

DERBYSHIRE DALES COMMUNITY ENERGY

7TH JANUARY 2022

Hello and welcome to everyone to the first issue of Derbyshire Dales Community Energy (DDCE) 's Newsletter. Hopefully we'll give you some insight into what's been going on over the past few weeks and get a snapshot of the amazing work the various people involved have been getting up to.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY ENERGY ?

Derbyshire Dales Community Energy is part of a growing movement in the UK whereby local communities are involved in energy projects that they own and control. Community energy gives communities the opportunity to invest in energy projects in their area thereby helping local people have a stake in their energy infrastructure. A key feature of these projects is that all surplus profit is used for community benefit which helps increase their impact.

Community energy has a key role to play in the transition toward a more efficient, low carbon, decentralised energy system. With the UK recently hosting COP26 Climate Change Summit in Glasgow and extreme weather events becoming the norm, there's a real opportunity for the communities in and around Matlock to take tangible action on climate change.

COMMUNITY ENERGY IN DERBYSHIRE



Matlock Town Council is working with Derbyshire Dales Community Energy to develop clean energy projects that will help reduce the town's carbon footprint and move towards a more sustainable future. The partnership has recently been awarded a grant through the Rural Community Energy Fund which will be used to explore the possibility of installing solar panels on key buildings in the town including Highfields School and Twiggs of Matlock.

If this project proves to be technically and financially viable, there will be an opportunity for Derbyshire Dales Community Energy to develop renewable generation projects that are owned and managed by the community. It is hoped that this will help kick start a community energy revolution in Matlock.

A WORD FROM MATLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Councillor David Hughes says "Matlock Town Council is looking forward to the results of the project and the formation of Derbyshire Dales Community Energy as the means for promoting sustainable local investment in energy production. Solar power is already making a difference at a national level, generating the equivalent of 4.1% of the electricity consumed in the UK in 2020. Electric vehicles and heat pumps in homes will make local production even more important."

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DERBYSHIRE DALES COMMUNITY ENERGY AS A COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY (BENCOM)




The process of setting up the Community Benefit Society (Bencom) has started. Eight people have stepped up to be founding directors and we are very grateful to them. The registration form has been submitted registration to the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). This process takes around 15 working days and we expect this to be complete by the end of January. Once the Bencom has been registered we will be able to set up a bank account with the Coop bank, and will then be in a position to apply for grant funding.

The founding directors are Steve Martin, Emma Hickling, Carol Taylor, Liz Pasteur, Lucy Bird, Barry Carney, John Taylor and Jonny Norton. They have a variety of skills in both the technical and administrative fields that will contribute to the successful operation of our Bencom.

UPDATE ON FEASABILITY STUDY

The Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) feasibility study is due to be completed at the end of January and the findings presented to Matlock Town Council and Derbyshire Dales Community Energy. If they show that community owned solar PV projects are viable the next stage will be developing a more complete business model and entering into negotiations with Twigg and Highfields School about the potential for projects on their buildings.

The RCEF Feasibility Study Timeline

13/01/2022	DRAFT REPORT AND FINANCIAL MODEL DELIVERY	
20/01/2022	FINAL AMENDMENTS ON REPORT	
27/01/2022	DELIVERY OF FINAL REPORT TO MATLOCK TOWN COUNCIL AND DERBYSHIRE DALES COMMUNITY ENERGY	

Pure Leapfrog are currently working with DDCE to promote the RCEF study and highlight the work currently underway to the local community in Matlock and beyond. We are scheduled to hold a series of events with community groups and networks in the area to discuss the benefits of community energy. We hope to hold an event in Matlock where we will present the findings to the wider community which will help garner support for any resulting community energy project. Watch this space for further details.

Regardless of whether or not the RCEF study shows solar PV projects at Highfields and Twigg are viable, there are huge opportunities for community energy projects in the wider Derbyshire Dales area. DDCE has been working with Pure Leapfrog to start to build a pipeline of potential projects including at Hurst Farm Social Club and John Smedleys. This is a really exciting time for community energy in Derbyshire and it feels like we are at the start of some significant developments that will help our communities transition towards net zero.

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TECHNICAL UPDATE ON PROPOSED SITES

These are the current thoughts on the two Solar PV installations for the two selected sites.

They are based on the site characteristics, as well as recommendations from the energy network.

Twigg Stores

We are recommending a solar PV system size of 55kW, covering just over 65% of entire usable roof space. Our recommendation is based on the capacity available on the local grid electricity network. Western Power Distribution (WPD) has indicated that a system size of 55kW is the maximum for this site, as any additional export capacity will incur system upgrade costs.

Highfields Upper

We are currently recommending a solar PV system size of 150kW, covering just over 40% of entire usable roof space. That being said, WPD has indicated that there is a potential export capacity of around 350kW. An increased solar PV system size is currently being analysed within this capacity limit; however usable roof area will need to be taken into consideration.

We have engaged with WPD to ask for additional information regarding the grid constraints at each site as well as within the Matlock area. WPD is currently modelling each site in greater detail. Once we receive this information, we will be able to confirm the proposed PV system sizes and update our report.

If the two sites can go ahead we predict this will save a total of 43 tonnes of CO₂ a year and generate around 184 MWh of electricity a year.

