Whose community is it anyway?

Community energy & community(-led?) development in Scotland

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Background

Scotland – energy policy
- 100% of electricity from renewable energy by 2020
- 500MW of community & locally-owned energy by 2020

Community energy:
- An *energy* question or a *community* question?
Community development in policy & practice

- Governance & the changing role of the state
- ‘Community’ enrolled in a range of government policies
- Underlying normative assumptions of what a community should be
- But, spaces created for community can be contested
Current work: a community energy typology

- “To see all community efforts as the same is problematic.”
- Typology makes the components of the concept under study more explicit
- ‘Community energy’ as sociotechnical configuration
- Scottish community energy sector is a pluralist sector
  - But, dominated by organisations for whom energy generation is a means to a (socio-economic) end
Conclusion

- Community energy sector in Scotland primarily made up of ‘Community Developers’
- These groups also enrolled in other policies
- However, does not imply groups themselves have no agency.
  - ‘Conditional participation’
- Next step: how is the space for participation accepted/contested by different groups?
Bibliography


