

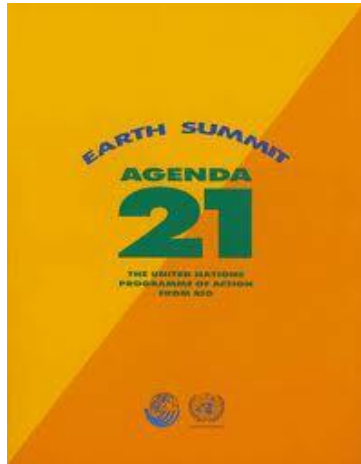
Seeding community energy action
through **Local Energy Assessment Fund**.

LEAF: What did we learn?

AGENDA

1. The rise of UK community action on carbon reduction
2. Describing LEAF
3. Features of Other UK community programmes
4. Learning and thoughts
5. Conclusions

The rise of UK community action on carbon reduction.



1990's



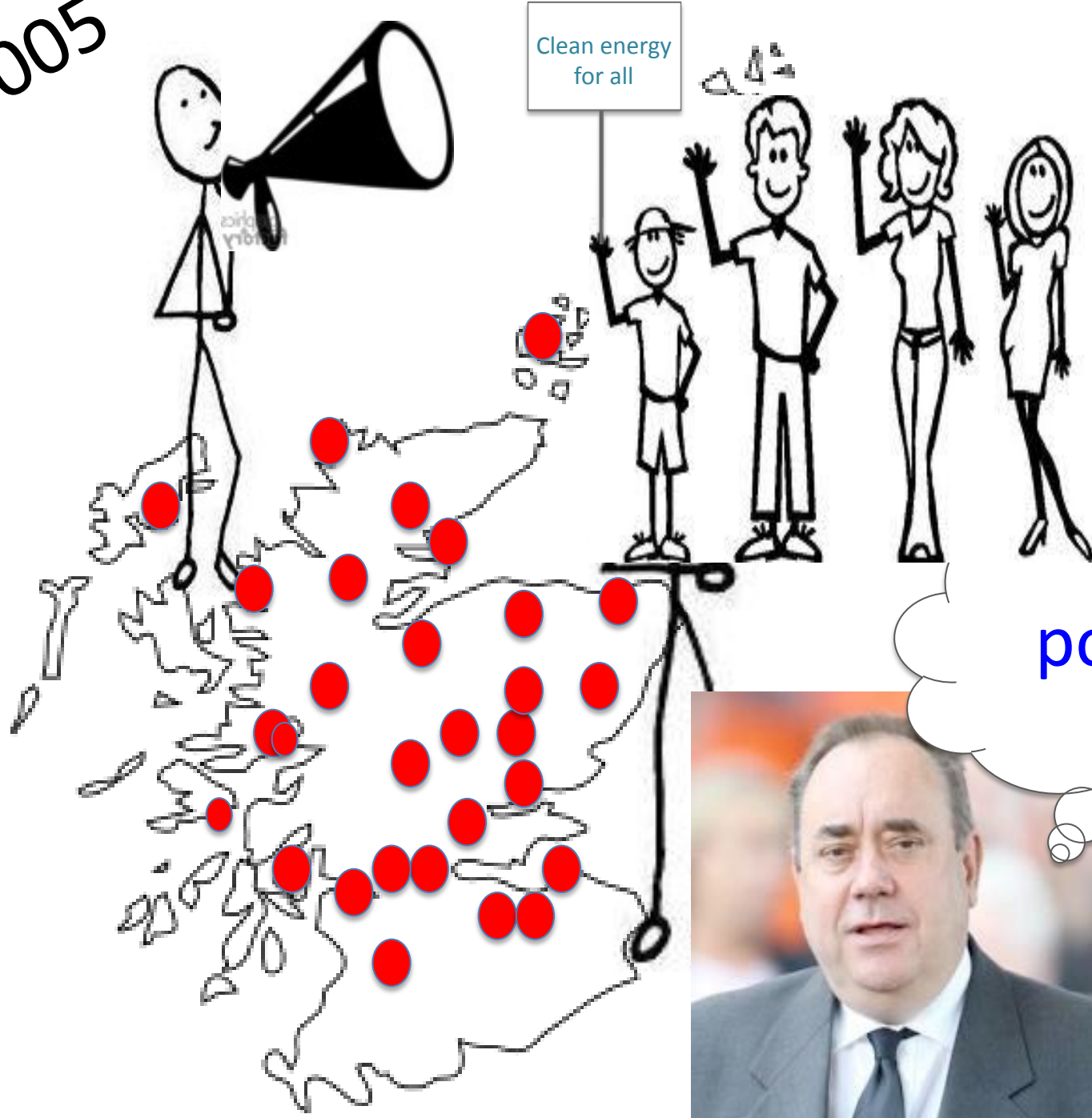
2005 / 2006





~~economic
crisis~~

2005

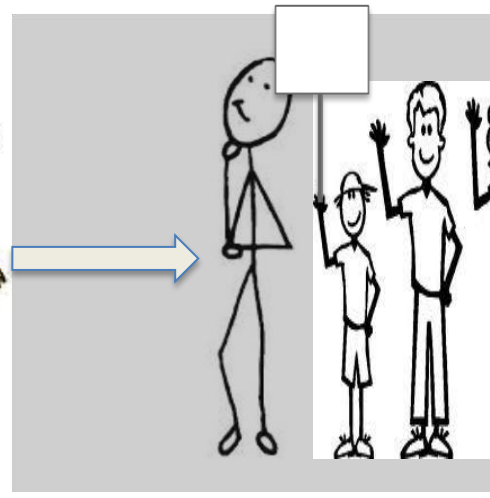
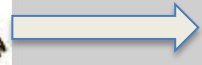


Clean energy
for all

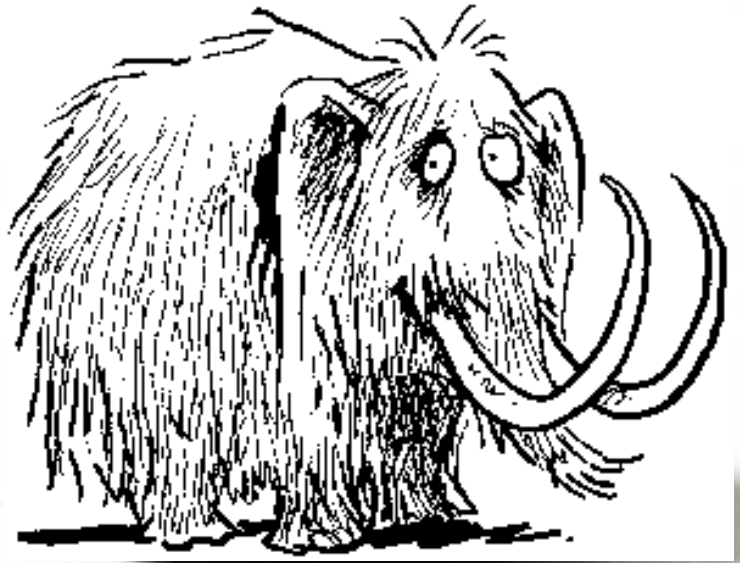
**BIG
political
win**



2008



MY TO DO LIST: Awareness raising, attitudinal change,
Money handed over = Job Done???
infrastructural & cultural support = voluntary
householder and community level carbon reduction.....





(typical activist)

Where does LEAF sit in all this?

Strategic **AIM** response?

“to support communities in working to understand and reduce the amount of energy that is used in homes and other buildings and where local action could help to deliver savings in energy, carbon dioxide emissions and money”

Key eligibility criteria

“projects should be community-led in decision-making & credible; should lead to long-term community benefits”

