

16:50 Session Four: Ask the expert: Sessions run concurrently. Delegates to attend one session of their choice

How to decarbonise blocks of flats

- Fabric, radiator size, ventilation & shared rooftop PV options
- Application of thermal modelling
- How initiatives impact the EPC rating
- District heating via an energy centre with heat pumps

Alan Barber and Nonso Obuekwe, APSE Energy associates

Why understanding the energy trilemma is more important than ever.

- Factors that could impact energy prices in 2026 and how best to navigate them.
- Ways to increase your security of supply.
- How sustainable choices drive long-term cost reductions.

Andrew Donald, Business Development Manager, Equity Energies

The challenge that is fleet decarbonisation

- What are the objectives?
- A solution to the problem
- No fleet, no services!

Dean Mahoney, Business Development Manager, Dynamon

Net Zero Go: everything you need to deliver non-domestic decarbonisation

- Knowledge library, tools, templates & e-learning - all in one place
- Data for your decarbonisation project
- Expert guidance and peer networks

Jim Lott, Knowledge Manager, Energy Systems Catapult

17:20 Close

19:00 Pre dinner drinks

19:30 The BIG APSE Energy Summit awards and dinner

The Summit dinner will include the APSE Energy awards supported by DESNZ. The winners and finalists for each category will be presented with their trophies and certificates.

Programme day 2

Wednesday 25 February 2026

09:00 Introduction, James Jefferson, APSE Energy

09:05 Session One: Case study 'shorts'

Energy advice for the hard to treat and the hard to reach

- Defining hard to treat and reach
- Getting the message over
- A whole organisation approach

Shaun Bennett, Director of Property, Derby Homes

De-Risking Solar Investments: Portfolio and Data-Driven Approaches

- Overview of solar investment landscape
- Introducing portfolio-based approaches
- Data-driven site filtering

Dani Jackson, Low Carbon Pathways Manager, NE&YNZH

Delivering Projects by Delivering Careers

- The importance of integrating careers guidance with project planning and delivery
- Best practice in careers guidance from the North East and Yorkshire
- Next steps for a green careers revolution

Harry Baross, Hull and East Yorkshire Project Manager, NE&YNZH

Sustainable Education Programme in Partnership with Walsall Council

- Building Greentown our educational package
- Exploring sustainability and reducing our environmental impact
- Delivering warmer homes and tackling fuel poverty in the community

Mark Ducker, Managing Director, High Aims

Expanding our charger network

- EVCP quicker roll out and at lower cost
- Getting the scale of the project right
- Find the right partner

Jayne Rodgers, Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Manager, Wrexham County Borough Council

Insights from place-based innovation: Case studies from Innovate UK's Net Zero Living programme

- Better, Warmer Homes - innovation in retrofit
- Communities Driving Change - engaging citizens in net zero
- Investing in Places - moving from planning to finance

Poppy Maltby, Associate Director, Regen

10:30 Break

10:50 Session Two, Panel Session

Heat networks - the reality in Cardiff

- Practice - identifying priorities for building and operating a heat network
- Making the case and estimating the outcomes
- Scott Harbour flats - linking an office building adapted for residential use

Gareth Harcombe, Head of the Climate Emergency Response and Managing Director of Cardiff Heat Network, Cardiff City Council

11:20 Session Three: Interactive Discussions: Interactive discussions run concurrently and delegates can attend the session of their choice

Discussion Five

Community Energy – seeing is believing

- Growing the community energy family
- Encouragement, inspiration and motivation
- Experience from the South West

Hayley Ash, Senior Project Manager, SWNZH

Discussion Six

An interactive session on how to engage and empower communities

- Sharing a framework for good engagement on climate change
- The costs of not engaging, and how to secure buy-in
- Practical approaches and tips on making it work

Stephanie Draper, Interim CEO and Director of Innovation and Practice, Involve

Discussion Seven

Benefitting from BMS

- What we did to improve our outcomes
- Managing asset and energy data
- Our results and how we move forward

Neil Grant, Senior Energy Officer, and David Thornton, Building Services Engineer, South Ayrshire Council

Discussion Eight

Decarbonising transport across a geographically diverse region

- Installing, adopting, upgrading, and maintaining chargers
- Where is the funding from?
- A long-term, commercially sustainable EV network

Neil Osborne, Climate Change & Energy Team Manager, The Highland Council

12:00 Break

12:15 Session Four: Ask the expert: Sessions run concurrently and delegates can attend one session of their choice

