



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

# 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!

**Angus Webb, CEO, Dynamon**

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, North East & Yorkshire Net Zero Hub**

## 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 North East & Yorkshire Net Zero Hub**

## 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, South West Net Zero Hub**

## 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

## Cremation Decarbonisation

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

**A. Glassford, Climate Policy Officer, Preston City Council, John Mullins, Estate Decarbonisation Lead, North West Net Zero Hub**

## 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

## 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](http://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 (24<sup>th</sup> February), meals and light refreshments.*

### APSE Energy Member Authorities Receive 2 Free Places

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

### 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](mailto: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.