Twigg Stores



Highfields School



System size

**55kW**

System size

**150kW**CO₂ SavedCO₂ Saved

Electricity Generated



Electricity Generated



Twigg of Matlock



Highfields Upper School

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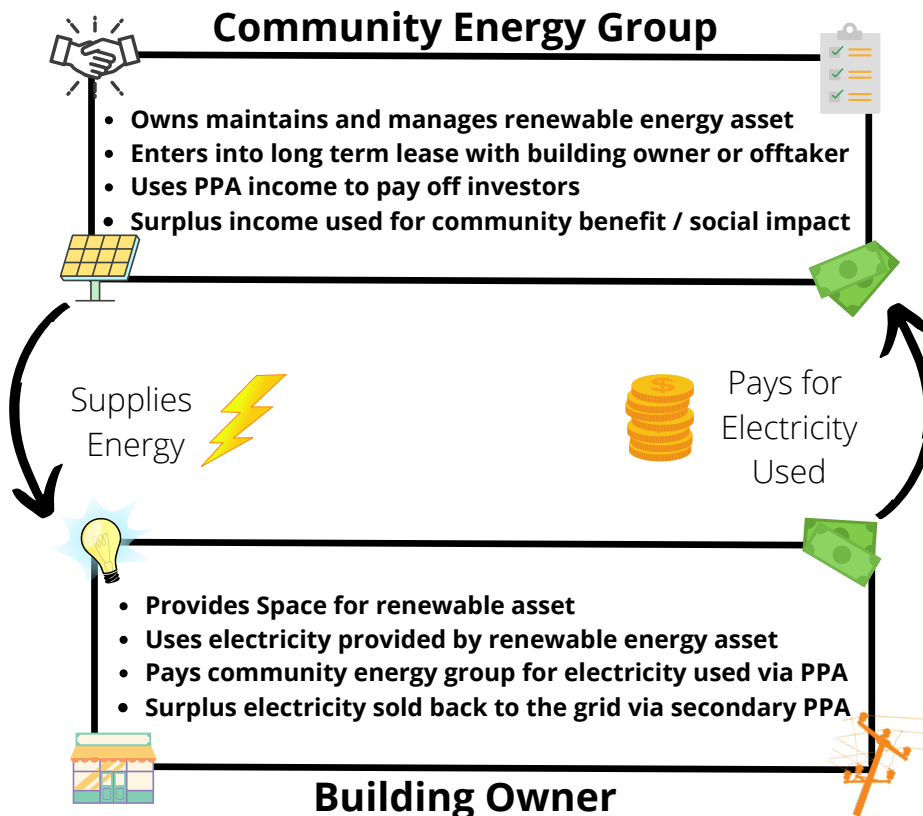
NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE

In addition to sending out this newsletter, we are also planning to set up a website to facilitate ongoing engagement with the local community. If any of you are interested in creating and maintaining a website for the Bencom, then please get in contact with Emma (derbyshiredalescommunityenergy@gmail.com).

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION UNDERWAY

DDCE has been working with another local group Hope Valley Renewables, who are also in the process of developing an RCEF project in their area. The two groups hope to collaborate in a number of areas such as engaging with local authorities and potentially sharing resources and experience. Unlike other areas of the country, there has been little community energy activity to date in Derbyshire. However there are a number of emerging projects and we hope to start to build a network of groups to help increase community energy activity and capacity and provide impetus for more projects in the area.

COMMUNITY ENERGY AND 'PPAS'



This is just a bit of an idea of how community energy groups can work in relation to the building that hosts the community owned renewable assets .

Essentially there is a partnership between the community group and the building owner that mutually benefits both sides. A "Power Purchase Agreement" (PPA) is negotiated - where the two parties agree a price for the renewable energy generated by the community group's asset. This is how the community energy group acquires income to both pay back investors and to go back into the community.

The community energy group are able to fund social change in the area and the building owner is able to make a huge decrease in their carbon footprint (among other benefits).

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ADDITIONAL HELP FROM COMMUNITY ENERGY APPRENTICE SCHEME

Hello I'm Helen, and I'm happy to say I will be helping out with DDCE as much as I can. I work for Octopus Energy, who have a huge passion for renewable energy and building a green future. In my day job I generally; fix smart meter issues, resolve crossed meters and many other energy industry based problems that might occur. In August was given the amazing opportunity to start on a community energy apprenticeship scheme which gives me one day a week to learn all there is to know about community energy. This means I can get up to all sorts of things, but mainly means I can commit a large chunk of time to helping out DDCE as much as possible with things like putting this newsletter together and I'm sure many more exciting things.

Octopus already supports many community energy programmes via our sister company, Yunity and we even have a specific community energy tariff where anyone can buy energy generated specifically by community groups (Co-op Community Power). I have been amazed at everything I have seen from DDCE so far and am just so glad to be working with such a friendly and knowledgeable group of people.

THANKYOU TO ALL THE COLLABORATORS

A huge thankyou goes to everyone who contributed to this newsletter, it couldn't have happened without you. A Huge thank you goes to :
Steve, Emma, Laura, Martin, and David
For all your amazing input and support.

Derbyshire Dales Community Energy is a registered Community Benefit Society

Community energy refers to the delivery of community-led renewable energy, energy demand reduction and energy supply projects, whether wholly owned and/or controlled by communities or through partnership with commercial or public sector partners

Our vision is to :

- Harness the potential of our communities to power a sustainable future.
- We aim to help our local communities develop community energy projects.

We are a social enterprise that:

- Reduces carbon emissions through renewable generation and energy efficiency
- Keeps the money we spend on this energy within the local community and so benefits the local community.