

Community Renewable Energy

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What Local Councils CAN do

Inform
yourself!



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Understand Climate Change

We all need to be taking action to cut our carbon footprint & help reach Cumbria's goal of being a net zero carbon county!
Understanding the Science is a first step.

Engage with organisations who offer support, information, resources, tools & training in relation to climate change, to increase understanding & knowledge, to support your council to take climate action.

Be aware of available funding opportunities that are relevant to climate action, including community renewable energy activities.

Be aware of Town and Parish Council's Powers and Duties in relation to renewable energy & energy conservation.



Existing powers of local councils

in relation to renewable energy
& energy conservation.

S20 of the Climate Change & Sustainable Energy Act 2006- community energy- Local Councils can encourage or promote the local production and use of renewable energy, and also energy conservation.

Consider adopting the General Power of Competence (GPC). Gives councils the power to do anything an individual can do provided it is not prohibited by other legislation..

An eligible council-

Has resolved to adopt the GPC, with at least two thirds of its members being declared elected.

The Clerk must hold an appropriate qualification- CILCA.

Restrictions currently on the ability to 'sell' the energy directly to local consumers.

Section 137 of LG Act 1972 annual spending limit is a severe constraint on making capital investments in energy schemes.

Declare a Climate Emergency

TAKE ACTION



Declare a Climate Emergency

In a formal council meeting-

Put forward a climate emergency motion &
Declare a climate emergency.

Set up a Climate Action Group-

To act on your declaration &
Provide regular updates to the parish/town
council.

Set out target dates &

State your climate actions.

Consider impact & support

TAKE ACTION

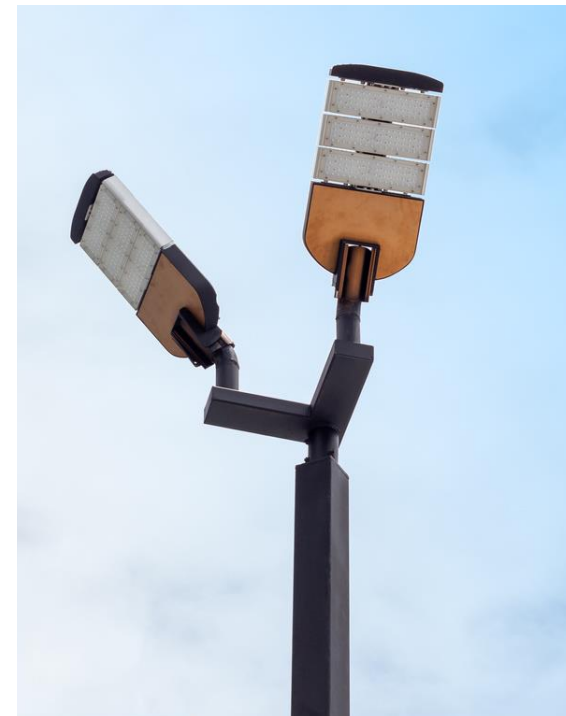


Reduce the use of energy in your spaces



Indoor Space

Energy efficiency improvements can be made to council owned buildings including those related to heating, lighting and equipment.



