




# ecoe

exeter community energy



By facing the challenges of rising energy costs, our reliance on fossil fuels, the insecurity of continuing supply and climate change, community energy can benefit our city, its people and the environment.

**Exeter Community Energy  
is a community-owned  
social enterprise to  
generate renewable  
energy in Exeter.**

Our vision is for renewable energy projects to bring about practical change in our community by addressing present day energy related challenges and inspiring local people to take ownership of producing renewable energy. As a community-owned co-operative, we are run by our community, with our community's interests at heart

*making energy work for everyone*

The eight completed installations totalling 400 kWp are at Shillingford Organics, Wonford Community and Learning Centre, Exeter Library, Great Moor House, Exeter College Technology Centre, Pinhoe Road Baptist Church, Glasshouse Lane Medical Centre and the Beehive Community Centre, Honiton.



## Solar PV Successes

ECOE's first community-owned solar rooftop projects provide reduced cost solar energy to the host sites. Income is produced from this sale of solar energy, the government 20 year FiT and from exporting the surplus to the grid. This income is used to pay community investors a target return of 5%, build a community fund for energy saving projects and to cover some of ECOE's organisational costs.

The £470,000 investment required for the eight installations was raised by a very successful community share offer in Nov 2015, with the remainder from a community solar loan. We now have over 200 members – 63% coming from Exeter and a further 28% from Devon.

We believe the whole community can share in the benefits from community-owned renewable energy projects

- The community fund will be used to fund local energy saving projects and help address fuel poverty.
- Promoting low-carbon energy and reducing carbon emissions will help to mitigate climate instability and raise awareness of our impact on the environment
- Active participation in a cooperative community-owned social enterprise enables people to feel a part of their community – it builds community. People can become active producers of energy rather than passive consumers.

## ECOE Future Priorities: Renewable Energy & Energy Saving Solar PV 3

With the drastic reduction in government FiT rates there was some doubt whether the community energy finance model would still work. The good news is that it does when we can export to the grid, there's high onsite usage and low installation costs. We have a couple of new sites that we are talking to and will be applying to the Rural Community Energy Fund grant for rooftop sites around Exeter.

### Renewable Heat Project

ECOE has received further UCEF funding to investigate community-owned renewable heat. This has included carrying out a scoping exercise for the off-gas grid area of Exwick and another large site. Biomass, ground and air source heat pumps and Combined Heat and Power are all being considered.

### Hydro-Electric

ECOE grew out of an investigation into the possibility of hydro on the River Exe, so we're excited to be exploring this again, now that the Environment Agency have progressed their flood defence work. There's also a possibility of a small water wheel project outside of Exeter. It's early days for both of these possibilities.

making energy work for everyone

Exeter Community Exeter.  
A registered society for the benefit of the community

[www.ecoe.org.uk](http://www.ecoe.org.uk)

## Energy Saving Projects

We love establishing renewable energy projects but we have always known that retrofitting existing housing stock and demand management have an even larger impact regarding saving energy and increasing efficiency. Householders save money, less energy is used and carbon emissions are reduced.

We have been applying for funding for two very different projects – **Healthy Homes for Wellbeing** and **Smart Energy EPC**.

**Healthy Homes for Wellbeing** will help, through home visits, the vulnerable in cold damp houses who may be experiencing fuel poverty. First to assess how they can be helped and then provide further visits to support them in the uptake of better services, low-cost energy efficiency measures and find funding for high-cost measures.

**ECO Smart Energy EPC** would offer a community version of the Green Deal through a lease or hire purchase agreement at a much lower interest rate than provided by the government scheme.

Initially we would aim to provide this for 50 homes as a pilot to check design and workability before offering it at a larger scale.

## The Directors

**Gill Wyatt** (exec chair) is a facilitator, community researcher and consultant with Creating Synergies. She has project managed several energy projects in Exeter including LEAF's Energy-in-the-home and Exe-Hydro.

**Peter Bowers** (finance director) is a retired management accountant with work experience at director level in the financial services sector, and has a keen interest in community projects.

**Hertha Taverner-Wood** (company secretary) is an engineer who works for Renewable Energy Systems Ltd on solar operations and maintenance. She also has several years experience in hydropower.

**Sonya Bedford** (legal director) is a partner at Stephens Scown solicitors and head of their Renewable Energy Team with experience of wind, solar PV, anaerobic digestion, biomass and hydro installations.

**Patrick Devine-Wright** (non-exec director) is a Geography Professor at the University of Exeter. His teaching and research focuses on topics of social acceptance and community engagement with low carbon energy.

**Alastair Mumford** (non-exec director) has been involved in the renewables sector for over 15 years and is currently employed as the energy manager for Devon County Council.

**Miles Davey** (non-exec director) is a Co-Founder and Director in Lewis Davey and has spent the last decade recruiting talented people and providing market intelligence across the low carbon and sustainability industry globally.

**Gabriel Wondrausch** (technical director) is the managing director of the award winning Exeter-based renewable energy company Sungift Solar, which was founded in 2005.



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email: [info@ecoe.org.uk](mailto:info@ecoe.org.uk)

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