Investigating Cultures of Community Energy

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Our energy ambition (the ‘trilemma’): 
As much energy as people need... 
...with reliable supply... 
...at an affordable price 
(while meeting carbon targets)

Embedded assumptions
• more energy = more progress
• predict and provide
• expert producers, passive consumers
• solutions are technical
• energy dilemmas can be solved through energy policy
Cultures of Community Energy: Report for the British Academy

- rapid evidence review – broad definition of ‘community energy’

- 11 case studies: 3 ‘leaders’ - Denmark / Germany; 4 UK; 4 ‘wild cards’

- 3 dimensions of culture:
  - national institutional and political cultures
  - cultures of social enterprise
  - local cultures

- conclusions, including implications for policy & regulation
What community energy offers

- Energy as a public good
- Motivations are economic, social, environmental
- Fit to new technological approaches
- Local energy economies
- Carbon literacy?
What community energy needs

• Stable policy framework (not sticking plasters)
• Coherent story
• Not degree but type of liberalisation
• Recognition of social enterprise models & finance
• Beyond consumers
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>more energy = more progress</th>
<th>energy as a public good</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>predict and provide</td>
<td>demand management</td>
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<td>expert producers, passive</td>
<td>production, consumption, non-</td>
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<tr>
<td>consumers</td>
<td>consumption, non-</td>
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<tr>
<td>solutions are technical</td>
<td>consumption, all mixed</td>
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<td>energy dilemmas can be</td>
<td>solutions may be social and cultural</td>
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<td>solved through energy</td>
<td>Business support (incl social enterprise), financial regulation, planning, devolution, local authority strategy, public service provision, etc....</td>
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<td>policy</td>
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