



GM
#CLEANSPARATION
SHOWCASING CLEAN ENERGY LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION
IN GREATER MANCHESTER

COALESCCE: Supporting community energy

What is it?

A five-year, pan-European research project, led by Oldham Council. When completed in 2021 it will help local authorities to encourage and nurture community energy schemes. The small size of community projects and the fact they're usually run by volunteers means they often need the support of public bodies to help them get off the ground. They can also struggle to access skills and finance. The project is mapping and testing new ways that councils can support community energy initiatives to overcome these barriers.

What are its clean credentials?

Community-led renewable energy projects ensure that profits from selling clean electricity stay local, and help to make communities more resilient to fluctuating energy prices.

More than 80 community energy projects across England already generate 30 megawatts (MW) of renewable electricity, with at least a further 14.3MW planned.¹ While this is dwarfed by utility-scale schemes, community power has played a more significant role in other countries. In Germany, it was estimated in 2012 that around half of the installed clean energy generation was community-owned.² If we can create the right conditions in the UK, the same might be possible here.

About this series

The GM Cleanspiration series is produced for the GMCA by the Greater Manchester Big Clean Switch campaign, which helps residents save money by switching to clean electricity. To find out more, or to compare clean energy prices for your home, visit www.bigcleanswitch.org/gm.

What makes it special?

A leading role for Greater Manchester

Funded by the European Regional Development Fund,³ the COALESCCE⁴ programme brings together partners from as far apart as Spain and Romania and is led by a team from Oldham Council with a track record in clean energy innovation.

Ideas in action

The first stage of the project will identify opportunities for local government to better support community energy schemes. Once complete, these ideas will be tested in action, with Greater Manchester again playing a leading role.

How can I find out more?

Visit: www.interregeurope.eu/COALESCCE

Email: andrew.hunt@oldham.gov.uk

1. Community Energy England, *Community Energy: State of the Sector*, 2017
2. British Academy, *Cultures of Community Energy*, 2016
3. See www.interregeurope.eu
4. COALESCCE stands for 'Community owned and led energy for security, climate change and employment'.



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