



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, it will be run by our community, with our community's interests at heart.

making energy work for everyone

Our first project will be a community-owned rooftop solar PV project. Funds will be raised through a community share issue and profits will be split between shareholders, community projects and reinvestment in future renewable energy schemes.



Aims and Objectives

Our aims are:

- To develop community-owned renewable energy projects that create a local green energy supply which improves Exeter's energy security and resilience.
- To raise awareness of and promote local low-carbon solutions to the global challenges of reliance on fossil fuels and their associated climate impact.
- To facilitate community ownership and active participation that engages and strengthens the local community and its economy through volunteering, investment opportunities and becoming energy producers.
- To provide finance for re-investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects that contribute to addressing fuel poverty.
- To create a community fund for local projects.



ECoE was initiated by Transition Exeter, a community group supporting and enabling a grassroots response to the global challenges of climate change, resource depletion, economic instability and social injustice.

making energy work for everyone

Overview

Our first project will be a rooftop 100kWp solar PV installation. We have successfully raised about half of the £15-20,000 start-up costs, which will enable us to generate the necessary investment, expected to be approximately £150,000.

This will be raised by a community share issue where local people buy shares, which will provide money for the installation and maintenance of the solar infrastructure as well as covering associated legal, insurance and management costs. This is a model with a proven track record, and can be found in a growing number of cities and towns including Bristol, Bath, Lewes, Brighton, Oxford and Sheffield.

Income is produced through the sale of electricity into the national grid, the government's feed-in-tariff for renewable energy and through power purchase agreements with partner businesses on the host sites. A mushroom effect is created from the income generated, as it provides community shareholders a fair rate of return, as well as funding more community-owned renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, helping us move towards a sustainable future.

The Benefits

We want the whole community to share in the following benefits.

Sustainability: Renewable energy generation makes significant carbon savings for the host building and plays a part in realising Exeter's sustainability strategy.

Education: Awareness is raised of the current energy challenges and our impact on the environment. People learn about the role renewable energy and energy efficiency can play in developing practical solutions for a low-carbon sustainable future.

Visible community-owned assets: Active participation in a genuine and innovative co-operative community initiative strengthens the local community.

Costs: Using renewable energy and installing energy efficiency measures lowers energy bills. This can help to address fuel poverty.

Financial benefits stay local: A fair return for local shareholders, reinvestment in further energy projects and a community fund – all supporting the local economy.

Community benefits: The local community becomes an active energy producer of renewable energy rather than only being a passive energy consumer by setting up and managing inspiring projects. Working together and being part of a community project enables people to feel a part of their community and to care about their community. It builds community.

The Business Structure

Exeter Community Energy is registered as an Industrial and Provident Society for community benefit. Our main focus is promoting and developing local community ownership and management of energy projects. Anyone can buy shares in the company and become a member. Each member has one vote irrespective of the number of shares held.

Our Partners

We are currently talking to community organisations, schools, ECC, DCC, hospitals, churches and local businesses to find a roof we can lease. The roof needs to face southeast, south or southwest and a pitched rather than flat roof is ideal. We are planning to build and commission the installation in the summer of 2014. It will provide a source of local renewable electricity for more than 20 years.

THE BIG COMMUNITY ENERGY WEEKEND

Saturday 17th and Sunday May 18th

Community Share Launch, Energy Fair and Green Open Homes Event

All Saturday at Montgomery Primary School, Redvers Road, Exeter.

Ben Bradshaw opens our Energy fair and community share offer launch.

Talks and displays from renewables energy and energy efficiency experts.

Plus, over the weekend 25 green homes in Exeter and further afield including Bicton EaRTH, open their doors to show you their use of renewable energy and a wide range of energy efficiency measures.

Further information

If you would like to know more about the project, and/or would like to

- **Volunteer your expertise and time**
- **Provide funding or help with funding applications**
- **Tell us about a building with a potential suitable roof**
- **Request further information on how to invest in the share offer**
- **Or are interested in partnering with the project . . .**

Please get in touch with us, we would be happy to talk with you in more depth. Contact our project managers:

Gill Wyatt (07806 623311) or Joe Smee (07890 591890)

Email: info@ecoe.org.uk



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www.ecoe.org.uk