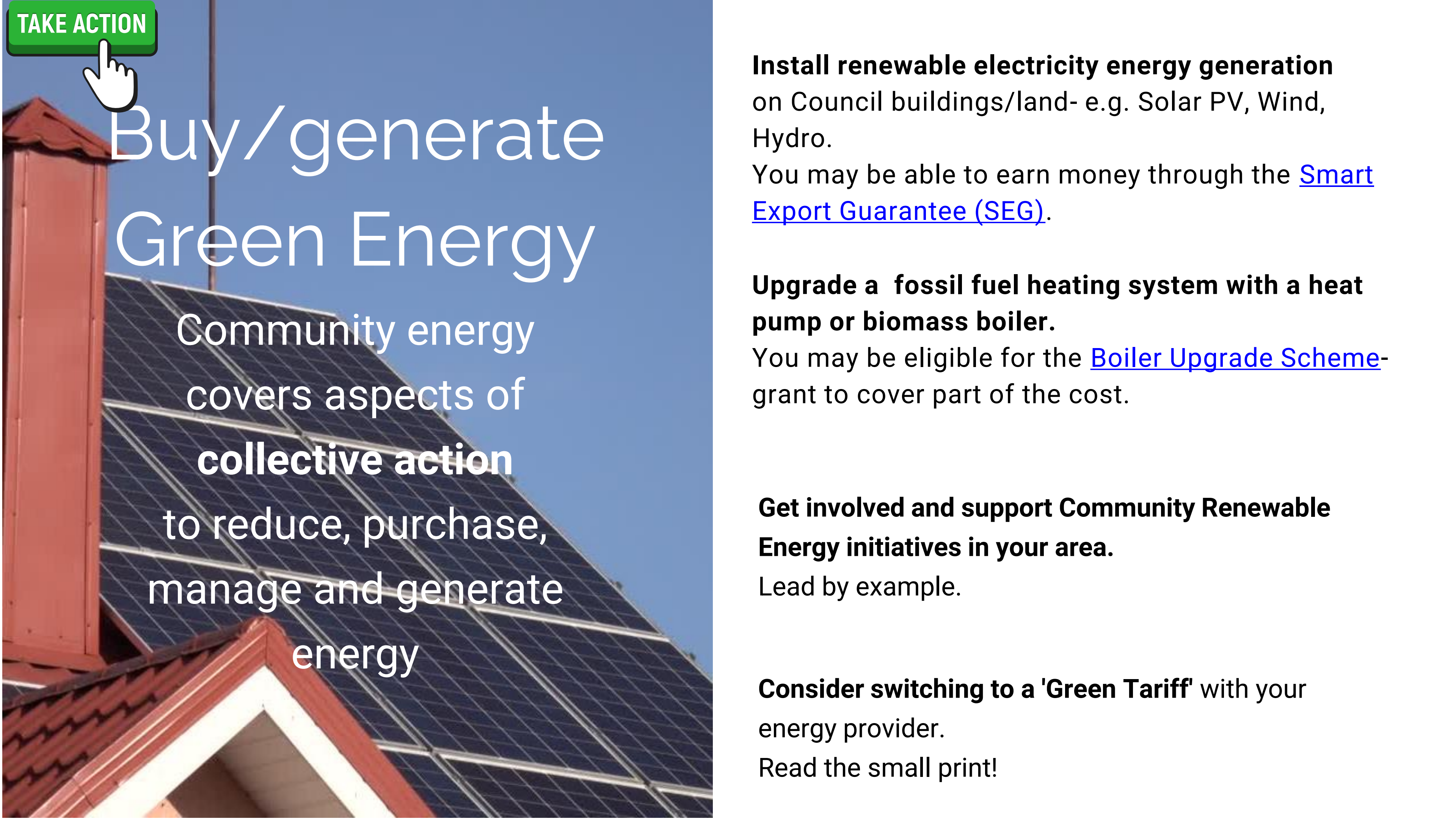
Outside Space

Outside facilities/spaces should be lit with well-directed LED lighting.

EV charging points should be available in Council owned parking areas.

Offer low cost or free car-parking to electric vehicles

Get an Energy Audit!



TAKE ACTION



Buy/generate Green Energy

Community energy
covers aspects of
collective action
to reduce, purchase,
manage and generate
energy

Install renewable electricity energy generation
on Council buildings/land- e.g. Solar PV, Wind,
Hydro.

You may be able to earn money through the [Smart Export Guarantee \(SEG\)](#).

Upgrade a fossil fuel heating system with a heat pump or biomass boiler.

You may be eligible for the [Boiler Upgrade Scheme](#)-grant to cover part of the cost.

Get involved and support Community Renewable Energy initiatives in your area.

Lead by example.

Consider switching to a 'Green Tariff' with your energy provider.

Read the small print!



TAKE ACTION



Include Community Energy in your Neighbourhood Plan

Neighbourhood plans are an opportunity for communities to plan for community led renewable energy developments.

Local planning authority should set out clearly any strategic policies that will need to be considered when developing proposals that address renewable energy development, & share relevant evidence that may assist those producing a neighbourhood plan or Order.

Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders can be used to grant planning permission for renewable energy development.

Communities can also look at developing a **community energy plan** to underpin the neighbourhood plan.



TAKE ACTION



Engage with & support your Communities

**Get involved, encourage & support
Community Energy projects & initiatives in
your area.**

**Support your communities to take individual &
collective climate action** by sharing relevant
information and resources.

Find out what matters to your communities
to ensure that local climate actions will be
supported.

**Use your local knowledge
and connections**