

DERBYSHIRE DALES COMMUNITY ENERGY

25TH MAY 2022

UPDATE ON DDCE

The Directors met and assigned roles for the BENCOM going forward. The roles have been appointed as follows:



Chair – Steve Martin
Vice Chair – Emma Hickling
Treasurer – John Taylor
Company Secretary – Brian Hebron
Minutes Secretary – Liz Pasteur
Publicity Secretary – Emma Hickling

These people will hold their roles until the end of the year.

A LOOK AT OUR NEW PARTNER SHARE ENERGY

Share Energy have been appointed to take DDCE to through the next phases of the community project. We are looking forward to working with them and all the things we can learn from them.



Share energy was founded 2011 and has helped well over 100 community energy groups and projects across the UK, from Somerset to Shetland. They have been involved in various community share offers which have raised more than £20 million in total, with over 6,500 members involved. One of their projects includes a low carbon district heating network at Brassington.



Their purpose is to help grow the community energy sector in the UK. They use existing resources where possible, and work to build up local capabilities, sharing their knowledge and experience filling in the gaps, allowing the community group to lead on the project whilst providing required support.



They have helped with various areas of community energy including : business planning and consultancy, setting up and organising share offers, outreach projects, general administration, operational support as well as technical, regulatory and installation advice.

Share Energy will be taking the project forward developing the two sites from the first stage and also investigating more potential sites to help the group become operationally and financially viable.

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AN UPDATE ON THE SOLAR PV PROJECTS

The first stage feasibility study has been completed with Pure Leapfrog and the two identified sites (Highfields school and Twigg of Matlock) are moving forward. On top of these two sites Share Energy have identified an ambitious opportunity for DDCE to ensure the longevity and stability of the group. The plan is to take community energy in Derbyshire to the next level by attempting to install 1 mW worth of solar PV. This will not only be providing a great amount of renewable energy, but also will make DDCE more resilient to the potential risks associated with small scale solar PV. The current plan with Highfields school and Twigg is to install 220 kW over the two sites, so further sites for the remaining 880 kW will need to be investigated. There are a few sites in the pipeline that could potentially work well, but nothing is set in stone yet.

One of the main factors to take into account, is that a good solar site doesn't only need roof space for the PV installation. For a community project to be financially viable it's important that a large portion of the energy generated by the solar is also consumed on site. The rates to export to the grid are currently far lower than what you could get to sell the energy directly to be used on site. So having a space for the solar and also a high enough site consumption to use the energy generated, are both important.

Here is an idea of the planned timeline so far:

	Strategic	Regulatory and Legal	Technical	Outreach
Apr 22	Site research Review RCEF Phase 1 sites and search for additional prospects. Site visits and meetings with site owners & local project team.		Modelling PV system modelling on sites	
May 22		Grid Liaise with DNO on grid issues		Comms plan first draft
Jun 22	Training Rooftop solar training for local volunteers for pipeline projects	Terms Agree heads of terms with sites	Surveys Structural surveys & electrical designs	Web Site & socials in place
Jul 22		Planning Address planning & ecological issues	Final designs for tendering	
Aug 22	Financial model Set share offer scope	Legal checks on sites	Tendering for installers	
Sep 22	Write share offer	Legal agreements signed	Installers appointed	Share offer marketing ready
Oct 22				Launch event Public launch of share offer
Nov 22				
Dec 22	Funding complete			
Jan 23				
Feb 23	Installation begins			

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A SPOTLIGHT ON RICHARD

Richard is the consultant who will be taking DDCE through to the next phases of the project. Richard is part of share energy's development team, who work directly with community energy groups to develop and deliver new projects across the technologies. Richard has recently joined share energy, has a background in engineering and is an environmentalist at heart.

Richard has an MSc Renewable Energy Systems from the University of Strathclyde and a MEng in Electronics from the University of York. He is also a co-founder of York Community Energy so has first hand experience of what it's like to be part of a community energy group.

We are very much looking forward to working with Richard going forward and all the experience and knowledge he can bring.



Here is Richard (and Emma) looking at a potential roof spot

PLANS FOR A COMMUNITY ENERGY PARTNERSHIP HUB

As well as working on this solar PV project DDCE have been busy working on setting up a much needed community energy hub to link all the existing (and potential new) projects around Derbyshire.

The aim of the hub is to enable better coordination and support for the existing community energy programmes in Derbyshire and other programmes as they emerge elsewhere in the county. The plan is to widen the uptake of community energy activities across the county to realise the net zero carbon targets of the County Council and all District Councils. It will also support and act as a catalyst encouraging wider and more urgent community engagement and action in support of the net zero targets.

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.