

Inviting participation in the Future Energy Landscapes (FEL) project

Briefing Note No. 26 - 01

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Summary

Wiltshire Council is inviting participation in the Future Energy Landscapes (FEL) project.

The Future Energy Landscapes project explores how Wiltshire can meet future energy needs in a sustainable, locally appropriate, and community-led way; enabling communities to help shape the way energy is produced and used in their area.

Anyone across the county can take part via online surveys and engagement events, even if they're not in a pilot area.

Please help by promoting the project to your constituents, encouraging participation, and attending workshops where possible.

Background

The way energy is generated is changing, with renewable energy often being decentralised, which can both impact and involve local communities. Wiltshire Council's Climate Strategy is supportive of renewable energy generation as part of efficient and environmentally sensitive use of land, and the council is particularly interested in supporting local energy generation that is led and owned by the community. One of the ways the council is doing this is through a project called 'Future Energy Landscapes'. This is not just about meeting net zero targets, it's about creating a future that communities support and benefit from, through an open and accessible process for everyone.

Future Energy Landscapes (FEL), is an engagement process developed by the Centre for Sustainable Energy and fully funded by Ofgem's Redress Fund, which enables communities to start conversations and shape practical solutions for renewable energy and energy efficiency in their local areas. This supports Wiltshire's climate change ambition.

Wiltshire Council is working with the Centre for Sustainable Energy and community energy partners in six pilot areas to develop community-led energy strategies. FEL uses an innovative engagement process to build awareness and social acceptance for renewables, ensuring solutions are practical, inclusive, and reflect local priorities while delivering real benefits. This can also be used to shape neighbourhood plan policies.

The Redress Fund reinvests money from energy companies into projects that could benefit consumers and the environment, helping communities explore energy use and renewable generation. FEL gives communities the information, time, and support to develop their own local energy vision.

The project started working with the first pilot community areas in summer 2024 and will continue with new pilot areas throughout 2026.

Why It matters

Energy generation and use are central to Wiltshire's climate goals and the national drive to increase renewable energy. Rising energy costs mean many households struggle to heat their homes, making affordable, clean energy more important than ever. While public support for renewables is generally high, it often declines when projects are proposed locally, highlighting the need for better engagement. FEL addresses this challenge by working directly with communities to shape solutions that reflect local priorities and landscapes, tackling both climate change and fuel poverty. Councillors play a vital role in connecting residents and stakeholders to this process and ensuring their voices are heard.

Pilot areas

The selection of six pilot areas is based on professional and technical analysis of criteria such as renewable energy potential, grid capacity, as well as the presence and interest of local environmental groups and local councils.

People living or working in these areas can join a workshop to understand more about renewables and start developing a community-led plan or potential project ideas:

- Corsham
- Pewsey and Manningford
- Staverton, Hilperton, Semington and Great Hinton (TBC)
- Tisbury
- Westbury
- Winsley, Holt and Bradford on Avon

However, anyone in Wiltshire can take part in the project via the online survey and engagement events. This is not limited to the residents within the pilot areas, as the impacts and benefits of renewable energy generation do not necessarily align with parish boundaries.

The first workshop took place in Corsham on 3 July 2025 at Corsham Town Hall, followed by Bradford on Avon, Winsley, South Wraxall and Holt on 12 November 2025, and Pewsey and Manningford area on 20 November 2025.

Community partnerships

We are working with Bath and West Community Energy, Nadder Community Energy, and Zero North Wiltshire Community Energy to support community-led renewable projects.

These initiatives help communities to explore renewable energy projects that are community-led and owned; while bringing lasting benefits - from lower bills to reinvestment in local facilities - and are a key part of the [Wiltshire Council's Climate Delivery Plan \(2025\)](#).

Community energy role

Community energy involves local, community-led generation of renewable energy, increasing the availability of green power while reducing pollution and carbon emissions. In the community energy model, the scheme is paid for through a community share offer which provides the opportunity for local residents to buy into the scheme, with a likely return on investment of up to 6%. Once shareholders have received their investment any profits from these projects stay within the community and supports local initiatives and tackling fuel poverty. The Community Energy England [website](#) explains more about community energy, and has a [map](#) showing successful examples.

The government has set a national ambition for 8GW of community energy generation by 2030, contributing to clean power targets and complementing commercial schemes. Building local awareness and involvement in renewable generation is essential to achieving climate goals and delivering social and economic benefits for communities.

What the Future Energy Landscape approach offers

The workshops create space for open, honest dialogue about local energy needs and opportunities. They help build public awareness about renewables, provide opportunity for people to share their opinions and ideas and support residents to consider local energy generation, led and owned by the community.

The workshops, followed by a report, survey and much wider community engagement, aim to provide the community with enough information to decide whether they want to progress with developing a renewable energy generation scheme of their own. In some of the pilot areas there is additional funding to support the community with technical reviews and to decide on one project location to take forward for a full feasibility study through the Great British Energy Community Fund (GBECF).

How councillors can help

- **Promote engagement**
Please share our upcoming press releases and social media content through your networks, newsletters, and social channels. We have a press release and social posts scheduled for January which you can share.
- **Encourage attendance**
Invite residents, businesses, and community groups to attend the workshops and contribute their views.
- **Participate in workshops**
Your presence will demonstrate leadership and help ensure local voices are heard.

- **Provide feedback**

Share any insights from your communities that could inform the project. Share ideas of how best to engage the community in your area, e.g. existing groups, events or communication channels that could be used.

Find out more

- [Wiltshire Council – Renewable Energy](#)
- [Project Announcement press release](#), published June 2025
- [Future Energy Landscapes \(FEL\)](#) – Centre for Sustainable Energy

For any questions, please contact climate@wiltshire.gov.uk

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