

# West Suffolk Community Energy Plan

	Energy use & energy efficiency	Recognition & Accreditation	Renewable energy
Households			
Communities			
Businesses			
West Suffolk			

# CONTEXT

## 1. Introduction

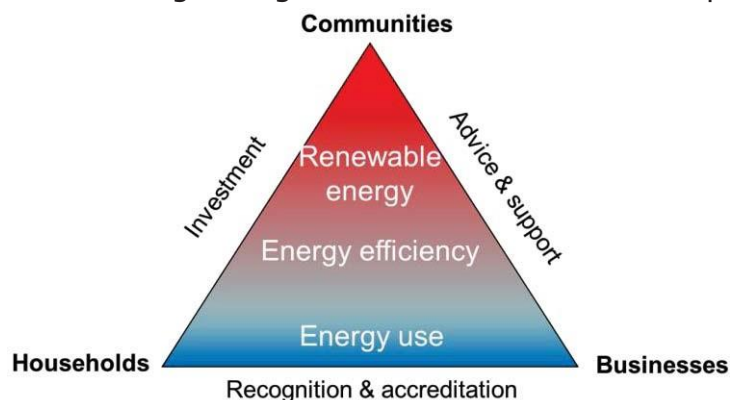
We recognise the value of working with the wider community in West Suffolk, including the commercial and voluntary sectors as well as locally significant organisations if we all are to make genuine progress on reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and becoming a more climate resilient place. Our collaborative approach should also help us find resources to deliver appropriate solutions to meet the challenges.

In December 2014, the Council approved the implementation of the West Suffolk Community Energy Plan. Through our holistic approach to energy use, from energy reduction to generating your own energy, we aim for all in West Suffolk to be able to make sustainable energy choices, reduce the impact of energy cost volatility and move from fossil fuels.

## 2. Our approach

Our approach to Community Energy comprises:

- Support to residents to insulate their homes and improve energy efficiency
- Support to vulnerable residents during the winter to keep warm and well
- Resource efficiency advice and support to businesses and communities
- Capital financing to improve energy efficiency and develop renewable energy in West Suffolk – through local investment to deliver savings and generate real value to the taxpayer.



## 3. Delivering our Community Energy Plan

We already deliver some of our Plan through our participation in the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership. Additionally, we will continue to take forward other opportunities as and when appropriate, whether working on our own or together with partners in the public, private or voluntary sector.

## Delivery Matrix (Who to contact in brackets)

	<b>Energy use and energy efficiency</b>	<b>Renewable energy</b>	<b>Recognition &amp; Accreditation</b>
<b>Households</b>	<p>Signposting and general advice (West Suffolk/Suffolk Climate and Energy Helpline)</p> <p>Advice on how to manage energy in the home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▮ Fuel debt advice to vulnerable households (Warm Homes Healthy People)</li> <li>▮ Energy efficiency advice to all households (Suffolk Energy Action/West Suffolk)</li> </ul> <p>Support for home energy improvement depending on eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▮ Home insulation through vetted installers (Suffolk Energy Action/West Suffolk)</li> <li>▮ New central heating systems (Suffolk Energy Action/West Suffolk)</li> <li>▮ Home improvement grants to bring properties up to the Decent Homes standard (West Suffolk)</li> <li>▮ Home loans for energy efficiency measures (Suffolk Climate and Energy Helpline)</li> <li>▮ Emergency fuel payment (Warm Homes Healthy People)</li> <li>▮ Access to temporary heating in emergencies (Warm Homes Healthy People)</li> </ul>	<p>Signposting and general advice (West Suffolk/Suffolk Climate and Energy Helpline)</p> <p>Specific advice on renewable technology options and financing (West Suffolk/Suffolk Climate and Energy Helpline)</p>	<p>Signposting and general advice (West Suffolk/ Suffolk Climate and Energy Helpline)</p> <p>Recognition through the annual Suffolk - Creating the Greenest County Awards (West Suffolk/Suffolk Climate and Energy Helpline)</p>
<b>Communities</b>	<p>Signposting and general advice (West Suffolk/Suffolk Climate and Energy Helpline)</p>	<p>Signposting and general advice (West Suffolk/Suffolk Climate and Energy Helpline)</p>	<p>Signposting and general advice (West Suffolk/ Suffolk Climate and Energy Helpline)</p>

