

A comparative analysis of local governance of energy in the UK

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Decentralisations: Political Devolution and Sustainable Transitions workshop,
March 2017

Local Engagement in UK Energy Systems (Webb, Hawkey, & Tingey)



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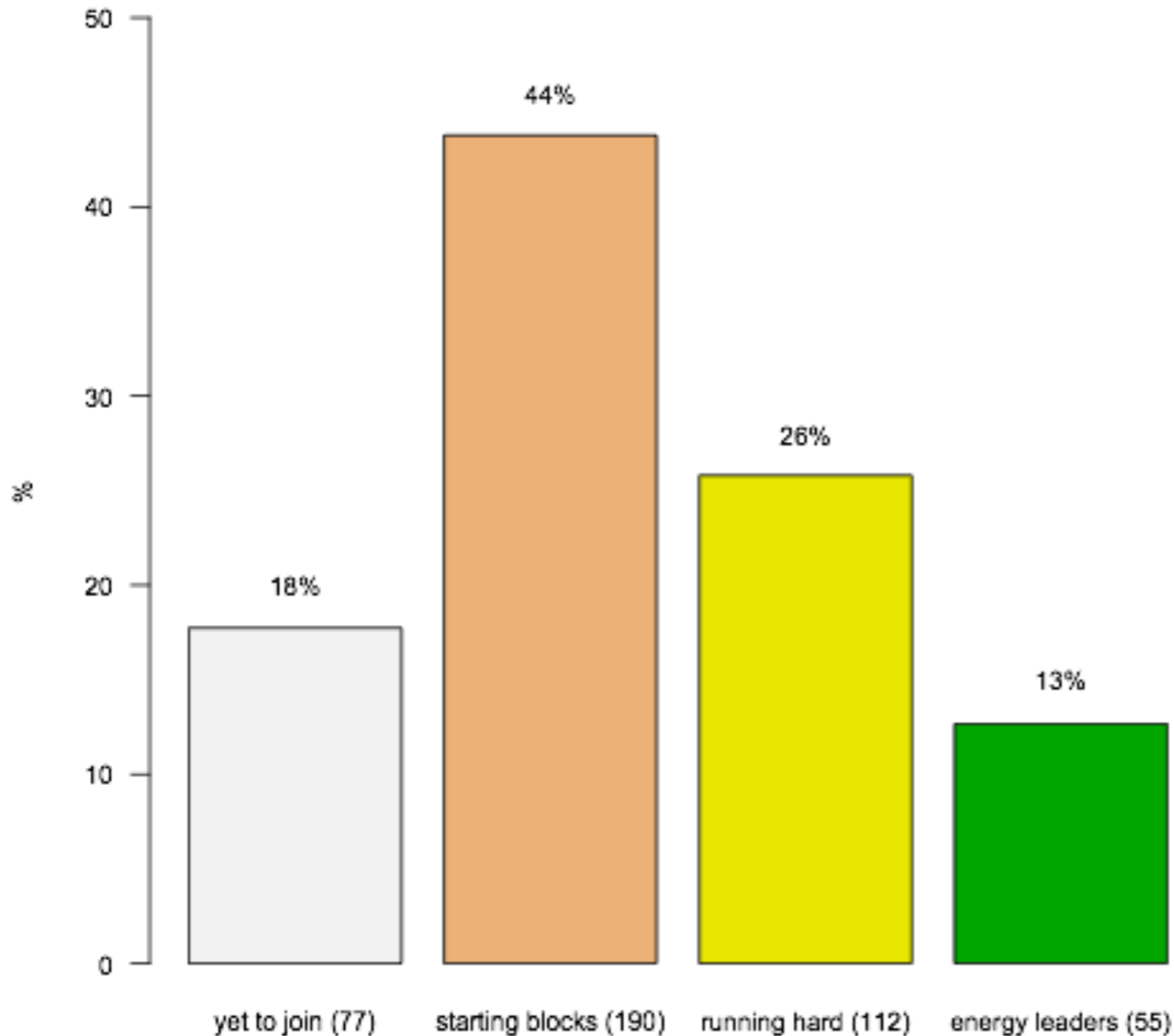
context of the paper

