

# Energy Neighbours

On a page

**TSL Kirklees** leads on the project, employs staff and manages finances

**Residents** contribute time, ideas, skills, experience, insight, contacts and make energy efficiency changes at home.

**COMET**  
A network of 'community organisations making energy transitions', working together to reduce energy use, carbon and costs

**Annual Conference and Report**  
Celebrate progress and share learning wider than Kirklees

**Data collection** to track participation, reach and enable reporting, good communication and coordination

**Project team**  
Manager, Coordinator, Data & Comms Lead and 4 x Community Energy Development Workers

**Listen and Connect**  
Staff engage residents through conversations, local organisations, events, activities, online communication and surveys to understand local priorities, assets, relationships, hopes and concerns.

**HIG (How's it Going) Forum**  
Brings staff, volunteers and community organisation voices together to reflect on data, feedback, learning and to share insights and help shape project plans

**Future Energy**  
Conversations, events and plans about energy transition work in Kirklees communities

**Independent Evaluators** support HIG Forum & learning

**Energy Neighbour Volunteers**  
Volunteers, with training and support, help at events, encourage more people to take energy action, gather information, signpost to services and groups.

**Volunteers & Groups**  
Encourage people to cooperate and support each other in taking energy efficiency action at home.

**Climate Commission** brings independent expertise and networks to the HIG Forum

**Learning and training partners** providing training and online resources.

**Energy experts**  
Contracted in from business or non-profits to share real world knowledge, experience and skills with communities

## More details and background

**Where did this project come from?** The idea for a project to work with communities and community organisations on energy came out of Community Buildings Network meetings and the Survey in 2023. Rising costs were making life hard for community buildings and for vulnerable low-income residents. While there has been some funding and support for organisations and for residents, this is usually a competitive grants scheme or an individual service. TSL Kirklees developed Energy Neighbours to take a collective approach, building capacity, knowledge and expertise in the third sector.

**Why is TSL Kirklees leading?** TSL Kirklees led the conversation about energy as part of the Community Buildings Network development. TSL Kirklees recognises the importance of all sectors taking action on climate change. A key feature of this project – different to many community energy projects – is to help communities to take climate action while developing the local third sector. This includes supporting community groups, training volunteers, developing a network of community organisations – all core TSL Kirklees activities.

**How big is the project?** Funding of over £900k over three years will employ 7 (mostly part-time) staff. There will be funds for community activities, community learning, training, evaluation and for energy expertise. It aims to connect with 4000 people, assess energy use in 400 homes, develop a network of community organisations with 100 members and train and support 40 volunteer Energy Champions.

**Who will benefit?** Residents in some of the areas of Kirklees with the lowest income and the organisations that work with them. Development work on the project in early 2024 identified four priority areas: parts of Batley and Heckmondwike, South Dewsbury from Overthorpe to Ravensthorpe, East Huddersfield from Deighton to Newsome and West Huddersfield from Fartown to Thornton Lodge. These are areas with high levels of fuel poverty and together include the diversity of Kirklees population. The project will focus most worker time and funding in these areas but will also support and make links with others. Any community organisation working on energy issues (even if this is not their main focus) will be able to link with the project. There will be an annual conference, open to all, to share learning and raise the profile of our work. The aim is that our communities are stronger and more able to address energy issues in future.

**Who else is involved?** Kirklees Climate Commission are partners in the project and will help to evidence the project's impact on climate change. The Commission will also use its expertise and wide networks to share learning from the project widely. Evaluating and sharing learning is a key feature of the project. Independent Evaluation and Learning providers will be contracted. An organisation will also be contracted to provide expertise in energy efficiency and renewable energy. TSL will be seeking office space for Energy Neighbours workers and will advertise project worker vacancies locally. This is a large project creating opportunities to build on local partnerships across all sectors.

**Who is the funder?** The National Lottery Climate Action Fund

**Will the project give out grants?** No.

**How do I find out more?** Email [comms@tslkirklees.org.uk](mailto:comms@tslkirklees.org.uk)