	<p>Energy efficiency advice (Suffolk Community Energy Advisor/West Suffolk)</p> <p>Advice on accessing grant aid and other financing (Suffolk Community Energy Advisor/West Suffolk)</p> <p>Grant aid for energy efficiency improvements depending on eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Suffolk Greener Business Grants for energy efficiency improvements (West Suffolk)</li> <li>• Community Grant aid (West Suffolk)</li> </ul>	<p>Specific renewable energy advice and grants to assist developing community renewable energy schemes (Suffolk Community Energy Advisor/West Suffolk)</p> <p>Financing renewable energy depending on eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solar for Business rent-a-roof scheme delivering discounted "green" electricity to community buildings (West Suffolk)</li> <li>• Renewable Heat for Business scheme delivering discounted "green" heat to community buildings (West Suffolk)</li> </ul>	<p>Recognition through the annual Suffolk - Creating the Greenest County Awards (West Suffolk/Suffolk Climate and Energy Helpline)</p>
<b>Businesses</b>	<p>Signposting and general advice (West Suffolk/ Suffolk Climate and Energy Helpline)</p> <p>Energy assessments/onsite and telephone advice depending on eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For businesses (BEE Anglia/West Suffolk)</li> <li>• Travel/transport efficiency (Local Links)</li> </ul> <p>Grant aid and other financing depending on eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Suffolk Greener Business Grants for business energy efficiency improvement (West Suffolk)</li> <li>• Business Energy efficiency grants (BEE Anglia)</li> </ul>	<p>Signposting and general advice (West Suffolk/ Suffolk Climate and Energy Helpline)</p> <p>Specific renewable energy advice (West Suffolk/Suffolk Climate and Energy Helpline)</p> <p>Financing renewable energy depending on eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solar for Business delivering discounted "green" electricity to the host business (West Suffolk)</li> <li>• Renewable Heat for Business scheme delivering discounted "green" heat to community buildings (West Suffolk)</li> </ul>	<p>Recognition through the annual Suffolk - Creating the Greenest County Awards (West Suffolk/Suffolk Climate and Energy Helpline)</p> <p>Accreditation to the Suffolk Carbon Charter (West Suffolk/Suffolk Climate and Energy Helpline)</p>

<p><b>West Suffolk "putting our own house in order"</b></p>	<p>Energy efficiency improvement programme comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy management and monitoring</li> <li>• Investment in energy reduction</li> <li>• Advice and support to services.</li> </ul> <p>(West Suffolk)</p>	<p>Investment to generate savings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solar power on public buildings and leisure centres to generate electricity for on-site use</li> <li>• Solar power on commercial property selling the electricity at a discount to tenants</li> <li>• Heat pumps in new key modern public buildings</li> <li>• Development of Council-owned large scale solar</li> </ul> <p>(West Suffolk)</p> <p>Assessing future opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electricity tariffs</li> </ul> <p>(West Suffolk)</p>	<p>Suffolk Carbon Charter Pathfinder supporting businesses in West Suffolk with fewer than 250 employees to accredit to the Charter</p> <p>(West Suffolk/Suffolk Climate and Energy Helpline)</p>
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## **Advice and support for energy efficiency and renewable energy**

Much of the key information is available via the Green Suffolk website, [www.greensuffolk.org](http://www.greensuffolk.org) and the Suffolk Community Advice Service offered via the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership.

Contact the Suffolk Climate and Energy Helpline on 0800 02 88 938.

As an alternative, you can contact our West Suffolk Environment Team on 01284 757400.

### **Homes**

#### **General advice available directly from the Council or via its agents/partners**

Our Environment Team can provide home energy and renewable energy advice to a range of domestic and non-domestic audiences.

In addition, we are able to refer specific enquiries to the Suffolk Community Advisor Service provided by the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership. The Service provides support to Suffolk communities on a range of issues, from advice to village hall committees on energy saving measures and renewable energy options to technical support to access funding.

Call 0800 02 88 938 or visit [www.greensuffolk.org](http://www.greensuffolk.org)

#### **Home energy advice to vulnerable households**

Delivered by the Council and our partners, Suffolk's Warm Homes Health People offers the most vulnerable householder, subject to eligibility, the following services over the winter:

- Home energy surveys- providing advice and insulation referrals
- Temporary loan of oil filled radiators
- Emergency boiler and heating repairs
- Interest-free fuel loans – administered by the Ipswich and Suffolk Credit Union
- Onward referral to wider health and support agencies through Homeshield
- Emergency fuel payments – funded jointly by Suffolk Community Foundation Surviving Winter Appeal.

