

## **Energy Security Select Committee**

### **Stephanie Karpetas**

#### **Founder of Sustainability Connections & Director of Community Energy South**

#### **Biography**

Stephanie has previously worked as Environment Training Manager at British Airways plc and has ten years of experience in Kent of working with SMEs, charities, social enterprises, local authorities, business support organisations and EU projects. She has conducted over 100 SME (small/medium enterprise) environmental audits, established a 300-strong green retrofit cluster for Ashford Borough Council, and has delivered two ESF (European Social Fund) projects training unemployed women to be Local Energy Champions. Stephanie is a co-founder and Director of Action Women! Community CIC, and a fellow of the RSA (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce).

#### **About Sustainability Connections**

Sustainability Connections draws together local expertise and capacity on sustainable renovation, energy efficiency, community owned renewable energy and alternative financing. Their immediate goal is to see local people having control and ownership of energy. They want fair energy tariffs, energy efficient buildings and community owned renewable energy, and for all the jobs and economic prosperity that go hand in hand with achieving this mission to be enjoyed by local communities.

Sustainability Connections work cross sector, but particularly closely with central and local government, with the voluntary sector, with community groups and with local SMEs, putting the growth of the local construction sector SMEs at the heart of everything they do. They work in partnership with Community Energy South in Kent, Sussex and Hampshire.

#### **About Community Energy South**

Community Energy South (CES) is an unincorporated association of community energy groups across Southeast England, including Sussex, Hampshire and Kent.

It aims to facilitate the transition to a distributed renewable energy network and promote reductions in energy consumption by facilitating and promoting the diverse activities and projects undertaken by its members.

The benefits of Community Energy South are the synergies obtained by uniting a group of people working with complementary skills and talents to provide support and knowledge sharing.