

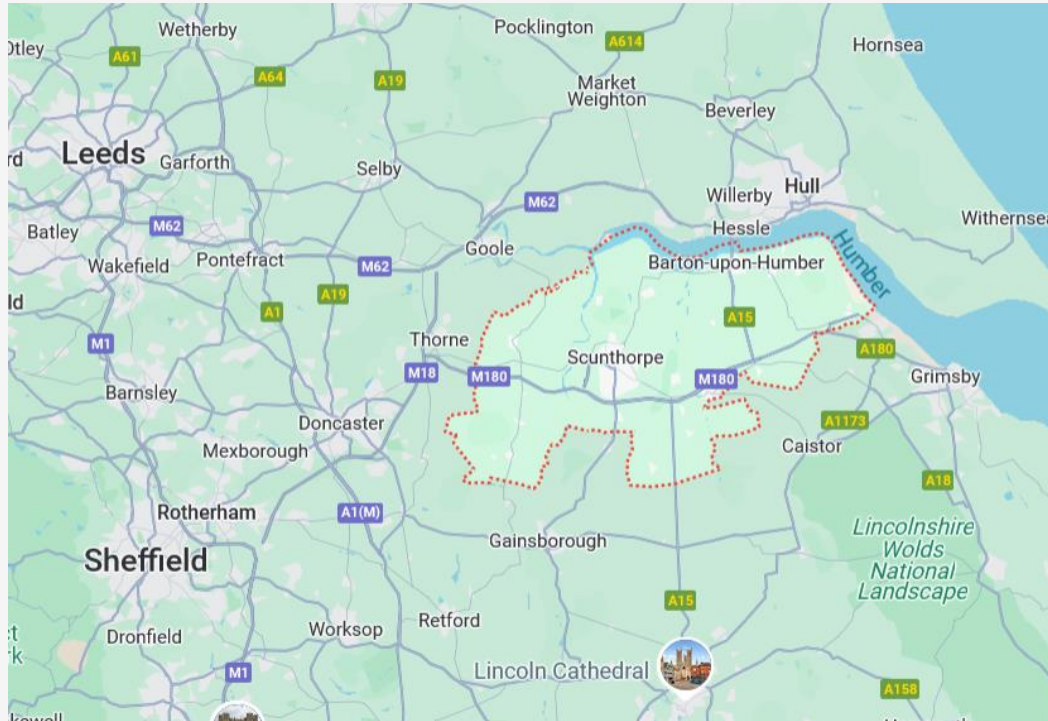


North Lincolnshire Community Energy – in partnership with Energy4All and North Lincolnshire Council

Mike Smyth, Energy4All

Community Energy England Conference,
July 2025

North Lincolnshire Council



- Small Unitary authority, Conservative, based around Scunthorpe
- Difficult area for green groups
- Under stress
- Intensely industrial in Scunthorpe and along parts of Trent and Humber; also very rural
- Council net zero policy – despite the steel works



Benefits of a community energy/local authority partnership



- Plenty of freeholds and electricity consumption
- Creditworthy
- Contacts and introductions
- Same mission – just transition to net zero; support community
- Trust and mutual support
- External skills and funds
- Focus on delivery and not swamped by rules and processes
- In partnership we deliver more renewable energy, more quickly, and more cheaply than either can do alone



The Towns Fund – Local Power Plan could be similar

- Clean growth, catalyst for more external funds, creative
- How we used it:
 - Fill the roof with solar, not scaled for internal use
 - Attractive PPA (under 11p/kWh)
 - Higher than normal returns to NLCE (8%+) to build it



Achievements since launch – January 2023



- 22 sites delivered; 1,850 kWp
- 1,500 MWh per year
- £200,000 energy savings to schools in 2024
- £1.35 million raised from 2 community share offers (£100,000 from Council)
- About 20 educational presentations given; one experiment running
- Pipeline: 2 sites committed (one very large – the council depot) to use balance of Towns Fund grant of £1.3 million
- Speculative Pipeline: 31 schools, 4 leisure centres, 4 churches, community centres



Support from Council

- 2 able officers providing considerable support; senior officer buy in
- Support on site finding and site delivery
- Support from most other departments
- Financial investment in shares
- Determination to overcome all the obstacles of local authority bureaucracy
- Political support, including senior councillor on NLCE board
- Standard documents (licence, lease, grant claim) and processes agreed
- Towns Fund Board – supportive, and use it or lose it
- Good news stories
- Delivery – far more quickly – it works
- Not perfect though!



Support from Energy4All

- Experience and resources to support and develop NLCE
- Provision of community engagement officer (part time); project developer; communications, accounts, admin etc – supporting volunteer board and giving Council confidence
- Share offer support
- O&M support
- Comprehensive support to board and society: accounts, billing, export PPAs, REGOs, monitoring, education etc; manageable board role
- Feasibility and contracts support
- Enables delivery – far more quickly – it works



The Baths Hall





Come to the Open Session for more information

Energy4All

Energy4All are experts in developing community-owned renewable energy projects. We currently support a network of more than 30 renewable energy societies across the UK.

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