Call **03456 037 686** or visit [www.suffolk.gov.uk/warmhomes](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/warmhomes)

#### **Warm Homes Discount**

If you are a pensioner or are classed as a vulnerable customer, you may be entitled to extra help with your gas and electricity bills during the winter months, including the Warm Home Discount Scheme. This gives a rebate to pensioners on low incomes and some other customers on low incomes.

If you are a pensioner eligible for the Warm Home Discount, the Department for Work and Pensions will try to make sure you get this discount automatically. If you are missed out, you can ask for the discount directly from your supplier.

If you are on a low income, you will need to contact your energy supplier for details of whether you are eligible. If you believe you are eligible, you will then need to apply directly to your supplier.

The Warm Home Discount Scheme is run by energy companies, who are required by law to offer this rebate. The discount won't affect your Cold Weather Payment or Winter Fuel Payment.

Visit [www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme](http://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme) or contact 0845 603 9439.

### **Home energy tariffs**

It is always worthwhile comparing your energy tariff with what is available from other suppliers to ensure you are getting the best deal. This can be done by contacting the energy companies directly although comparison websites can save time.

Visit [www.greensuffolk.org/at-home/energy/](http://www.greensuffolk.org/at-home/energy/) or call 0800 02 88 938.

### **Collective oil buying**

Households using oil to heat their homes can choose to buy together. The social enterprise, Suffolk ACRE Community Buying Ltd, runs a bulk oil buying service to which community oil buying groups and households alike can register.

Visit [www.communitybuying.org.uk/](http://www.communitybuying.org.uk/) or contact 01473 345400.

Alternatively, it is worth finding out if your community runs an oil buying syndicate.

### **Installing home energy measures**

Households and private landlords can undertake this work themselves or use installers. However, you are strongly advised to check that the installer is suitably qualified and that the work they have undertaken has appropriate warranties and quality guarantees. Reputable installers operate to certain standards laid down by various independent standards organisations such as Cavity Insulation Guarantee Agency (CIGA) for cavity wall insulation and the British Board of Agrément (BBA) for building insulation generally. Individual installers may also be members of trade associations such as the National Insulation Association (NIA). It is also advisable to obtain several written quotes to help you compare prices and quality of the work.

The Council supports the county-wide programme of home energy efficiency, Suffolk Energy Action. Households may be eligible to have some money-saving energy efficiency measures installed at a reduced cost or in some cases free of charge.

Visit [www.suffolkenergyaction.org](http://www.suffolkenergyaction.org) or contact 0800 02 88 938.

### **Feed-In Tariffs for renewable energy**

Feed-In tariffs were introduced by the Government Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to incentivise small-scale low carbon electricity generation. This means that pay back times on new micro generation technologies can be made much shorter.

The reduced Feed-In tariffs, applying from January 2016 mean that the rate of return on investment is in the region of 4-5% (tax free and guaranteed for 20 years).

Visit [www.greensuffolk.org/sgbn/need-more-advice/generate-your-own-energy/](http://www.greensuffolk.org/sgbn/need-more-advice/generate-your-own-energy/) or contact 0800 02 88 938.



## **Communities**

### **Community building energy advice**

The Suffolk Community Energy Advice Service provides free advice and support for qualifying 'not for profit' organisations'. It could cover, for example, assessing building energy efficiency, assessing technology suitability or highlighting potential funding streams.

Visit [www.greensuffolk.org/green-communities/](http://www.greensuffolk.org/green-communities/) or call 0800 02 88 938.

### **Structuring your community group for energy investment projects**

There are various ways that communities can choose to structure themselves in order to manage energy projects.

Visit [www.greensuffolk.org/green-communities/](http://www.greensuffolk.org/green-communities/) or call 0800 02 88 938.

### **Financing community energy projects**

Apart from self- financing or visiting the high street banks, there are a range of financing routes available with some of the more common options set out below.

Please note that using state grant aid will prevent certain renewable schemes being eligible for either the Feed-In Tariff or Renewable Heat Incentive.

Visit [www.greensuffolk.org/community/](http://www.greensuffolk.org/community/) or call 0800 02 88 938.

### **Feed-In Tariffs**

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Visit [www.greensuffolk.org/green-communities/grants-and-funding-opportunities/](http://www.greensuffolk.org/green-communities/grants-and-funding-opportunities/) or call 0800 02 88 938.