The New World of Heat Regulation

- Authorisation Conditions
- Zoning
- Bundled Heating

Steve Gummer, Partner and Maggie Burns, Associate at Sharpe Pritchard LLP

The Warm Homes Plan

- The pillars, the context, the highlights
- Putting the plan into practice
- Local authorities – internal capacity and external support

Duncan McCombie, CEO, YES Energy Solutions

Cremation Decarbonisation

- A burning issue for Local Authorities.
- Options
- Key Considerations

Andrew Glassford, Climate Policy Officer, Preston City Council, John Mullins, Estate Decarbonisation Lead, NWNZH

The Solar Roadmap: Opportunities for the Public Sector

- Unlocking the full potential of rooftop solar
- From overcoming early-stage barriers to delivering compliant, investable projects.
- Utilising real case studies & insights from LASER's new framework

Andy Tanner - Solar Service Lead & Andy Morgan - Associate Director of Carbon & Frameworks, LASER

12:50 Session Five

Heat Network Zoning: Unlocking the potential of low-carbon district heating

- How zoning will be implemented following the release of the consultation response
- Who's impacted? Tools for communities to enable a place-based approach
- The council role to enable heat network delivery and maximise benefits for local communities

Ella Sanders, Heat Network Engagement Lead - NWNZH & Thiru Annamalai, Principal Heat Network Zoning Officer - MNZH

Local Authorities and the Seventh Carbon Budget

- Where do local authorities fit into the delivery of the Seventh Carbon Budget?
- Emerging findings from the report
- Recommendations to government and local authorities

Dr Sandra Bogelein, Lead Analyst – People and Net Zero, Climate Change Committee and Louise Marix-Evans, Seventh carbon budget and local authorities report author.

Audience question and answer session

13:30 Closing comments

13:35 Lunch

Booking Information

About the Event

The BIG Energy Summit has grown to be an important event in the energy diary over the last few years. It is the only energy seminar focusing solely on the local government sector and is designed specifically for local authorities with content designed specifically for that audience. There will be a range of senior councillors and officers in attendance who will provide the chance for networking and sharing of experience and expertise.

This year's BIG Energy Summit is titled "Local energy, local climate, local action". Clearly, elements of the energy, climate change and sustainability agenda are dependent upon global and national policies and decisions but local action remains the basis of our focus. Announcements and decisions on onshore wind projects, planning changes and discussions on targets were made when the current administration came into power and each have local consequences. The recent Warm Homes Plan is another example. These are the kind of prompts that can bring renewed vigour to the work of local authority officers and councillors. As with all areas of local government, there will be some who are at the vanguard of change whilst most will be behind the leaders in their journey. This is where the benefits of networking emerge. Sharing and learning makes for efficient use of experience and expertise. Hearing how others tackled a problem you have helps to shape your thinking, makes you more informed and potentially avoids making a mistake. Sharing and learning is at the centre of what APSE does and the reasons for it are obvious. It is an ideal approach in the normal run of activity and even more so when the agenda is as wide and dynamic as ours is.

DESNZ are continuing to support the event and the awards.

This year DESNZ are continuing to support the event and are encouraging even more local authorities to attend.

For more information please visit www.apse.org.uk

The APSE Energy Awards have expanded to six categories this year and reflect excellence in the activities of the local authorities nominated.

Delegate Packages Exclusive of VAT

What's included?

The delegate fee covers attendance, documentation, hotel accommodation (24th February), meals and light refreshments.

APSE Energy Member Authorities Receive 2 Free Places

APSE Energy Member Authorities additional places	£285.00 + VAT
APSE Member (but not a member of APSE Energy)	£525.00 + VAT
Non-APSE member local authority	£630.00 + VAT
Commercial organisation	£735.00 + VAT

Accommodation rates

Accommodation for the evening of Tuesday 24 February is included as part of the delegate place.

Accommodation for the evening of Monday 23 February is charged at £125 + VAT

Click [here](#) to reserve your place on this event

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY: Anybody who books on to this event but do not attend nor give notice of not attending, will be charged a fee equivalent to the cost borne by APSE. Reservation is a contract. Substitution of delegates is acceptable any time in writing by post or email to mbutterworth@apse.org.uk. Cancellations must be made in writing at least 10 working days before the event, and will incur a 20% administration fee. No refunds can be given for cancellations received less than 10 working days before the event or for non-attendance. In the unlikely event of cancellation by the organisers, liability will be restricted to the refund of fees paid. The organisers reserve the right to make changes to the programme, speakers or venue should this become necessary.