- local government devolved policy, but little scope for LAs to shape development of sustainable energy at local scale across UK
- some powers over energy & climate policy devolved
- a moving & evolving context e.g. further devolution of powers, city deals, Brexit, 2nd Scottish Independence referendum...?
- In England and Wales – Heat Networks Investment Programme
- Welsh energy agency for not-for-profit energy service company?
- Scottish Government consultation on next climate plan & new Energy Strategy for Scotland
- currently a few leading LA examples; can ambition be supported more broadly?

comparative analysis of LG action on energy across the UK's nations and regions

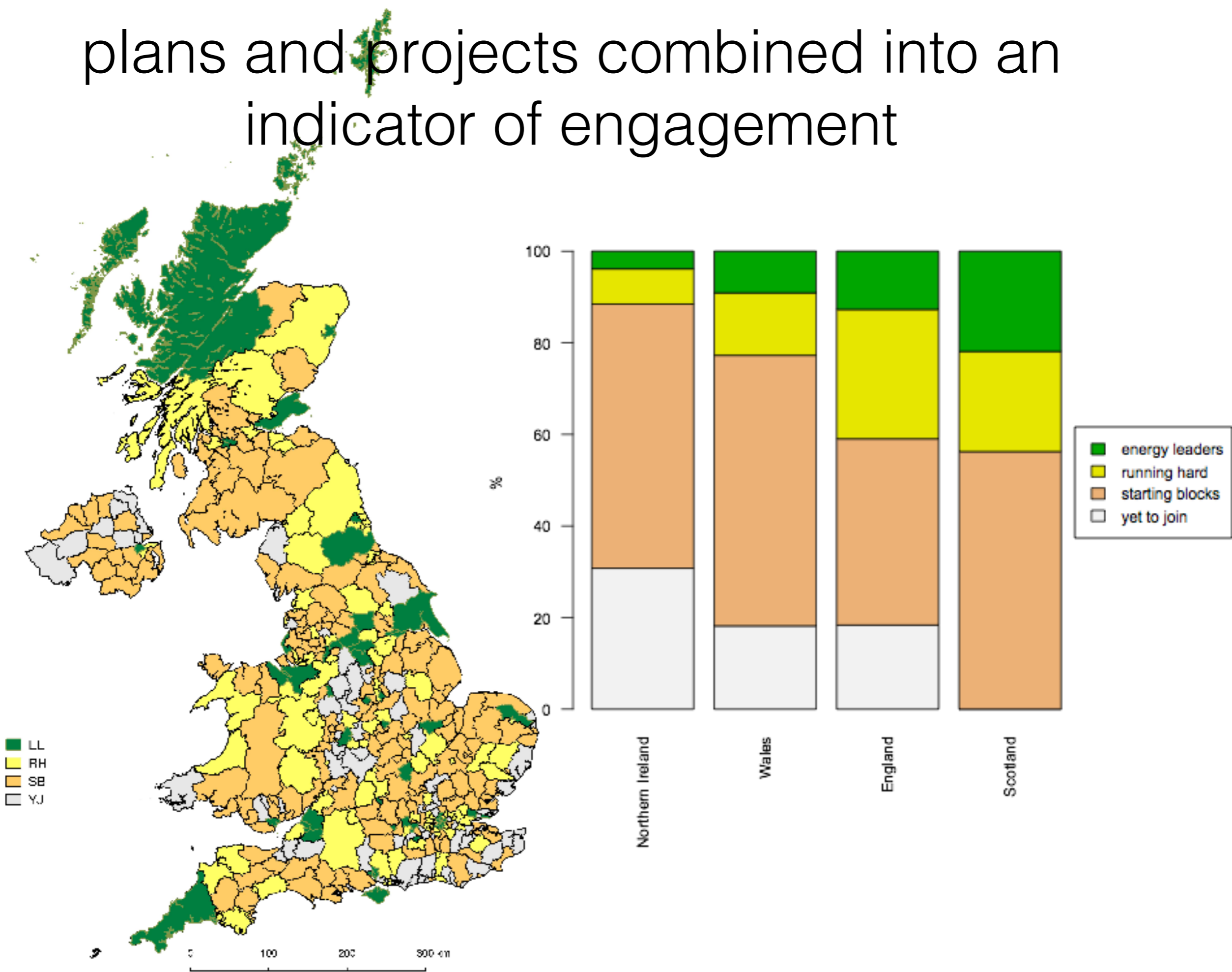
- population survey of UK LAs (434 ~ NI restructure)
 - Database of local engagement:
 - **strategic energy plan**
 - **local energy projects**
 - 30 data sources: 21 on investment & 8 on operational sites, mostly UK Government & European Commission datasets
- **strategic energy plan**
 - varied in scope – council's corporate estate or territory/area-wide.
 - All generally include baseline CO2 emission data, reduction targets & reporting against progress
 - **local energy projects**
 - predominantly energy demand reduction and energy supply (heat & elect)
 - Also some transport, & local government knowledge exchange & capacity building

