The Low Carbon Hub C.I.C.

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2019
The Low Carbon Hub C.I.C.

Contents

Company Information .................................................. 1
Balance Sheet .......................................................... 2
Notes to the Financial Statements .................................. 3 to 6
The Low Carbon Hub C.I.C.

Company Information

Directors
Sam Clarke
Barbara Hammond
Susan Halliwell
Timothy Paul Sadler
Luke Marion
Adriano Figueiredo
Thomas Hoines
Nina Alphay

Registered office
9 Park End Street
Oxford
Oxfordshire
OX1 1HJ

Auditors
Critchleys Audit LLP
Registered Auditors
Beaver House
2 Hythe Bridge Street
Oxford
OX1 2EP
The Low Carbon Hub C.I.C.

(Registration number: 07583663)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible assets</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>28,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debtors</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>412,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank and in hand</td>
<td></td>
<td>95,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>508,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>(394,946)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>113,237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets less current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>141,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provisions for liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>(4,511)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>136,774</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Capital and reserves**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Called up share capital</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit and loss account</td>
<td>136,742</td>
<td>123,894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total equity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>136,774</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and the option not to file the Profit and Loss Account has been taken.

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 3 October 2019 and signed on its behalf by:

Barbara Hammond
Director

The notes on pages 3 to 6 form an integral part of these financial statements.
The Low Carbon Hub C.I.C.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

1 General information
The company is a Community Interest Company limited by shares incorporated in United Kingdom.
The address of its registered office is:
9 Park End Street
Oxford
Oxfordshire
OX1 1HH

2 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance
These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 Section 1A - 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation
These financial statements have been prepared using the historical cost convention except that as disclosed in the accounting policies certain items are shown at fair value.

The Low Carbon Hub C.I.C meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Audit report
The Independent Auditor’s Report was unqualified. The name of the Senior Statutory Auditor who signed the audit report on 4 October 2019 was Colin Mills, who signed for and on behalf of Critchleys Audit LLP.

Revenue recognition
Turnover comprises the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for the sale of goods and services in the ordinary course of the company’s activities. Turnover is shown net of sales/value added tax, returns, rebates and discounts.

The C.I.C. receives community benefit donations which can only be expended on community benefit projects. The community benefit donations are only included in turnover when they are expended. Any unspent amounts are included in deferred income at the year-end.

The C.I.C. is the lead partner for certain grants. Where other parties are named in the grant agreement or there is a formal collaboration agreement in place, the income and expenditure for the other parties is not reflected in either income or expenditure as the C.I.C. is acting as 'agent'.

Other grants
Grant income is recognised in full only when conditions for receipts have been met and, in the case of grants for specific projects, associated project expenditure has been incurred. When projects are in progress at the year-end, or where they have not yet started, grants are carried forward as deferred income to the extent needed to fund anticipated costs on the projects.

Tax
The tax expense for the period comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in profit or loss, except that a change attributable to an item of income or expense recognised as other comprehensive income is also recognised directly in other comprehensive income.
The Low Carbon Hub C.I.C.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

The current income tax charge is calculated on the basis of tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date in the countries where the company operates and generates taxable income.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences between taxable profits and profits reported in the financial statements.

Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised when it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits.

Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date and that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Depreciation
Depreciation is charged so as to write off the cost of assets, other than land and properties under construction over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset class</th>
<th>Depreciation method and rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plant and machinery</td>
<td>5% straight line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office equipment</td>
<td>25% straight line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website development</td>
<td>25% straight line</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trade debtors
Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Stocks
Work in progress is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after due regard for obsolete and slow moving stocks. Net realisable value is based on selling price less anticipated costs to completion and selling costs. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Defined contribution pension obligation
A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the company has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as employee benefit expense when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

3 Staff numbers
The average number of persons employed by the company (including directors) during the year, was 11 (2018 - 9).
The Low Carbon Hub C.I.C.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

