

2021

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT & ACCOUNTS



**Plymouth Energy
COMMUNITY**



Combined report for PEC Trust (Registered charity 118371, Company No. 11569012) PEC Homes (Company no. 8356) Plymouth Energy Community (Company no. 32108) PEC Renewables (Company no. 32286R Registered address Ballard House, Plymouth, PL1 3BJ)

Joint Chair's Statement



Ian Hutchcroft

Ian Hutchcroft
PEC Trust



D.R. Garland

Dave Garland
PEC Renewables



Clive Turner

Clive Turner
PEC Homes



Lee Richards

Lee Richards
Plymouth Energy Community

On the eve of the highly-anticipated UN Climate Conference (COP 26), there is no question that the challenges faced by humanity are immense. The impacts of global warming, once perceived by many as being far in the future or happening elsewhere, are upon us. **Instability, in its many forms, affects the most vulnerable and marginalised in society quickest and hardest. This is a critical time for social and environmental action.**

Whilst we need our government to lead with ambitious meaningful policy commitments, they cannot do it all. Any form of transition to net zero, particularly a just transition, cannot happen without communities and we stand hopeful that this point may be slowly sinking in. We need to be ready for when government comes asking for our help and so it has never been more important for communities to define place-based solutions for this change.

PEC is now a nationally-recognised and locally respected organisation. We are proud of the impacts this report documents, however we have done this without a supportive policy environment. As we complete the first year of 'the decade to make a difference', gaping policy vacuums remain, but we can **be confident that organisations like ours are more relevant than ever.**

In the last 12 months, we have laid a firm foundation for our highly innovative approach to building truly affordable net-zero homes to become a reality. Our solar installations generate clean energy whilst providing a fair return for investors, saving essential funds for schools and supporting community projects.

With our largest solar farm now on the horizon, our community will own over a 1/3 of Plymouth's renewable energy. We continue to encourage conversations about the climate and ecological emergencies through school workshops and solar site visits and our incredible Moths To A Flame art project. This creativity has sent over 15,000 handmade moths and messages of hope to world leaders at COP 26.

The evolution of our Energy Team has accelerated this year. Eleven advisors help us meet the growing demand for our home energy support services, driven in part by our reputation but sadly due to the economic hardships of Covid, rising bills and Universal Credit cuts, resulting in more people in fuel poverty. Our track record has secured new funds from the National Lottery Community Fund and Energy Redress and combined with strong partnerships such as Plymouth City Council and Livewell Southwest, we can now offer an holistic and person centred domestic energy support programme to improve insulation, ventilation, repairs, renewable forms of heat and power, income maximisation, referrals and so much more.

In the end, though, what is comes down to is people. People saying the status quo is not good enough and working hard for an alternative.

In 2013, we started with people power and it's still what drives us. Our committed team of 24 staff and 26 volunteer Directors / trustees tirelessly go above and beyond, with endless drive, empathy, compassion and care, always ready to find solutions. This report is a credit to them.

As we reflect on this incredible year, lets also take a deep breath and look forward to the next, knowing that together, we are enough.