Local Energy Assessment Fund

Seeding community energy action

Local Energy Assessment Fund

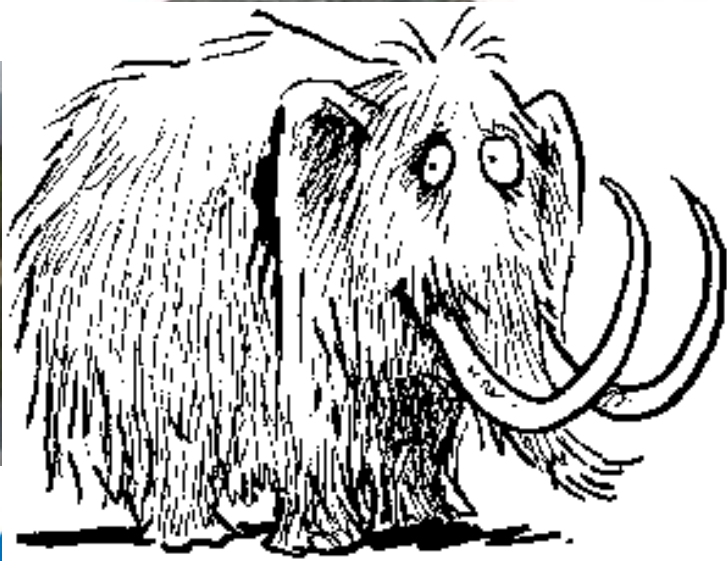
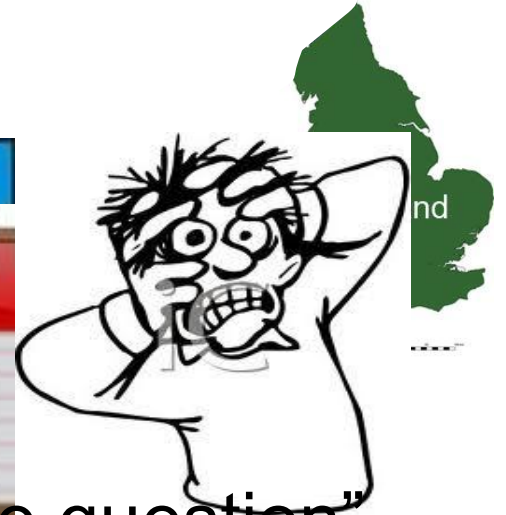
Seeding community energy action



3 1/2 months

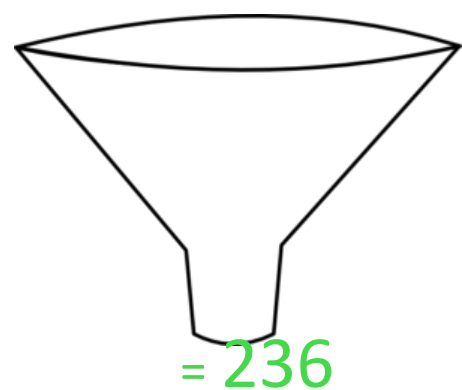
DATE OF
PROJECT
COMPLETION

... "to be or not to be? That is the question"





x 600



Local Energy Assessment Fund

Seeding community energy action

What kinds of projects?



- **housing stock & energy demand surveys**
- **kit demonstration buildings & open homes**
- **Community energy champion training**
- **Public engagement events**



- **Area-wide renewable scoping studies**
- **Specific renewable technology feasibility studies**
- **Public consultation events**
- **Developing community capacity**; e.g. establishing community energy enterprises

Local Energy Assessment Fund

Seeding community energy action

What kinds of groups applied?

- Parish Councils
- Community Interest Companies (CIC)
- Community Co-operatives and Community Benefit Societies (Industrial and Provident Societies)
- Voluntary Associations
- Development Trusts
- Faith Groups
- Registered Social Landlords
- Communities of Interest such as sports clubs
- Charities
- Local authorities (where they could justify that they were fulfilling a crucial role in support of a community group (e.g. acting as “banker” for an un-constituted community group))

Local Energy Assessment Fund

Seeding community energy action

INEXPERIENCED

Community skill-up

Householder 'loss' behaviour change

"Tired arguments"

High & wide targets based on innocence & enthusiasm

Multiple Agendas

Short term outputs, LOTS of 'engagement' activity

Few partnerships, especially 'value-add' ones

Non-constituted or generic form; grant and fund reliant

+5yrs: EXPERIENCED

External experts

Acquisitive, kit-based (household or **community**)