4 Tangible assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Furniture, fittings and equipment</th>
<th>Other property, plant and equipment</th>
<th>Total £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost or valuation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1 April 2018</td>
<td>22,337</td>
<td>39,056</td>
<td>61,393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>2,006</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>2,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 31 March 2019</td>
<td>24,343</td>
<td>39,706</td>
<td>64,049</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Depreciation**

|                      |                                   |                                    |         |
|----------------------|                                   |                                    |         |
| At 1 April 2018      | 21,861                            | 11,717                             | 33,578  |
| Charge for the year  | 243                               | 2,180                              | 2,423   |
| At 31 March 2019     | 22,104                            | 13,897                             | 36,001  |

**Carrying amount**

|                      |                                   |                                    |         |
|----------------------|                                   |                                    |         |
| At 31 March 2019     | 2,239                             | 25,809                             | 28,048  |
| At 31 March 2018     | 476                               | 27,339                             | 27,815  |

5 Debtors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade debtors</td>
<td>74,486</td>
<td>49,512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepayments</td>
<td>24,459</td>
<td>32,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other debtors</td>
<td>313,467</td>
<td>99,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>412,412</td>
<td>180,766</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 Creditors

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Due within one year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade creditors</td>
<td>82,972</td>
<td>48,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxation and social security</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other creditors</td>
<td>311,974</td>
<td>139,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>394,946</td>
<td>206,329</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Low Carbon Hub C.I.C.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

7  Financial commitments, guarantees and contingencies

Amounts not provided for in the balance sheet

The total amount of financial commitments not included in the balance sheet is £18,891 (2018 - £31,485). These represent the total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases over the remaining life of these leases.
# Community Interest Company Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For official use (Please leave blank)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Company Name in full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Low Carbon Hub CIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7583663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Ending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please ensure the company name is consistent with the company name entered on the accounts.

This template illustrates what the Regulator of Community Interest Companies considers to be best practice for completing a simplified community interest company report. All such reports must be delivered in accordance with section 34 of the Companies (Audit, Investigations and Community Enterprise) Act 2004 and contain the information required by Part 7 of the Community Interest Company Regulations 2005. For further guidance see chapter 8 of the Regulator’s guidance notes and the alternate example provided for a more complex company with more detailed notes.

(N.B. A Filing Fee of £15 is payable on this document. Please enclose a cheque or postal order payable to Companies House)

## PART 1 - GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPANY’S ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

In the space provided below, please insert a general account of the company’s activities in the financial year to which the report relates, including a description of how they have benefited the community.

A Community Benefit report covering these points is attached.

(If applicable, please just state “A social audit report covering these points is attached”).

(Please continue on separate continuation sheet if necessary.)
PART 2 – CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS – Please indicate who the company’s stakeholders are; how the stakeholders have been consulted and what action, if any, has the company taken in response to feedback from its consultations? If there has been no consultation, this should be made clear.

- Annual Perception Survey – this has underpinned our continued commitment to supporting energy efficiency activities.
- AGM – regarding minor changes to the CIC Articles
- Involving six of our community group members in the development and pilot of a domestic retrofit service.

(If applicable, please just state “A social audit report covering these points is attached”).

PART 3 – DIRECTORS’ REMUNERATION – if you have provided full details in your accounts you need not reproduce it here. Please clearly identify the information within the accounts and confirm that, “There were no other transactions or arrangements in connection with the remuneration of directors, or compensation for director’s loss of office, which require to be disclosed” (See example with full notes). If no remuneration was received you must state that “no remuneration was received” below.

The aggregate amount of emoluments paid to or receivable by directors in respect of qualifying services was £84,170. There were no other transactions or arrangements in connection with the remuneration of directors, or compensation for director’s loss of office, which require to be disclosed.

PART 4 – TRANSFERS OF ASSETS OTHER THAN FOR FULL CONSIDERATION – Please insert full details of any transfers of assets other than for full consideration e.g. Donations to outside bodies. If this does not apply you must state that “no transfer of assets other than for full consideration has been made” below.

No transfer of assets other than for full consideration has been made.

