

TE Conversations 3 and 6 **Energy**
Summary and actions for picking priorities

16 November: Local Energy

22 March: Solar Power and Storage

These responses range from general but vague statements of something that needs to be done to very specific suggestions for named projects. At both events some of the responses were actions on Transport and on the Circular Economy (Waste); as there were events on these issues these responses are not included here

- Local and national government seen to be essential to setting ambitious targets and expectations. The resulting efforts do not seem to be easy to co-ordinate – the need for joined up planning and action is a recurring theme. There is a need for tight regulations and planners must be required to ensure that developers comply.
- Planners (CEC and Holyrood) should insist on renewables; Garden District must have district heating and solar PV, as in outline plan, builders should have to provide this
- Public policy
 - Involve planning eg in looking for opportunities to recover heat from sewage
 - Laws to ensure renewable are part of new developments eg. Shawfield and Garden District
 - More ambitious standards for buildings and obligation on developers
- Council to stipulate sustainable aspects of new builds.
- Pushing for council policy reintegration of solar and storage in new builds.
- Change procurement requirements.
- Expand on the legislation aspects (the practical).
- Accelerate transition to a low carbon environment
- Create real communities
 - Local energy concerns communities as well as businesses like Scottish Water or the Forestry Commission. Creating communities with the capability to take advantage of opportunities for generation or saving energy is a challenge. (Comment: no mention of Community Empowerment Act, but while top down legislation may be necessary little will happen without bottom up aspiration and capacity.)
 - Helping communities gain access to potential projects.
 - Community energy projects collaboration / investment in partner communities

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- When is idea of 'community' valid ?
- Making strategies join up
- Joined up thinking involving communities and businesses
 - Persuade businesses to be good, eg Craigdon using rain water ? for toilets

- How can major developers with green intentions specify responsibilities of builders of houses on the land to ensure ideas from design are incorporated

- Technical improvements eg storage especially seasonal
- Consideration of heat led to wanting more district heating schemes. A need was expressed for more research into ways of storing electricity to meet seasonal variation in demand.
- The use of anaerobic digestion to generate electricity and produce heat led to some discussion of waste treatment. Incineration was seen as a strategy of last resort.
- Heat recovery systems
- Supply and demand issues
- Insulation improvements
- Wave power could have many benefits
- Thorium reactors- less dangerous waste

- More solar coops
- Could solar coop be extended to commercial roofs eg supermarkets ?
- Shared roofs and how to install PV on them
- Create a working list of actions related to solar energy for the city of Edinburgh

- Behaviour change to promote the more efficient use of electricity (and heat) was another recurring theme. Nothing was recorded as an example of how to bring about such behaviour change on an inclusive large scale.
- Support for promotion of behaviour change – domestic and in public places eg shops
- Problems with both retrofitting (cost/inconvenient) and attitudes (someone else will do it)
- Learn what we can do with what we have

- Leaflets to inform general public on the rise in solar power on roofs, electric cars in Edinburgh and energy storage units. With webs/ emails to go to etc
- Better advertising, more students, local authority engagement