Innovative proposition

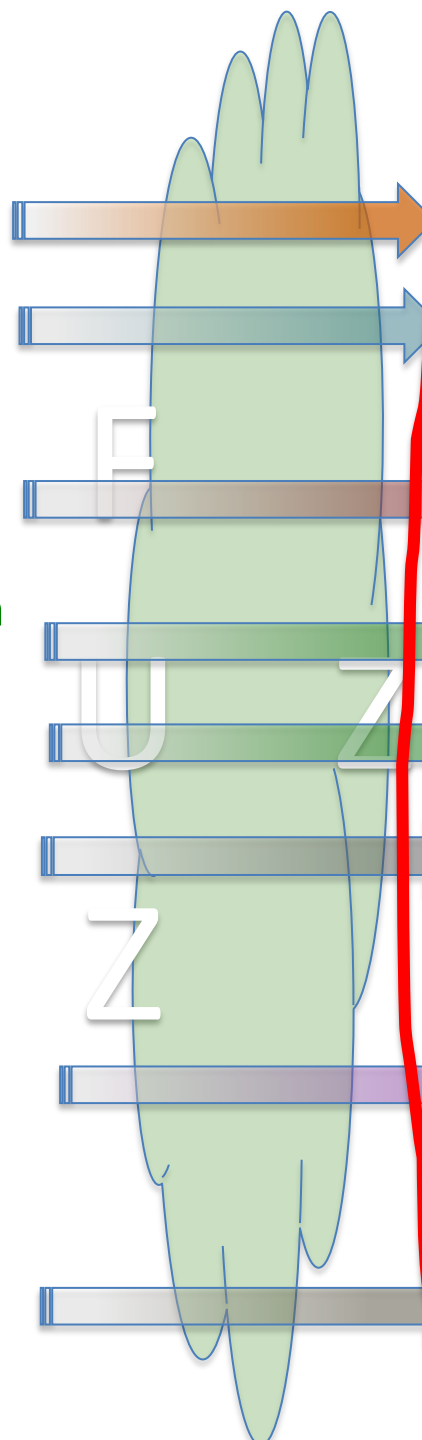
SMARTER

Focused

Strategic plans & financial planning. Community consultation as necessary

Well net-worked in community & with **external** private partnerships

Specific community vehicle, income generation at heart



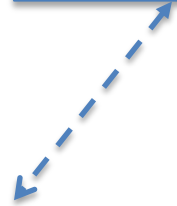
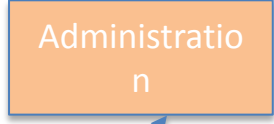


Features of Community 'Carbon' Funds

Low Carbon
Community
Challenge

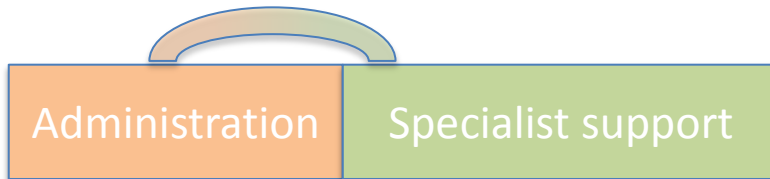
Community and
Renewable Energy
Scheme (CARES)

Who gets the money?