(Please continue on separate continuation sheet if necessary.)
PART 5 – SIGNATORY

The original report must be signed by a director or secretary of the company

Signed

Date

Office held (delete as appropriate) Director/Secretary

Tel

DX Number

DX Exchange

When you have completed and signed the form, please attach it to the accounts and send both forms by post to the Registrar of Companies at:

For companies registered in England and Wales: Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff, CF14 3UZ
DX 33050 Cardiff

For companies registered in Scotland: Companies House, 4th Floor, Edinburgh Quay 2, 139 Fountainbridge, Edinburgh, EH3 9FF DX 235 Edinburgh or LP – 4 Edinburgh 2

For companies registered in Northern Ireland: Companies House, 2nd Floor, The Linenhall, 32-38 Linenhall Street, Belfast, BT2 8BG

The accounts and CIC34 cannot be filed online

(N.B. Please enclose a cheque for £15 payable to Companies House)
The Low Carbon Hub C.I.C.

Directors' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

Community Benefit

Income
In accordance with the Low Carbon Hub IPS Limited’s Company aims and objectives, surpluses from projects that have been live for at least one year are passed to the Low Carbon Hub CIC in the form of Community Benefit Donations. This year, the income from our IPS owned renewables has been boosted thanks to the additional contribution of income generated by the solar PV arrays transferred from ONCORE in June 2018. This income to the CIC has been further bolstered by funds from a number of additional income streams. As well as surpluses from two CIC-owned renewable energy installations in Eyesham we have continued to receive generous support from Westmill Solar Co-operative supporting energy efficiency audits for schools and community buildings. We also receive income from a number of grants and contracts awarded to the Low Carbon Hub CIC. These are in part leveraged by matched funding commitment from the Low Carbon Hub CIC, fulfilling a key principle of our community benefit strategy - using our own community benefit income to leverage additional resources.

During 2018-19 our work to foster the development of community-led solutions to tackle climate change was supported by the following programmes:

* European Regional Development Fund
  Year two of a three year programme to support the collaborative OxFutures partnership, which will deliver £3.2 million benefit to our community over three years.

* Department for Business, Energy and Industry Strategy (BEIS) Retrofit pilot
  We led a winning consortium securing £190,000 to lay the foundations for developing a home retrofit scheme in Oxfordshire.

* Power to Change Next Generation Programme
  We are part of an expert consortium, led by Centre for Sustainable Energy, supporting a nationwide programme to develop new decentralised, decarbonised and democratised energy business models.

All three of these projects will continue to run in 2019-20. As the financial year drew to a close, we were thrilled to announce our participation in Project LEO, a £40 million collaboration to lead energy innovation in Oxfordshire.
The Low Carbon Hub C.I.C.

Directors' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

Table 1: Community benefit income for 2018-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Renewables generated income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPS Community benefit donation</td>
<td>141,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIC Eynsham village Solar PVs income</td>
<td>2,117</td>
<td>1,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrestricted donations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted donations</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Restricted grants and donations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Regional Development Fund</td>
<td>307,809</td>
<td>123,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and awards</td>
<td>139,911</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Service Contracts</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power to Change – Next Generation</td>
<td>13,347</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>£603,984</td>
<td>229,561</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditure

We use our community benefit income to deliver:
- grants and loans to community energy enterprises
- funding, help and advice to support community action on climate change
- energy efficiency support to reduce our County’s energy demands
- support for innovative initiatives, by providing seed funding for the development of new products and services that encourage carbon-cutting action.

Table 2: Community benefit Expenditure for 2018-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community grant programme</td>
<td>38,788</td>
<td>9,035</td>
<td>23,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local energy programme</td>
<td>495,259</td>
<td>186,988</td>
<td>127,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community benefit management</td>
<td>2,900</td>
<td>2,900</td>
<td>3,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td>536,947</td>
<td>198,923</td>
<td>154,944</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At the end of the financial year, £64,799 of the community benefit donation received from the IPS was unspent, and carries over into 2019/20.
The Low Carbon Hub C.I.C.

Directors' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

**Community grants programme**

£38,788

Ten of our Low Carbon Hub community group shareholders were awarded a total of 17 grants through our community grants programme this financial year.

