

LAEP steering group launch

In April, we brought together stakeholders involved in the development of the Vale of Glamorgan's Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP), alongside a number of new partners who will play an important role in supporting delivery. The event provided an opportunity to reconnect organisations, strengthen existing partnerships and welcome new stakeholders into the LAEP network.

It also provided an opportunity for me to introduce myself as the newly appointed LAEP Officer, responsible for coordinating and driving forward the delivery of the LAEP and its associated actions across the Vale.

As part of the session, stakeholders took part in a range of interactive activities designed to explore local opportunities, challenges and priorities. Participants shared their perspectives on what communities, businesses and organisations across the Vale need from the future energy system, helping to shape future LAEP activity.

One particularly valuable exercise involved mapping stakeholder locations and energy-related assets across the Vale. This enabled participants to identify areas where there is demand for additional energy capacity, alongside locations where organisations may have surplus generation, infrastructure or opportunities to support others. The exercise highlighted potential opportunities for future collaboration, local energy sharing and more coordinated energy planning across the county.

Following a successful launch event attended by 31 representatives from 18 stakeholder organisations, the LAEP Steering Group has identified a series of priority actions that will help drive the transition from planning to delivery. Discussions focused on strengthening collaboration, overcoming delivery challenges and identifying opportunities to accelerate local energy projects across the Vale of Glamorgan.

Key outputs from the session included commitments to progress the LAEP energy mapping exercise, explore opportunities for collaborative projects and funding, strengthen cross-sector knowledge sharing, and investigate strategic sites such as Aberthaw for innovation, skills development and clean energy initiatives. Stakeholders also highlighted the importance of improving coordination around grid capacity, funding routes and solutions for off-grid and hard-to-treat properties.

The Steering Group voiced a number of priority themes, including supporting green skills and education, delivering affordable and clean energy, improving access to energy and decarbonisation information, and promoting sustainable transport and modal shift. Participants also identified opportunities to further explore renewable energy development

on brownfield sites, community energy schemes, shared energy infrastructure and rural energy solutions.

Looking ahead, the LAEP team will work with partners to develop stronger collaboration opportunities and integrate workshop findings into future delivery programmes. The Steering Group will meet quarterly to review progress, share project case studies and showcase innovation, ensuring continued collaboration between public sector organisations, industry, communities and network operators.

The outputs from the launch will directly inform the next phase of LAEP delivery, helping to coordinate projects, align funding opportunities and accelerate progress towards a more affordable, resilient and low-carbon energy system for the Vale of Glamorgan.

Link to outputs [LAEP steering group next steps.docx](#)