



Helping Parish Councils develop community owned energy projects which provide real community benefit



Bath & North East Somerset needs to significantly increase the amount of energy generated from renewables

- B&NES Council declared a Climate Emergency in March 2019 and many B&NES Parish Councils have followed suit.
- In October 2019 a B&NES Council report set out ways to move towards carbon neutrality by 2030. This could involve installing solar PV on 50% of existing homes, 116 football pitches worth of solar PV on commercial roof space and ground mounted sites and 28 large wind turbines.

How can communities control, own and benefit from renewable energy in their area?

- Parish Councils can play a critical role in delivering local renewable energy projects through developing plans and mobilising community support.
- Commercial ownership of renewable energy projects will deliver the reduction in carbon emissions we need. However, this won't prioritise local accountability, community resilience and local community benefit.



- If projects are owned by the community through Bath & West Community Energy, then local people can have a stake and surplus income can be redistributed back into the community.

How can Bath & West Community Energy (BWCE) help Parish Councils?

- We can help you scope out the most appropriate energy projects to tackle your local emissions, including energy project feasibility studies
- We can work with you to develop community owned renewable energy projects e.g.
 - Rooftop solar installation for non-domestic properties of an appropriate size via our Community Solar 2020 project
 - Ground mounted solar projects
 - Wind projects
 - Community owned electric vehicle charging and car club networks
- We can support you to seek external funding and local community groups can apply to our independent Community Fund for environmental or fuel poverty initiatives.
- We can help you develop a local identity for your renewable project and help you maximise local community benefit.
- We can support you with local awareness raising (e.g. public meetings, talks, workshops) about the energy transition and how we can tackle local energy challenges.
- We can help you to join a growing network promoting community energy solutions across B&NES.



Who are BWCE?

- BWCE is a local, not for profit community enterprise which has been operating in B&NES since 2010.
- We have installed enough renewable energy to power 4,000 homes and re-distributed nearly £200,000 back into local community projects to reduce carbon emissions and fuel poverty.
- We have supported other community energy groups, including help with setting up, fundraising and project development.
- In addition to energy generation we are developing innovative energy demand projects such as Flex community, a community-led approach which uses smart technology to balance supply and demand on the electricity grid.
- We have had a cooperation agreement with B&NES Council since 2011 and have started working with a number of parish and town councils to explore the potential for community owned renewable energy projects in their communities.

Why work with BWCE?

BWCE is an established and financially stable organisation with a strong track record. Through working with us you will gain access to a range of resources and expertise which can add real value to any local energy project you wish to develop:

- A proven track record in developing community renewable schemes, which brings with it an established supply chain and experience in navigating planning policies and electricity grid requirements.
- A tried and tested not-for-profit business model which enables local people to invest in local projects, earn a return, get involved in BWCE and ensure that surplus income flows back into local communities.
- Significant expertise in raising money through community share offers and funding applications.
- An experienced in-house team with skills in community energy, energy consultancy/design, fundraising, installation, project management and community engagement.
- A membership and supporter base with a broad range of expertise and extensive networks across B&NES.

By providing community ownership through Bath & West Community Energy, our experienced team can deal with the risks of running and operating high cost assets via a not for profit model that also delivers high levels of community benefit.

We were established in

2010

We have nearly

1,000

members and
bondholders

We have raised

**£10
million**

through community
shares and bonds



We have installed

12.35MW
of renewable
energy...

...enough
to power

**4,000
homes**

We have
donated nearly

£200,000

through our
Community
Fund

**OK, we are interested in
hearing more from BWCE.
What should we do next?**

We are always happy to meet with
Parish Councils to introduce BWCE
and answer any questions.

To find out more or set up an
informal discussion please contact
Nick Bird at nick.bird@bwce.coop
or call 07517 100889.