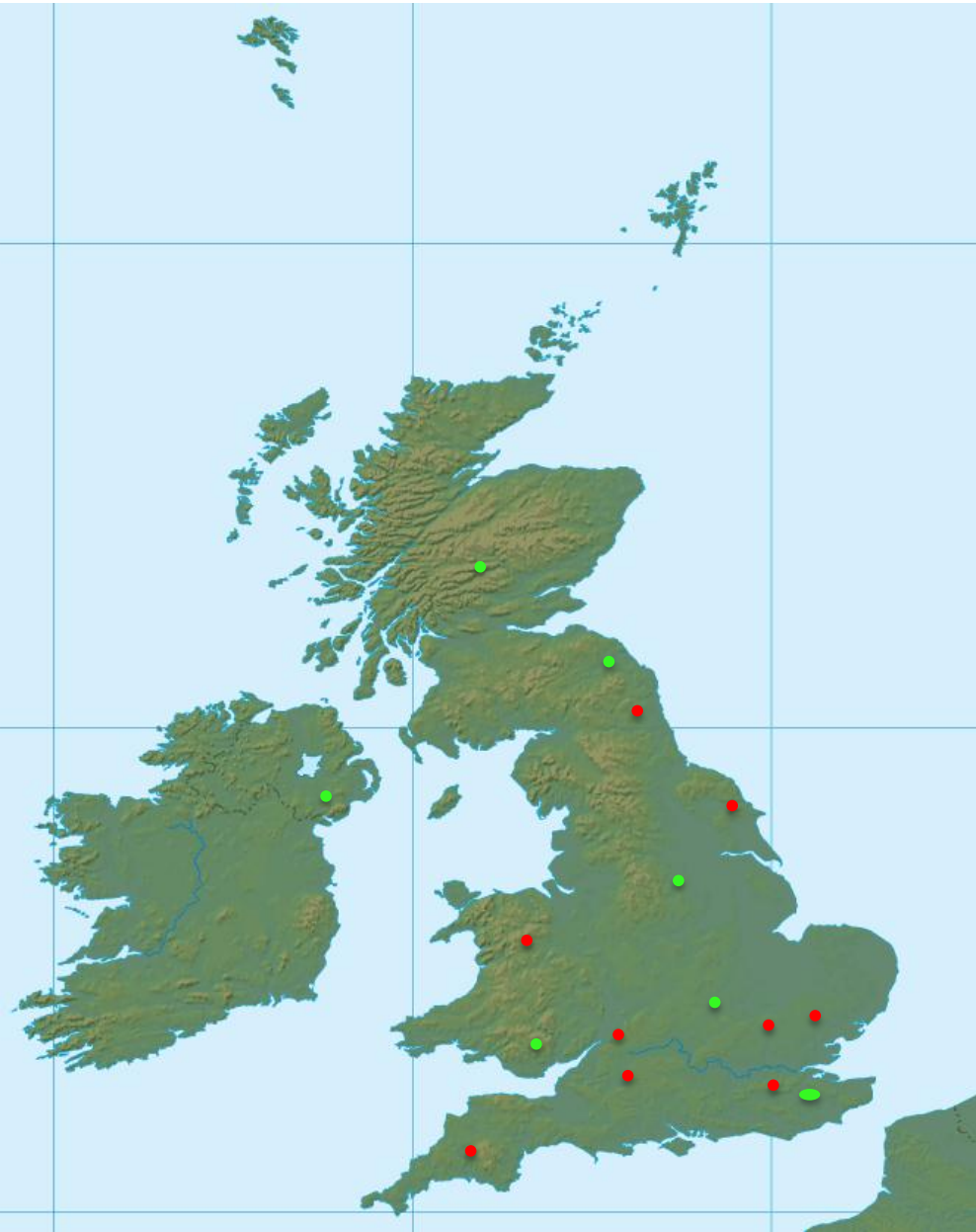
What does such low cost support look like?

Unskilled project officers
(= focus on the admin, not strategic support)



= fewer communities...or less money...

... how long for?



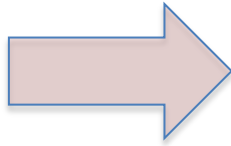
YEAR ONE

YEAR TWO

More communities get funding (Hoorah?)

What happens to long-term planning, project learning, skills, impacts evaluation?

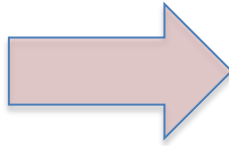
... for what kind of projects?



COMMUNITY SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

- I. TYPE 1
- II. TYPE 2
- III. TYPE 3

... for what kind of projects?



COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTS

- i. TYPE 1
- ii. TYPE 2
- iii. TYPE 3

clxxviii. TYPE 178


... and how do they 'get' it?

Our project will engage 80% of
the community and save
18,000 tonnes CO2
in 1 year for £49,000



....Competitive

BID
DEADLINE
1st April 2013

A group of business silhouettes in suits are standing on a path of interlocking puzzle pieces. The path starts with a central cluster of colorful pieces (yellow, red, green, blue) and then continues with blue pieces leading away from the viewer. A blue speech bubble is positioned above the path, containing text. The overall scene is set against a white background with soft shadows.

Project planning & partnership
engagement will take several
months, we will need £15,000
at feasibility stage.....

A large, gold-colored, six-pointed star shape is positioned on the right side of the image. It contains text in a purple font. The star has a slight gradient and a drop shadow.

Fund Draw-
down..
(when you're ready)

....collaborative

What works best?

