

# Community Heat Development Unit Project Newsletter

Welcome to the first newsletter for Shareenergy's Community Heat Development Unit (CHDU) project and thank you for signing up. We're aiming to use these newsletters to keep you updated with the progress of the project so please keep reading!



As this is the first newsletter from Shareenergy's CHDU team we'd like to remind you of what we are trying to achieve. The CHDU project is aiming to produce a replicable technical and business model that can be used by potential and existing community energy groups wanting to develop heat networks for community ownership.

The project is taking a data-driven approach, using GIS, EPC, demographic and other data to identify localities where community owned heat networks stand the greatest chance of success in the UK while evidencing this with case studies.

Shareenergy's partners for the project are [Community Energy England](#), to help us connect with community groups, and the [Marches Energy Agency](#), to support and advice on insulation retrofit and building fabric assessment.

[Project Homepage](#)



## CDHU Launch Event

Community Energy professionals from across the UK met on 12th October for the launch of Sharenergy's innovative CHDU project. Thank you to those who attended!

Presentations from Sharenergy CEO, Jon Hallé, and Development Manager, Dave Green, outlined the project context with descriptions of existing and in-development community owned heat networks, including the Bishop's Castle Community Heat Network project.

The event also provided the opportunity to have valuable discussions with attendees covering community engagement, building fabric upgrades, as well as insights into some of the barriers faced when developing a community heat network.

[Read More](#)



## NG Net Zero Communities Forum - South Wales

Fran and Ben attended the [National Grid Net Zero Communities Forum](#) in Carmarthen this month. Fran presented the CHDU and Bishop's Castle heat network projects to the room of community energy groups and professionals.

It was great to hear more about community energy project

successes in South Wales and meet with colleagues across the industry. There were some insightful discussions about community heat network business models, funding opportunities and previous projects and we're looking forward to the publication of National Grid's new Communities Heat Guide soon! National Grid's attendance helped improve our awareness of their published datasets and how these could be applied to the CHDU project. Our ears pricked up at the interesting suggestion of combining heat network installations with National Grid ground works to share capital expenditure.

## As Seen On TV

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall spoke at a public meeting held at Bishop's Castle earlier in the year as part of the Community Heat Network project, alongside Sharenergy's Dave Green and Lightfoot's Mike Watkins. See the [project page](#) on the Sharenergy website, or Sharenergy's [facebook page](#) for more info.



[Watch Here](#)



## Welcome to the Team

Sharenergy is pleased to welcome Ben Cannell to the development team this month. Ben has a background in engineering holding an MEng in Civil Engineering from the University of Bristol and has spent the last 11 years working within the energy sector analysing nuclear reactor components and developing software to design offshore wind turbines. Following a period of cycle touring in 2023 he is excited to join Sharenergy and the CHDU project.

## Community Heat Network Forum

We'd like to create a space where your ideas and experiences of community heat networks can be discussed so please keep your eye out for the launch of Sharenergy's community heat network forum in a future newsletter.



### **Sharenergy**

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