

Coventry City Council and E.ON strategic partnership



CASE STUDY

In 2023, Coventry City Council and E.ON announced the launch of a pioneering 15-year strategic energy partnership. Together, they want to revolutionise energy use in Coventry for the benefit of local communities and the wider economy.

The partnership exemplifies socially impactful public-private partnership around the local energy transition.

It focuses on four themes and related outcomes:

- Clean local energy: Increasing the city's energy supply from local low-carbon sources, including community generation, to reduce the exposure of residents and businesses to global market pressures, establish Coventry as a sustainable, energy-resilient and investable future city for business and development, and decarbonise heat
- Jobs and skills: creating economic inclusion benefits, as well as financial and environmental effectiveness, through the application of equality, diversity and inclusion principles, as well as academic and research programmes to develop local green skills and apprenticeships and establish a strong local supply chain
- Innovation and scale: The partnership views Coventry as a 'living laboratory' through which innovative solutions can be tested
- Community benefits: Generating social benefits including warmer, more energy-efficient homes and reduced fuel poverty across the city by connecting with the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities and offering them targeted support and energy advice

The partnership aims to deliver these themes through programmes including Solar in Schools, building decarbonisation, electric vehicle charging, renewable energy, energy security, community benefit, residential battery installations combined with smart time-of-use tariffs, and energy efficiency.

In the innovation space, E.ON Next is looking to make a difference to residents in Coventry, with a package of support for some of its most vulnerable customers to make their homes more energy-efficient and cheaper to run. This helps to sustainably lower customers' bills and their risk of debt.

Through the groundbreaking scheme, E.ON Next will bring together direct financial support to ease debts in the short term. They also provide free energy efficiency measures and sustainable solutions such as solar panels and batteries, plus a brand-new time-of-use tariff to help customers sustainably lower their energy use and bills for the long term.

Support and measures include:

- Direct financial assistance including writing off energy debt and replacing energy-inefficient white goods, such as fridges and washing machines, through the E.ON Next Energy Fund
- Home insulation and sustainable energy solutions, such as solar panels and heat pumps, to reduce energy bills for years to come
- A free battery which can be charged using cheaper electricity at off-peak times and stored for use at peak times when power is more expensive, and a time-of-use tariff which makes the most of this technology by offering customers the best value depending on when they use electricity

The aim of the package in Coventry is to tackle the root cause of many people's high energy bills today – namely, high energy use due to our nation's poorly insulated homes – providing them with a more comfortable, sustainable and affordable home for the future.