

## **SPRU Training Course: Innovation Policy in a Changing Global Context**

**18–22 June 2018**

### **Day 3: Grassroots innovation and community energy**

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This session introduces the concept of community energy, i.e. civil-society led action on energy. The way we produce and consume energy is changing rapidly. Reduced cost of renewable energy and direct civil-society involvement have meant an increase in community-led energy projects. While many of these projects focus on generating renewable energy in a cooperative format, they also work to create a more just and fair energy provision by for example combating fuel poverty.

Community groups have for example run initiatives such as 'Energy Cafés' - typically staffed by volunteers who provide advice about energy bills and energy efficiency measures. This session reflects on theoretical approaches from grassroots innovations and energy justice. It looks at what community energy may look like in different country contexts, highlighting key learning. Finally, a small group exercise will provide an opportunity to design your own community energy project, identifying potential benefits and challenges linked to such projects.

