

Community Energy Policy Principles (adopted by E&GI on 16th March 2023)

“Right Technology – Right Place – Benefitting Communities

- 1. Evidence the local community is supportive of the idea of a community energy project. (e.g., a neighbourhood energy plan or surveys with local communities)*
- 2. Aligns with the ambitions of the Cambridgeshire Local Area Energy Plan for Net Zero by 2045 (when it is produced)*
- 3. Land is identified, available and appropriate, to host a community energy scheme. This land could be in private or public ownership and there may be opportunities on parish owned land as well as Council owned land.*
- 4. Improvements to domestic energy efficiency should form part of any community energy project, wherever possible.*
- 5. Evidence of sufficient local renewable energy source(s) are available e.g., desktop assessments of National wind survey data; ground conditions for ground source heat pumps, etc.*
- 6. Understanding of key local risks and viability including local grid capacity, local planning policies, landscape, visual impact, environmental and heritage implications and any other barriers and constraints, with Council supported schemes taking a best practice approach to these.*
- 7. Community ownership models and joint venture opportunities scoped to maximise local economic benefits.*
- 8. Evidence of how a community energy project will deliver benefits to the most vulnerable and support a local Net Zero Just Transition, with a priority for schemes that deliver these benefits.*
- 9. Projects on Council assets to ensure full cost recovery and ability to generate income for the Council and the community.*
- 10. Future proofing projects for new technologies, housing growth and climate*