### **Renewable Heat Incentive**

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is a Government environmental programme that provides financial incentives to increase the uptake of renewable heat. For the non- domestic sector, broadly speaking it provides a subsidy to eligible, non- domestic renewable heat generators. By providing a long- term financial incentive, the objective of the RHI is to significantly increase the proportion of heat generated from renewable sources.

Visit [www.greensuffolk.org/green-communities/grants-and-funding-opportunities/](http://www.greensuffolk.org/green-communities/grants-and-funding-opportunities/)

[opportunities/](#) or call 0800 02 88 938.

### **Company to community energy grants**

Several of the big energy providers may operate grant funds for community energy projects. Examples have included:

- UK Power Networks Power of Giving Scheme  
[www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/internet/en/community/](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/internet/en/community/)
- The Naturesave Trust  
[www.naturesave.co.uk/the-naturesave-trust/](http://www.naturesave.co.uk/the-naturesave-trust/)

### **Landfill Communities Fund**

The purpose of this tax is to make it more expensive to put waste into landfill, in turn encouraging us to reduce our waste and recycle more.

A small proportion of this tax can be used to support a wide range of environmental projects near landfill sites, through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF).

Visit <https://www.entrust.org.uk/landfill-community-fund/> or call 01926 488 300.

### **Rural Community Energy Fund**

This fund provides grants up to £20,000 to help parishes and communities conduct feasibility studies into what renewable energy sources are suitable for their area. It can also provide loans to help to these projects gain planning permission and get to a point where they can raise investment.

Visit [www.wrap.org.uk/content/rural-community-energy-fund](http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/rural-community-energy-fund).

### **Green Suffolk Fund**

This Fund is to assist charities, community interest companies, parish councils, voluntary groups and other not for profit organisations who wish to deliver community based carbon reduction projects that are exemplary and forward thinking in line with the ambition to "Create the Greenest County". Organisations can apply for a grant of up to 50% of a project's cost to the maximum of £5,000.

Visit <http://www.greensuffolk.org/green-communities/grants-and-funding-opportunities/greensuffolkfund/> or call 0800 02 88 938.

### **West Suffolk Greener Business Grant**

The Greener Business Grant has been set-up by West Suffolk Strategic Partnership (WSP) to help local businesses and organisations reduce their energy use and save money. Eligible organisations based in West Suffolk can apply for up to £1000 to fund capital works designed to improve business environmental performance.

The grant will fund a wide variety of measures including:

- Insulating buildings
- Replacing heating controls and lighting
- Installing more energy-efficient alternatives to existing equipment.

Contact [environment@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:environment@westsuffolk.gov.uk) or call 01284 757400.

### **West Suffolk Renewable Energy Feasibility Pot**

Community groups planning to install energy-generating technologies eligible for the Feed-in Tariff or Renewable Heat Incentive will be able to apply if they need help to pay for some of the preparatory costs.

The pot will pay for things like:

- Structural surveys for solar PV installations
- Legal fees for setting up leases
- Costs for setting up an Industrial Provident Society
- Running a share rights offer.

Funding will be provided as a grant only repayable when the project starts to generate income.

Contact [environment@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:environment@westsuffolk.gov.uk) or call 01284 757400.

### **Other Funding Search Tools**

There is no 100% complete & reliable listing for environmental funding, so if you have a specific idea for a project it's worth checking a number of places.

In addition to what is listed above, more can be found at:

Business Finance & Support Finder is a government website listing available grants and support

[www.gov.uk/business-finance-support-finder](http://www.gov.uk/business-finance-support-finder)

## **Businesses**

Business Energy Efficiency (BEE) Anglia will provide a single point of contact, for business energy efficiency advice and support.

Businesses can access:

- On-site energy audits, carried out by accredited advisors;
- Grant support to enable them to take actions forward;
- Support for businesses to embed energy efficiency principles throughout their supply chains and identify opportunities to co-invest with their suppliers.

Visit [www.greensuffolk.org/at-work/beea-online-registration/](http://www.greensuffolk.org/at-work/beea-online-registration/)

### **West Suffolk Greener Business Grant**

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Contact [environment@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:environment@westsuffolk.gov.uk) or call 01284 757400.

Our West Suffolk services for business include:

- Solar for Business
- Renewable Heat for Business
- Energy efficiency financing

Contact [environment@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:environment@westsuffolk.gov.uk) or call 01284 757400.