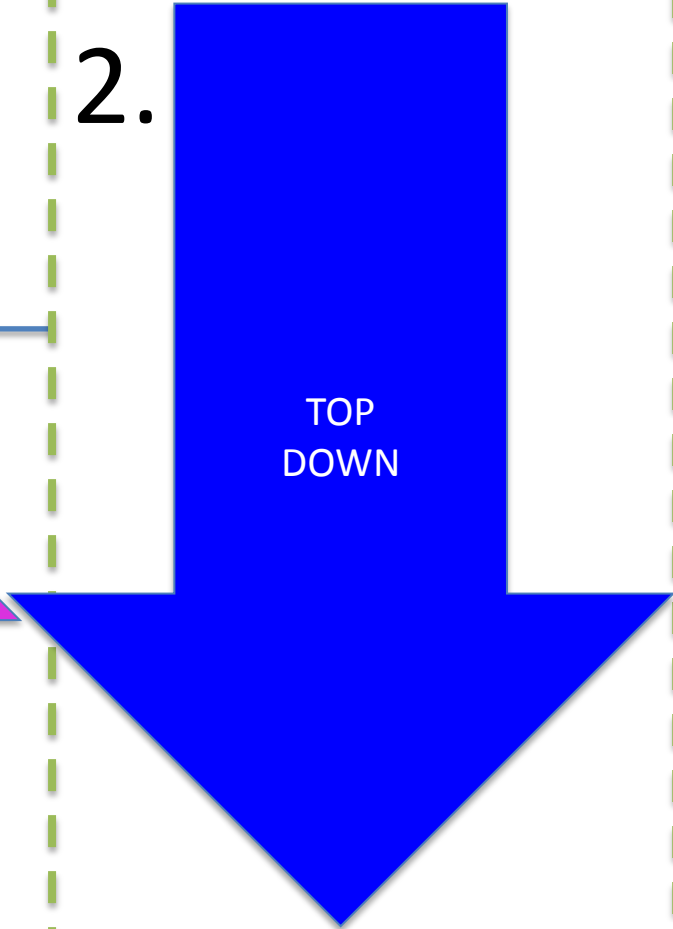
Depends what you (WHO??) are trying to achieve....

1.



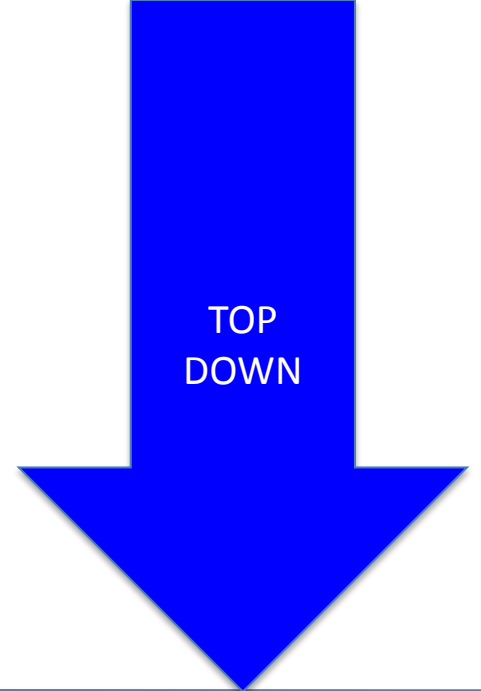
BOTTOM
UP

2.