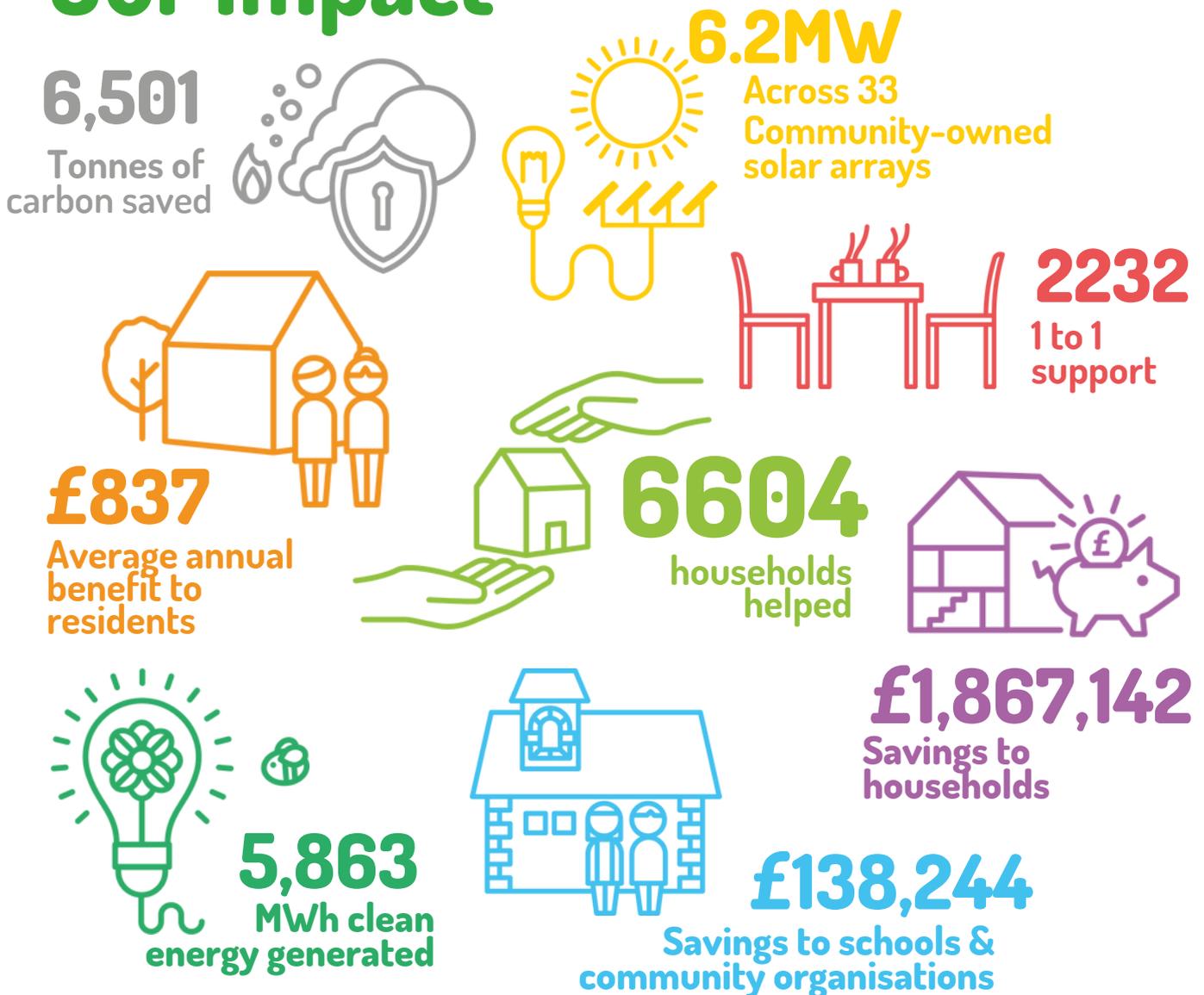
Our Mission

Plymouth Energy Community (PEC) is a multi-award winning charity and a social enterprise, with a cooperative ethos. PEC's mission is to empower our community to create a fair, affordable, zero carbon energy system with local people at its heart. We are a family of community led business organisations offering a range of projects that:

- Bring local people and organisations together to tackle fuel poverty and the climate crisis;
- Increase local ownership and influence over local energy solutions;
- Improve community confidence to engage in the zero carbon transition and;
- Enable people to heat and power their homes affordably.

We are supported by a team of 24 employed staff, 700 members and supporters and 500 investor members. Combined, the PEC Family generated a combined turnover of £2.1 million last year.

Our Impact



October 2020- September 2021

Household support

The Energy Team

PEC's Energy Team is now an established and trusted intermediary for thousands of Plymouth households. In the last 12 months, we have seen a significant increase in demand for our services. more than 6,500 people have come to our friendly advisors for advice to resolve their energy issues

Our work improves circumstances using a person-centred approach, offering assistance in a way that works best for the individual. From one-off calls on energy efficiency, to long and complex, multi-agency casework that can radically improve physical, financial and mental health. The team work with more than a hundred local agencies allowing us to address a broad range of issues that impact wellbeing, such as debt and a low income. Together, we have continued to secure long lasting benefits for the households we work with.

We are seeing first-hand the economic impact of COVID falling harshly on households, combined with continuing austerity. Over 50 % of clients come from low income families and over 90% are needing support from at least one welfare benefit. As a result, 2020 has seen an increased demand



for our services and the severity of need is set to increase more with the cuts to Universal Credit and the huge increases in fuel bills for people this winter.

Across the year, the number of households receiving one to one support from the team reached over 2,200, this has grown three-fold from 2020. The number of people calling us has increased by 33% and the number of people asking for support has more than doubled. Our increased ability to get support to those in need and crisis is a result of strong partnerships with Livewell Southwest's Adult Social Care team, Citizen's Advice Plymouth and Plymouth City Council. The breadth of work being delivered by the team is too extensive to document here but their work supporting the local distribution of the Government's Covid Winter grants and Green Homes Grants provide good case studies.

Covid winter grants

PEC has continued to play a vital role in the Plymouth's response to Covid-19, working closely with partners and funders to reach people in the most vulnerable circumstances. For example, PEC was appointed by Plymouth City Council (PCC) to administer part of the Governments Covid Winter Grant scheme and through this we helped 930 households by paying some their winter bills, provided 415 households with emergency vouchers to top up meters and prevent disconnection, and distributed 382 essential energy efficient white goods to families unable to replace broken items.

"I love my home again, thank you"

Plymouth resident, helped by the Energy Team, August 2021

Household support



PEC's partnership with local provider HBH Woolacotts ensured any old appliances were recycled and where possible repaired before being redistributed free to others in need. All this was delivered in less than 4 months.

Green Homes grants

The end of 2020 saw us partner with PCC to secure over £3 million of Green Homes Grants investment into Plymouth. This was the biggest domestic energy retrofit programme Plymouth has ever planned. Thanks to our track record, Plymouth was one of the first to benefit from this new national scheme to improve fuel poverty homes; with grants averaging £10,000 per household to install a broad range of efficiency, and renewable heat and power improvements.