UK wide – lots of sustainable energy plans and projects, but few programmes of local energy



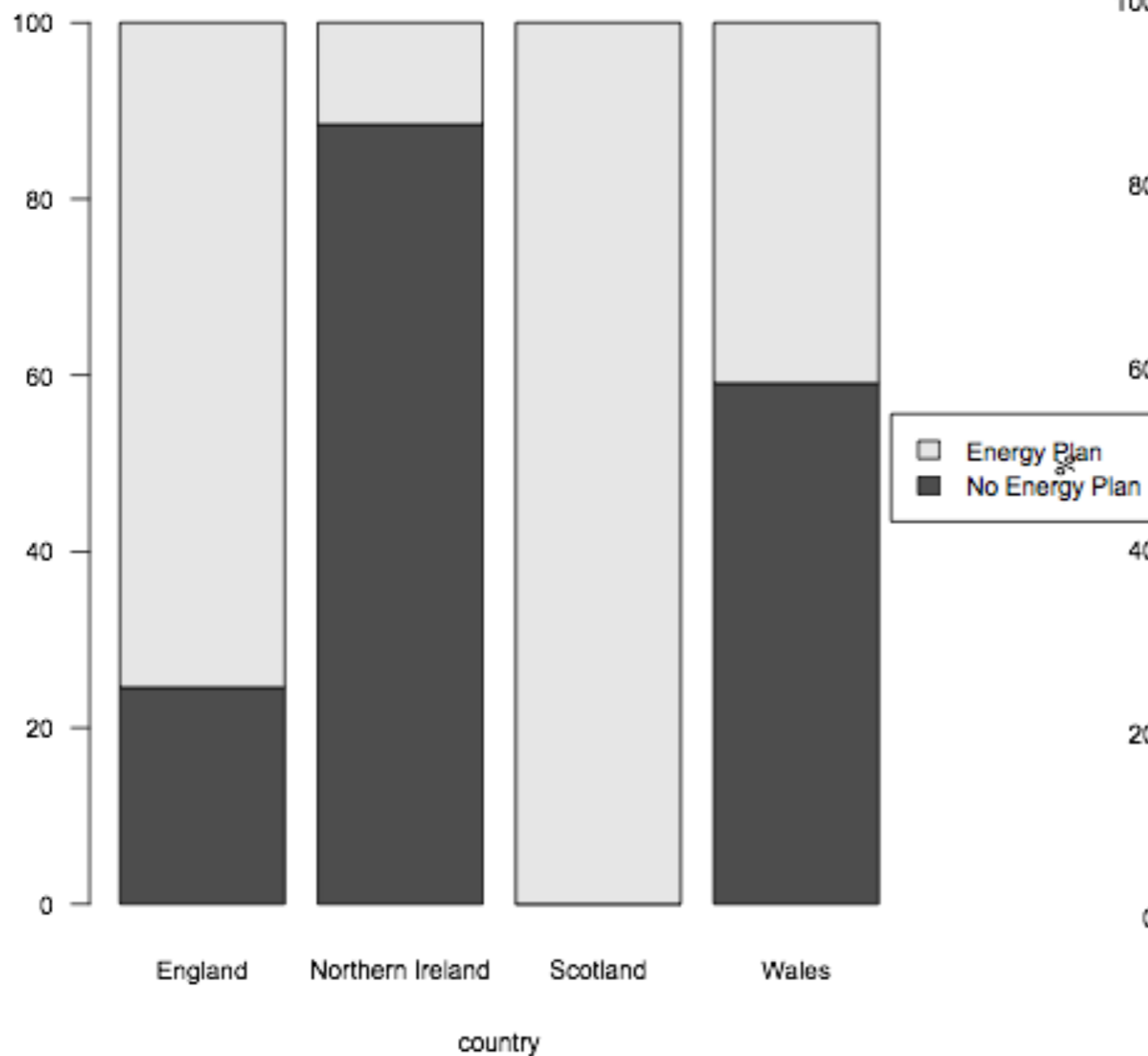
- 72% of LAs (311) had a published energy plan
- 48% (208) that had one or more energy projects
- minority combine into programme with multiple impacts on local energy provisions and use: 13% 'energy leaders'