**IPS Community donation funded grants:**

£13,530

All our community group shareholders are eligible for £500 grants. Additionally, we offered two larger grants of £5,000 through a competitive grants application process. We were particularly delighted to receive a number of joint applications for grants, with groups working together to pool resources and deliver projects to the benefit of their communities. The following grants were awarded:

**Small grants programme**

- Rose Hill and Iffley Low Carbon pay for a qualified planner to support community groups when responding to the consultation on the draft Oxford Local Plan
- Banbury CAG for an energy audit on St Hughes Church, Banbury
- Osney Lock Hydro and West Oxford Community Renewables towards on-site CCTV to assist trash screen clearance and opening the site to the public.
- Low Carbon West Oxford, Rose Hill and Iffley Low Carbon and Local Environmental Action Florence Park to support the Our Kids Climate Action Network to help primary school children understand and take effective action on climate change.
- Sustainable Kirtlington to carry out a feasibility study to install solar PV backed up by battery storage at Kirtlington Village Hall.

**Large grants programme**

- Sustainable Kirtlington to support the installation of a battery as part of the Kirtlington Village Hall Clean energy project
- Low Carbon Oxford North to support five healthy streets and active travel activities in Oxford

**BEIS RetrofitWorks funded grants**

£16,000

Six communities are working with us to pilot the BEIS Retrofit funded ‘Cosy Homes’ service in Oxfordshire. We awarded six small grants of £1,000 to support the pilot communities activities to encourage uptake of the service. We also provided two £5,000 grants to support community-led domestic retrofit projects in two of the pilot areas.

**Renewable generation grants**

£6,058

We have agreements to support two of our CIC community group shareholders from income resulting from the sale of electricity from specific solar PV arrays.

**Low Carbon Oxford North**

£5,000

As part of the agreement to transfer engagements from ONCORE to the Low Carbon Hub IPS Limited, we promised to honour ONCORE’s commitment to support the work of Low Carbon Oxford North with income generated by the solar PV arrays on Cherwell School and St Barnabas Primary School.
Eynsham GreenTEA

Half of the net profits from the CIC-owned installations in Eynsham are donated to Eynsham GreenTEA in recognition of their support in making the project happen. In 2018/19 these funds helped support a number of local activities carried out by the group, including:

- Free events including swap shops and talks with a sustainable transport focus
- Demonstrations of electric cars and bicycles at events
- Running the GreenTEA festival, which included information on net zero carbon energy positive development, as well as a repair café, local food etc.
- Supporting other local groups in obtaining expert advice on their role in influencing development planned around Eynsham and campaigning for new buildings to be zero carbon and a net exporter of renewable energy
- Donations in support of community energy and action on climate change
- Supporting the planting of local apple varieties and the Peace Oak orchard
- Providing information and advice via website, notices and Eynsham news
- Educational visits on the subject of energy and waste

Total expenditure included a £3,200 contribution towards the cost of managing the grants programme including the dissemination of learning from these activities.

Local Energy Programme

Our Local Energy Programme has two key themes. Firstly, we provide advice and practical and financial support to encourage the flourishing of community energy in Oxfordshire and beyond. Second, we support innovation, either through undertaking research and pilots ourselves, or funding the work of others to help explore new business models for community energy.

2018-19 has seen a continued focus on ‘powering down’ with significant growth in activities promoting energy efficiency. As well as our ongoing OxFutures programme, supporting energy efficiency amongst SMEs, this year has seen the launch of our community buildings energy audit grants scheme, the first LESS CO2 schools programme being delivered in Oxfordshire and the development of Cosy Homes Oxfordshire, a domestic retrofit programme. The provision of energy audits has been a key focus. In total we funded 66 energy efficiency audits for organisations in Oxfordshire. Activities this year have included:

Helpdesk service

Our helpdesk exists to support the development of a decentralised, community-owned renewables based energy system. In 2018-19 we delivered 296 hours of support to 70 individuals and organisations. We’ve supported a wide range of organisations from technical advice on energy projects to low carbon community groups, to educational visits to local schools.

Next Generation

As well as our on-going helpdesk service, we are part of the expert consortium providing in-depth support to community energy projects nationally as part of a Power to Change funded programme. The project has two key strands. The first aims to transfer renewable energy assets from the private sector to the community sector. The second supports ten communities to develop new business models for community energy.

Community building audits grant scheme

Thanks to generous support from Westmill Solar Co-operative we are able to offer free energy audits to community buildings in Oxfordshire. In 2018-19 the scheme funded eight energy audits, carried out by EiE, a not-for-profit organisation based at Oxford Brookes University, who provide organisations with support to reduce their energy. Their donation will also enable the community audits programme to deliver twenty more audits in 2019/20.

