



**DORSET
COMMUNITY
ENERGY**

Dorset Community Energy is developing a project that will create new lower cost renewable energy generation for Bridport homes and businesses. It is an exciting project- the first of its kind in England. We need your support!

You may well be familiar with Dorset Community Energy (DCE). We are a not-for-profit Community Benefit Society and have installed close to 1000 kW of community-financed solar panels on schools, community buildings and, most recently, hospitals. This includes installations on the roofs of Bridport Primary School, Bridport Arts Centre and Bridport Community Hospital, with all sites benefitting from lower cost solar electricity.

Last year we launched a new project, [Energy Local Bridport](#), which will enable 60 households in the Bridport area to buy the electricity generated by the 50kW wind turbine at Salway Ash at a discounted rate. It uses the Energy Local Club concept developed by [Energy Local CIC](#) to enable local trading of renewable energy between generators and consumers.

The project has taken longer than expected to roll out because of COVID-19 and some technical setbacks, but we hope to finally have Energy Local Bridport operational in Spring 2021. Lower cost local renewable electricity will be available at 9.5p/ kWh to the 60 households that have already expressed interest. We thank those of you who may be waiting to join the Club for your patience!

Future steps for Energy Local Bridport

In the meantime, we have been working on our next step and would appreciate your input.

Energy Local Clubs provide a financial mechanism that makes investment in new renewables more viable. Instead of selling generation into the grid for 4-6p/kWh, generators can sell to Energy Local Club members for a 'local' price of 9-10p/kWh. The additional income earned from the local tariff makes it possible to generate a better return on investment for owners of renewable energy generation, together with savings on energy bills for local householders and businesses (in addition to the important role of directly reducing CO2 emissions at the local community level).

Using this model, DCE now plan to install one or two 250-kW ground-mounted PV arrays in the Bridport area, financed by a community share offer. Each array would require approximately 1 acre of land. Locally-generated electricity from the PV would be sold to homes or businesses through an Energy Local Club at a rate of around 9.5p/kWh (less than standard tariffs).

To make the project viable, we need to be confident there are enough consumers in Bridport (business or domestic) using electricity during the daytime who would be willing to join an Energy Local Club to buy locally-generated electricity (see below for details of how Energy Local Clubs work). To this end, invite you to participate in our Community Consultation to help us gauge demand for the scheme.

You can help us

Respond to our Community Consultation. There is no commitment at this stage, but we will keep you informed regarding the progress of the project. Community Consultation survey [link here](#).

Attend a webinar to find out more: *(no booking required)*

- Monday 15 February 6.30pm [Zoom link](#)
- Tuesday 23 February 6.30pm [Zoom link](#)

Note both webinars will be similar- there is no need to attend both.

We appreciate it's odd for us to be consulting on a new project before the pilot Energy Local Bridport Club is fully functioning. However we need to be sure of demand before we can access funding to complete a feasibility study for the new PV. Our focus over the next few months will be getting the first club up and running. By the time it is, hopefully we will be ready to expand it with this new generation.

Many thanks for your time. Please visit our [website](#) or feel free to email the Energy Local Bridport project co-ordinator Alison Jay for further information: alison@dorsetcommunityenergy.org.uk

Further information

1.1 About Energy Local Clubs

To benefit from the cheap renewable energy generated by the solar array, you will need to join an Energy Local Club. Energy Local Clubs allow consumers to club together to show that they are using local renewable power when it is being generated, and to pay local generators a mutually beneficial price for that power.

When the solar is generating, the electricity produced will be split evenly across all the members of the Club. Your portion of this electricity is sold to you at around 9.5p/kWh. When the solar is not generating, you get electricity from a normal supplier (in this case Octopus Energy) as usual. [Read more about how Energy Local Clubs work](#).

1.2 Joining an Energy Local Club

As part of joining the Energy Local Club, you would need to:

- *Switch electricity supplier*

You'll need to switch your electricity supplier to one that is compatible with Energy Local; currently Octopus Energy. Octopus Energy supply any additional energy you need (on top of the solar) and are responsible for metering and billing your total electricity use.

- *Have a smart meter installed*

The smart meter enables your electricity consumption to be matched to the local generation, so you pay the local rate when the solar electricity is available. Octopus Energy arranges your smart meter installation, which is free of charge.

- *Accept a Time Of Use Tariff*

When not using the local electricity, the remainder of your electricity will be charged according to the time of use (generally cheaper in the middle of the day and at night, and more expensive during peak hours in the evening).

The Energy Local Club is a registered co-operative. There will be a small annual membership fee of approx. £5/year.

1.3 Timeline for adding solar PV to Energy Local Bridport

Of course, DCE has yet to build the PV to supply the Club. We are currently conducting feasibility studies and pre-planning applications for a 250-kW array on two separate 1 acre sites just outside Bridport, but first we need to assess the likely demand from interested households and businesses.

We anticipate the following rough timeline for project delivery:

<i>Stage</i>	<i>Expected date</i>
Express interest. Register your interest by completing the Community Consultation survey or emailing Alison@dorsetcommunityenergy.org.uk	Feb 2021
Modelling of supply and demand. DCE will conduct modelling of the expected PV generation and electricity demand of the Energy Local Club members to ensure that the scheme is viable.	Apr-May 2021
Planning consent. If there is enough demand, DCE will apply for planning permission for the PV array.	June – Aug 2021
Indicate commitment. If everything goes as planned, DCE would ask for some commitment from you to join the Club when the PV is generating. If enough parties commit, DCE proceed to build the array.	Aug-Nov 2021
Community share offer. DCE open a community share offer to finance the PV installation.	Sept-Dec 2021
Construction of solar array. Managed by DCE.	Jan-June 2022
You will be invited to join the Club, switch supplier, have a smart meter fitted and start buying the local electricity.	June – Sept 2022

For further information and to participate in our community consultation survey, please visit the [Dorset Community Energy website](#).

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