plans and projects combined into an indicator of engagement

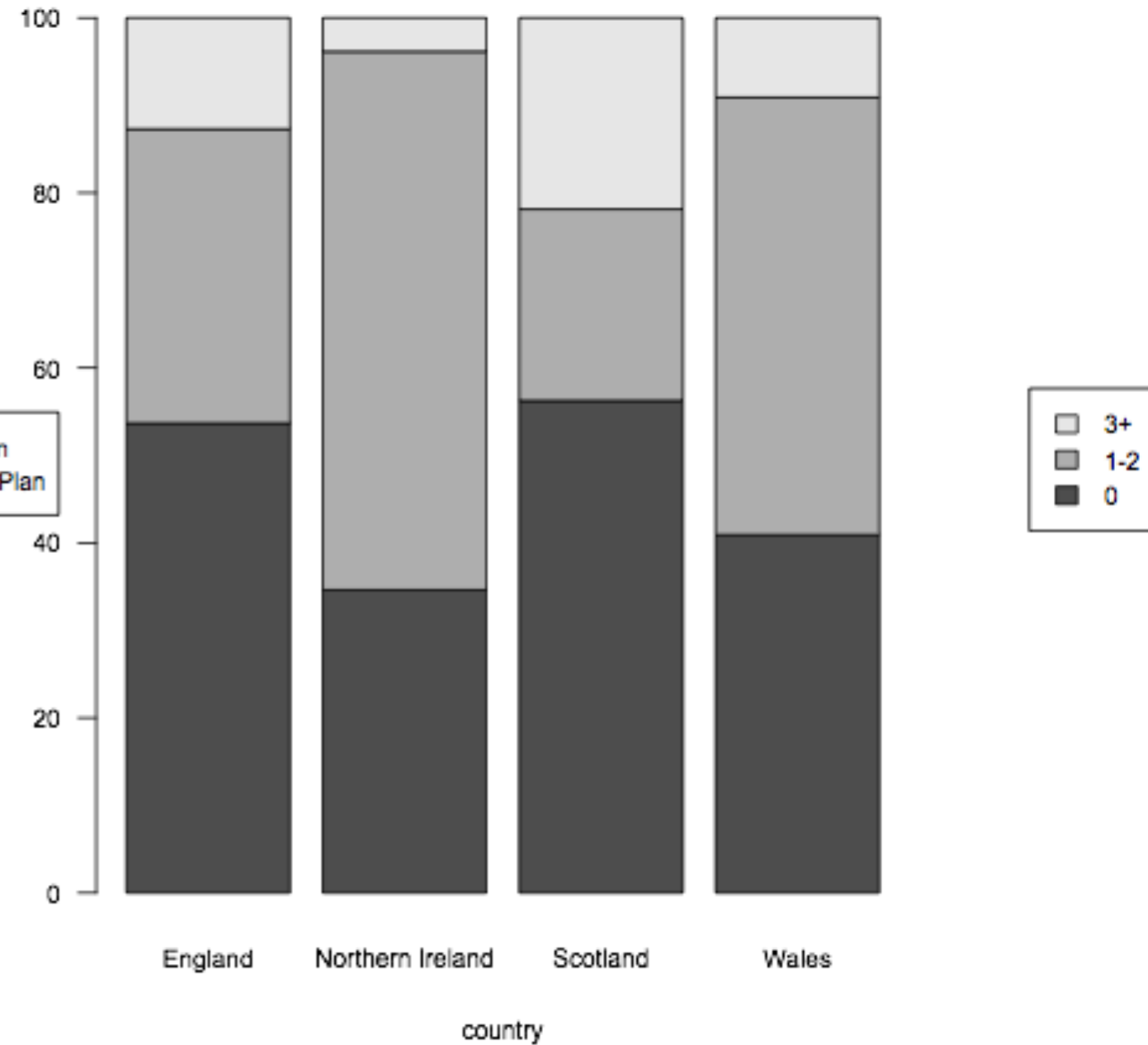


Energy plans and energy projects across four countries

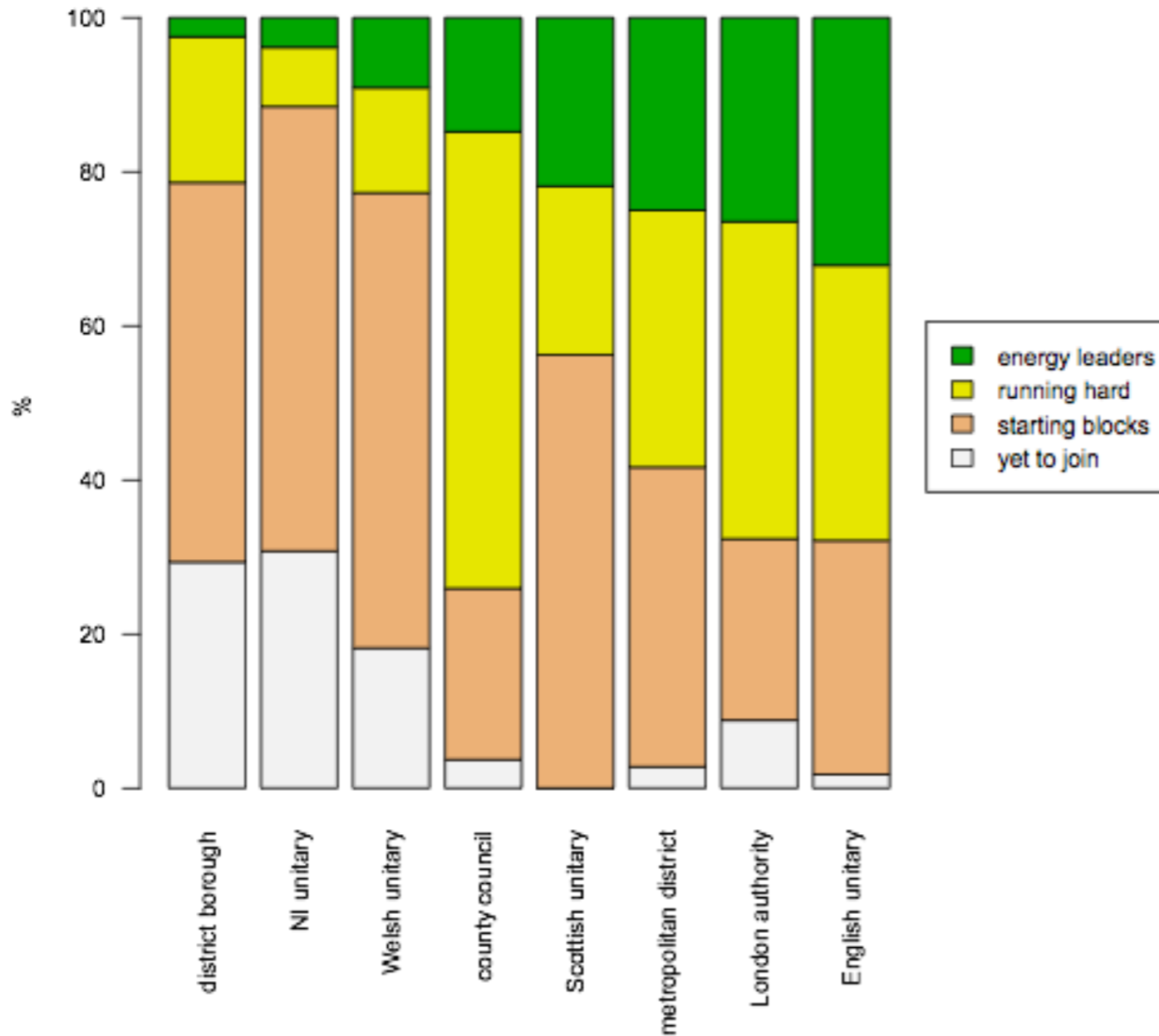
Plans



Projects

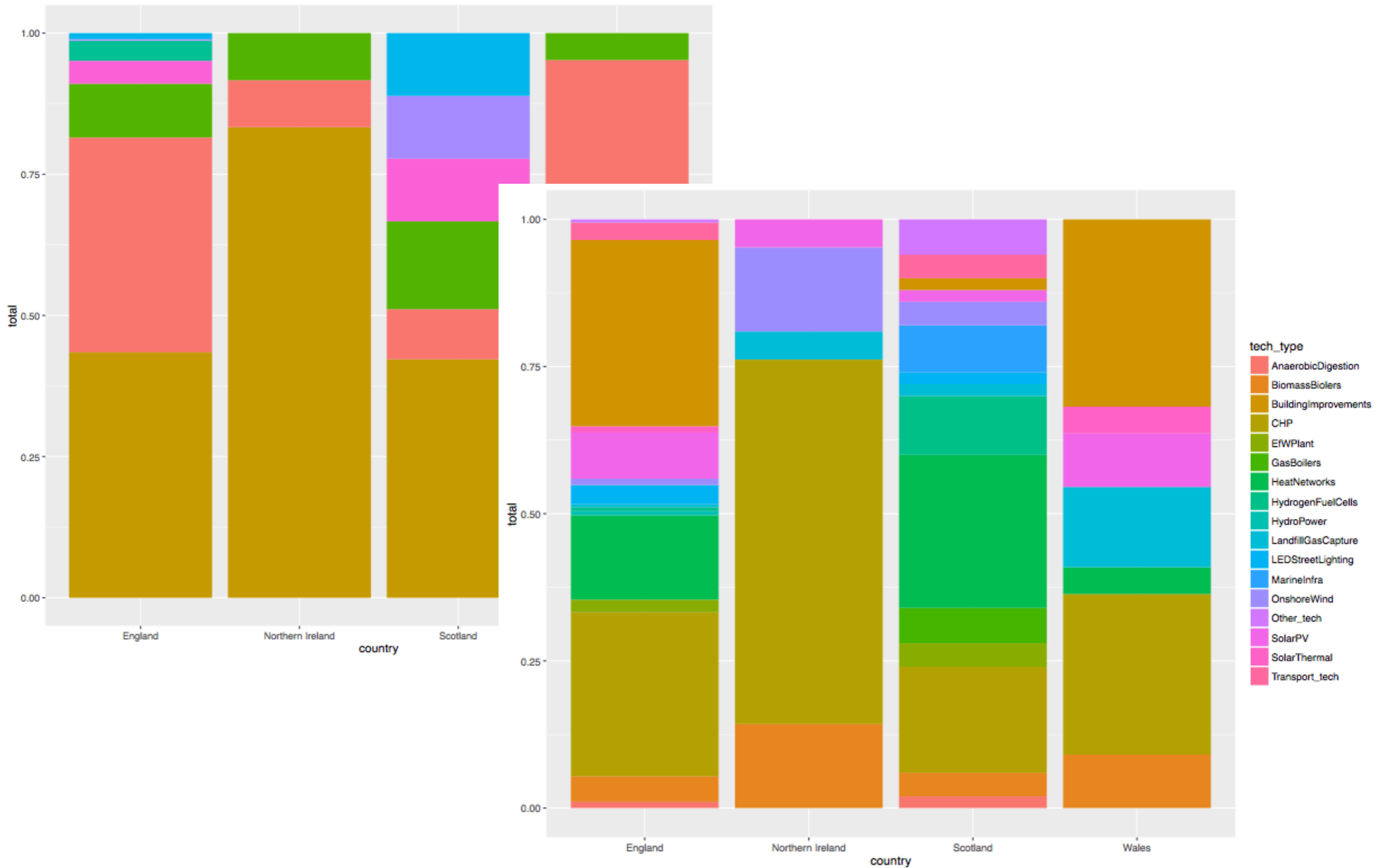


structure of local government and engagement with energy



- unitary, London boroughs and metropolitan district in England, more opportunities
- structures &/or size?
- fewer opportunities for district boroughs in two tier system in England (*but not* for county councils)

types of energy projects in each country



Arising issues for workshop discussion

- institutional relationships between central & local governments
- structure of local government & creation of opportunities for engagement with local energy
- more than skills of individual local authority officers, political support, networks?
- further conceptual development of LG 'capacities', & their connection to specific relational processes & institutions of governance
- How to translate ambition into action?...
 - Clear direction from central governments
 - Local mandate for energy efficiency planning & development
 - Access to long-term secure & affordable finance
 - Coordinated local, regional & national action
- Local authorities able to contribute as intermediaries between different actors & interests?
Esp. for decentralised heat & power & energy performance of buildings?

Thank you

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- Data collected under Local Engagement in UK Energy Systems (led by Jan Webb with Dave Hawkey and Mags Tingey)



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