**Writing to your local newspaper – Community Energy**

The Co-operative Party have a short guide for officers and members on how to write to local newspapers about the work of the Co-operative Party.

This can be a great opportunity to boost the profile of Co-operative Party campaigns and highlight the work of local co-operatives.

[Tips for writing a great letter to your local paper](https://party.coop/briefing/tips-for-writing-a-great-letter-to-your-local-paper/)

**Ideas of what you could include when talking about community energy**

**Open strong**

It’s important to grab the editor and readers attention from the beginning. Making your main point here is important. In regards to community energy, this could be a stat about how many people are living in fuel poverty locally, the fact that there are no community energy schemes in your area at present or the benefits of community energy.

**Highlighting local good practice examples**

Use the Co-operative Party’s ‘[Local Power Locator’](https://party.coop/locator) tool to find community energy schemes in your area. This can allow you to engage with initiatives already established locally and find out more about the work they are doing.

(At present we only hold the data for English postcodes, but we hope to expand this to the rest of the UK soon. If you are in other parts of the UK, the UK Co-operatives directory allows you to see what is going in your area. <https://www.uk.coop/directory> simply select your region and co-op type)

If currently there aren’t any community energy schemes in your area – you can use examples from other parts of the UK, potentially nearby, where they have been successful.

**Include why it’s important to you**

At the Co-operative Party we believe that community energy schemes present an invaluable opportunity to empower communities whilst tackling the cost of living crisis as well as the climate crisis that we face. Making access to cleaner, greener more affordable energy that is local.

So tell your story, why does this matter to you and your local area?

**Highlight how others can get involved**

A great way to end a letter or article is with a call to action, something for the readers to do.

With the community energy campaign you could encourage readers to sign the Co-operative Party’s petition calling on ‘[Local Power for Local People’](https://party.coop/campaign/community-energy), ask them to write to their local MP highlighting the need to support the expansion of community energy schemes (they can do this easily through the Co-operative Party’s ‘[Local Power Locator’](https://party.coop/locator) tool which generates a personalised letter to be sent to their local MP), write to their local councillor to ask what they are doing to promote community energy or advise how they could get involved in local projects.