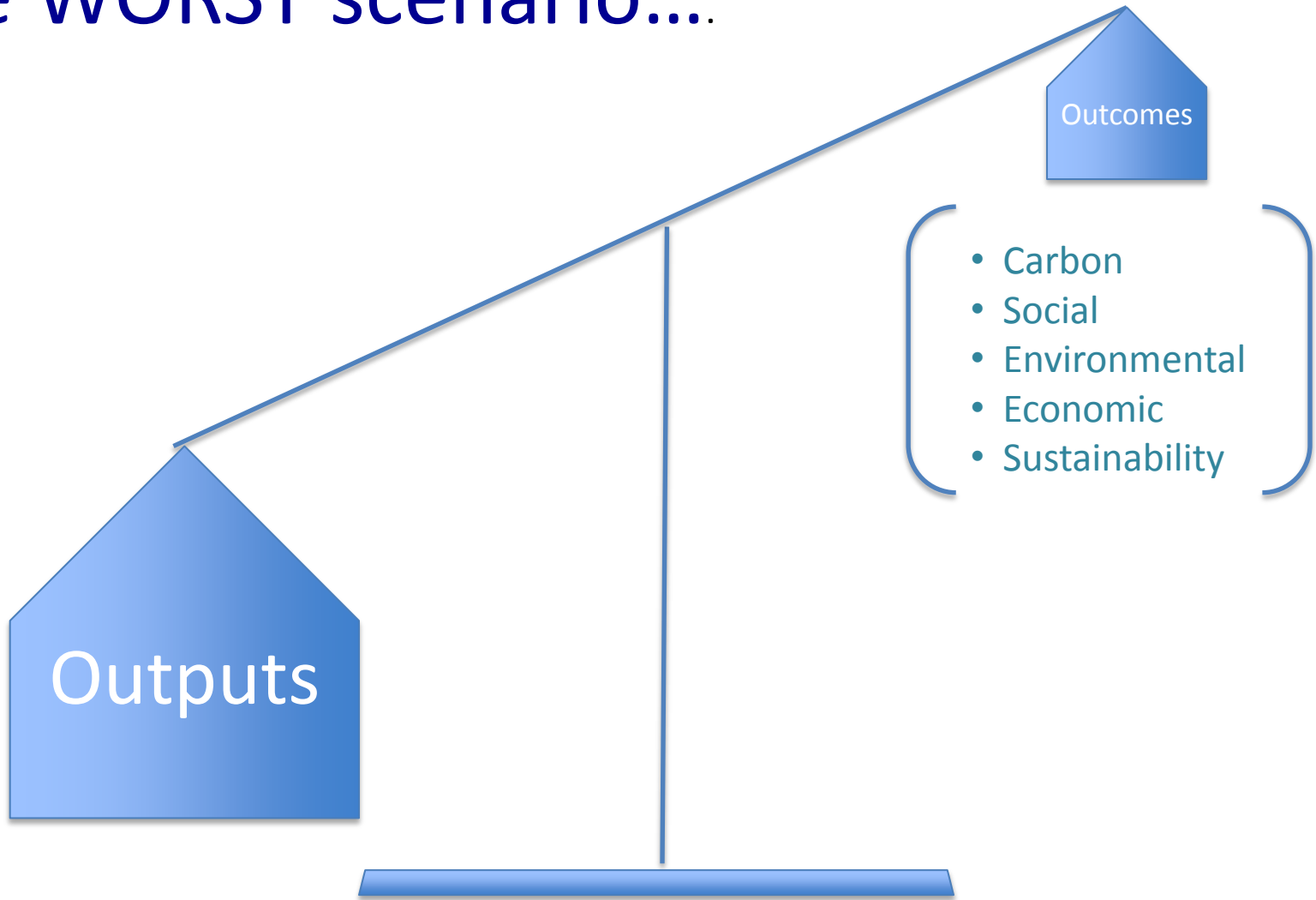
BOTTOM
UP

3.



BOTTOM
UP

The WORST scenario....



So what are we learning about what constitutes a successful fund & successful community projects?

What IS success and who defines it??!



Priorities are not shared!
Successes are interpreted very different ways...



BUT long-term benefit is arguably highly dependent on a fund being
coherent within itself & a strategic activity