LESS CO2 Programme

We were delighted to work with the charity Ashden to bring the LESS CO2 programme to Oxfordshire for the first time this year, enabling 19 local schools benefit from their energy efficiency programme. The core programme was provided free of charge to local schools by Ashden. Thanks to additional funding from Westmill Solar Co-operative, participating schools were also offered in-depth energy efficiency audits, to give them personalised advice on improving the energy performance of their schools.
OxFutures £341,193
This was the second year of the OxFutures partnership, a three-year £3.2 million project supported by the European Regional Development Fund. As the lead partner we are responsible for the overall administration of the project and co-ordination between the six project partners.

Our role also includes the co-ordination of applications for support and to signpost organisations to the most relevant advice and support on offer from project partners. In particular, we have responsibility for the allocation of GreenFund Innovation and Energy Efficiency grants. ERDF funding covers the majority of staff costs, with the remainder being covered from our community benefit income. In addition, we provide matched funding for some social enterprises from our own community benefit funds to help them meet the matched funding requirements to access ERDF funded grants.

The programme awarded £161,118 in grants to support energy efficiency and innovation this financial year. Three of the SMEs supported through the OxFutures programme are Low Carbon Hub CIC shareholder communities. For these projects, the ERDF funding has been matched by our community benefit. These projects are:

- Sustainable Wantage operates from a shop unit called The Mix. The total grant of £3,302 paid for energy efficiency work that makes the venue much warmer in winter and so supports more community activity in more comfortable surroundings at less cost to the community.
- Hook Norton Low Carbon has been developing the feasibility for a very exciting zero carbon community-led housing scheme. £31,769 has been spent in total during the year on design and technical feasibility, on land valuation and on community engagement. We expect this project to achieve planning approval next year.
- Osney Lock Hydro worked with Energy Local and Low Carbon West Oxford to explore the feasibility of setting up a buyers club on Osney Island where islanders could buy energy from the hydro scheme at Osney Lock. A total of £8,929 was spent on the feasibility work and community engagement. Unfortunately, the time is not yet quite right to move forward with the scheme, but the work done to date will contribute to our new Project LEO programme. We may well find that the project becomes feasible over the lifetime of Project LEO.

By the end of its second year, the programme had supported 80 small and medium enterprises in Oxfordshire with energy efficiency audits. These have identified 551 recommendations that could save these organisations £250,000 on their energy bills each year, and reduce carbon emissions by 840 tonnes of CO₂

Oxfordshire RetrofitWorks £115,461
Working in consortium with the National Energy Foundation and RetrofitWorks, we have been preparing to launch Cosy Homes Oxfordshire, a home retrofit service. The first year of the pilot was funded thanks to a £190,000 grant from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and supported by six of our CIC Community group Members who are piloting the scheme in their communities. https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy

The People’s Power Station £550
The People’s Power Station is an on-line interactive map we developed to showcase Oxfordshire’s efforts to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels to power our buildings. You can explore the map or add your own projects at www.peoplespowerstation.org

Community Benefit Management £2,900
We believe that investing in good management of our community benefit is important in ensuring its effective use. This includes overall strategy development, and monitoring and reporting to ensure learning is fed back into the organisation. It excludes internal costs relating to the management of specific projects, which are allocated to those projects.

Looking ahead – Project LEO
As the year drew to a close we were thrilled to announce that the Low Carbon Hub has been awarded £5.8m funding from the UK Government Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, as part of a £40 million Innovate UK supported project.

Project LEO aims to transform the technology and markets that underpin Oxfordshire’s energy system, and so demonstrate it’s possible to meet our energy needs in a way that’s good for people and good for the planet.
To prevent run-away climate change we need to find a way to meet our energy needs whilst keeping fossil fuels in the ground. The drive for decarbonisation also provides us with the opportunity to change the way individuals interact with our energy system, enabling people to transition from being passive consumers to active energy citizens. Project LEO is a three-year trial that will work with individuals, communities and organisations from across Oxfordshire, to explore how we can re-engineer the technology and markets that underpin our energy system to make this happen.