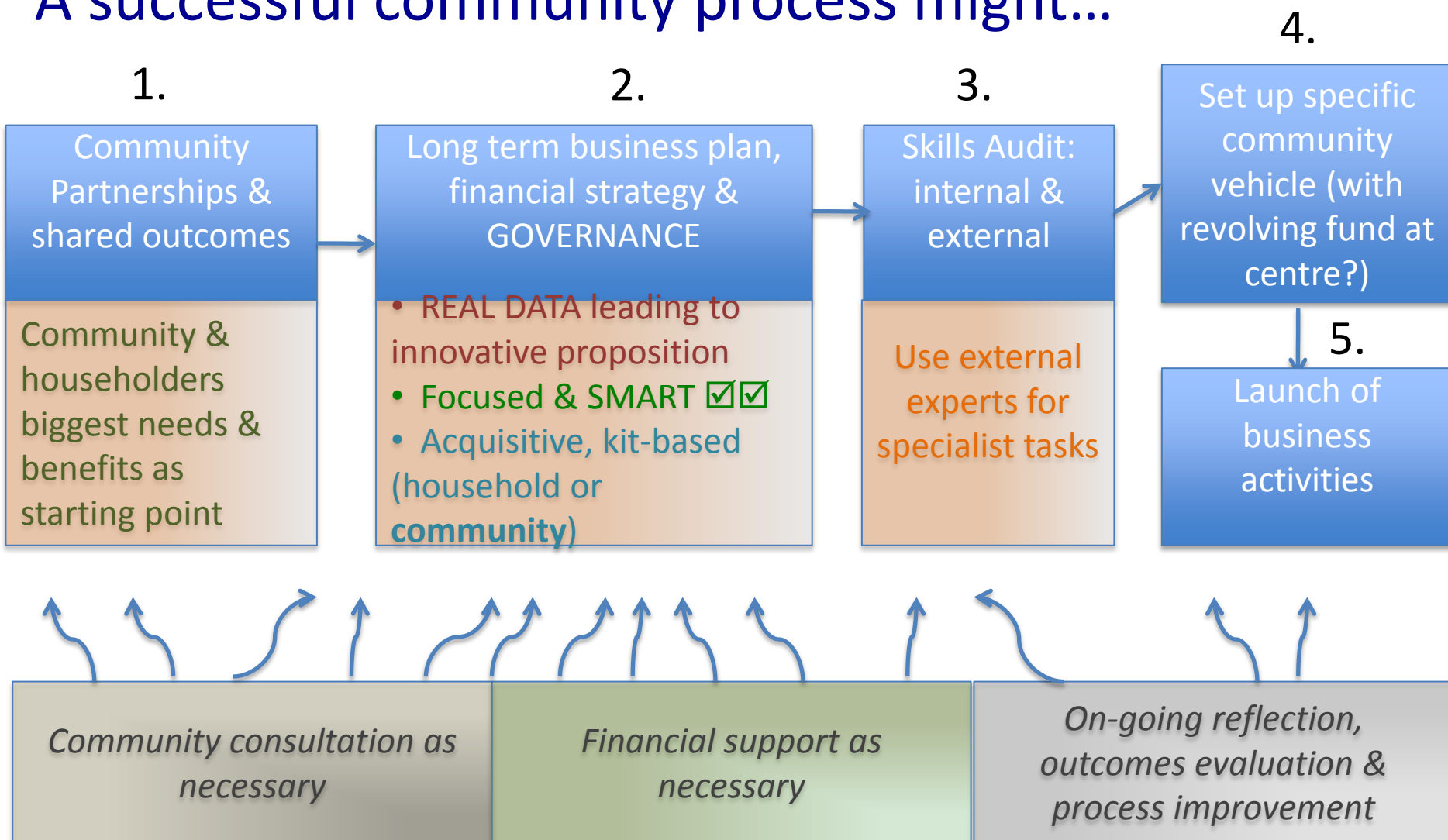
A good fund should...

1. probably have a SMART aim tied into a wider STRATEGIC PLAN (i.e. NOT a 'policy vacuum')
2. not demand that one funds achieves EVERYTHING (*fund schizophrenia*)
3. an ongoing & longitudinal evaluative framework from the outset
4. perhaps a business plan??!
5. understand what constitutes QUALITY support and make this a priority, not something to save money on; cut down petty admin.
6. ensure uptake of peer to peer learning framework integral to funding awards... look to replicate successful models & outputs
7. be at LEAST 3 years (preferably 7 years) *and* issued on a rolling basis
8. support projects towards self-financing (e.g revolving fund) models where required and as priority; should the grant be on-going or critical injections?

A good fund should...

9. not be competitive...focus on supporting a strong plan that is right for the locale
- 10.promote project specific pots: e.g. for new-starter communities; for hydro projects etc, but focus on financial models that will lead to on-going non grant income streams
- 11.Centralise buying and delivery for certain expertises e.g. carbon accounting, feasibility studies, housing stock energy surveys
- 12.Work to reduce external threats and challenges; such as commercial scale developments where micro community projects will be jeopardised
- 13.Work to address the 'local authority' problem need REAL decision making leaders *and* motivated officers; an integrated approach
- 14.Specialist support for community leaders.... ? (if we get all the above, we might not need this...)
- 15.Let projects start from where their customers are... be careful around dictating hierarchies

A successful community process might...



Main Conclusions?

We have to make the change we want to see happen...
the ambition and innovation is out there!

We have to send a clear and united message to funders;

**IF CARBON REDUCTION IS GOING TO REMAIN A
VOLUNTARY UNDERTAKING BY THE POPULATION,
THEN,**

- Be strategic: set this work within UK carbon response context
- Long term commitment: financial and problem solving
- Work and support expert input to support communities; support a rewarding peer to peer framework

Thank You!