Government funds to retrofit fuel poor homes seem set to increase and PEC's reputation means we are in a strong position to secure these for our city. We believe that a package of trusted, impartial, local-specific advice about homeowners retrofit options, matched with high quality local installers will be an essential component of the City's transition to net zero and it has been encouraging to see government placing value on this type of approach.

We had many challenges to deal with, including short delivery timescales, supply chain shortages and escalating costs for building work. Even so, in less than 10 months, 127 households were helped to access 186 different home improvements including nine different methods of insulating, low carbon heating, solar PV and ventilation improvements.

Through trialling a community led approach to retrofit, we have supported vulnerable households to access measures through building trust and providing person centred advice and support. We have also ensured the scheme benefits the local economy and delivers value for money, spending 42% of grant funds with SMEs based in Plymouth and 99% within the Plymouth and Devon areas.

An amazing story of hope

An elderly resident was referred to us with significant issues with his home, including rotting windows and doors, and concerns around debt.

Working in partnership with Livewell Southwest & Citizens Advice Plymouth, the team enabled the following lifechanging improvements; a complete retrofit of his home, with cavity wall and loft insulation, new heating and ventilation systems, a deep clean, debts written off, including Council Tax arrears, and access to nearly £100,000 of back pay from his unclaimed pension.

Creative engagement



Moths to A Flame



When we first started collaborating with Art & Energy CIC in 2018, little did we know the magic that could happen when art meets energy! The inspirational Moths To A Flame project has brought thousands of people's voices together in a creative collective 'call to action' for world leaders at the latest UN climate change conference (COP 26). Over 15,000 'moths' have been individually made out of recycled milk cartons by people of all ages, at events, schools and home! It has sparked many conversations about climate change, our reliance on energy and how art can encourage participation in community energy organisations.

At the time of releasing this report, the moths are spectacularly displayed for the public and COP delegates in Glasgow Botanic Gardens. Accompanied by pre-recorded messages of hope, the installation symbolises our relationship with energy and the health of the planet. It's been a heartfelt learning journey, from Plymouth, all over the UK, cumulating in Glasgow. After Glasgow, the moths will return to Plymouth for Illuminate and Plymouth Social Enterprise Festivals. We hope to continue our collaboration with Art & Energy CIC into the future (www.mothsto aflame.art).

Solar Schools

We are continuing to work with Earth Energy Education to offer solar farm site visits and energy awareness workshops in local schools. Picking up after lockdowns, 233 students from 5 classes visited Ernesettle solar array over the summer months. In 2022, we will be taking 6 schools on site visits and offering 22 two hour workshops for all schools with community-owned solar on their roofs. These workshops help students explore renewable energy and climate action and we will also share resources with teachers to embed learning in their curriculum. 25% of teachers surveyed by Earth Energy Education do not cover climate change. We will be helping the with a variety of resources and after-school support.

Community Events

With the easing of restrictions, our in-person drop-in advice and support events are ramping up again. Our Energy Team have been offering at least 10 events a month at various community venues. This provides an opportunity to reach people who are not online or who would not usually engage in a conversation about energy or realise that they can access help.

Zero carbon homes



We set up PEC Homes as a Community Benefit Society in 2020 to build affordable, high quality, well-designed, cooperative and sustainable housing development projects that can:

- Be local flagships for innovation,
- Deliver community-owned, warm, affordable, desirable, net-zero homes,
- Demonstrate a replicable cost model,
- Deliver net-zero energy homes for which the total energy and maintenance costs are significantly less than business as usual.

2021 has been a year of solid progress in laying the foundations that will enable our highly-innovative approach to building net-zero carbon homes to move forward.

While circumstances beyond our control meant that we had to abandon our initial planning application for our site at Kings Tamerton, we have taken the opportunity to create a new masterplan (see below). We have now integrated our net-zero ambitions and wider One Planet Living design principles across a wider area with a total scheme of up to 70 homes. A new application has now been submitted and we are hopeful that it will receive approval in December.

Earlier in the year, we were contracted by Innovate UK to explore the market's appetite for building homes using the innovative Energiesprong approach. Energiesprong is a straightforward, pragmatic and flexible approach, applicable to a wide range of situations and house types. It is not a



Revised masterplan for Kings Tamerton development

Zero carbon homes



Proposed timeline for Kings Tamerton development



commercial product or brand; no company, product, technology or materials are specified, just the outcomes that everyone needs: warm, affordable, desirable, net zero homes. The Kings Tamerton project will be the first new-build project to use the Energiesprong approach in England, and so we needed to understand whether this was a realistic ambition. The research allowed us to demonstrate that there is significant interest in this approach and has helped us to embed the design, build and guarantee principles that we intend to use within our contracts.

To help choose the team who will work with us to design and build the homes to the Energiesprong standards we have secured funds to an exciting design competition which will see three candidates compete for the opportunity to work with us to build the homes by demonstrating how they will innovatively and creatively meet our net-zero requirements.

To build innovative affordable homes we will require public subsidy, therefore we have started the process of becoming a Registered Social Landlord. This includes ensuring that we can demonstrate the high standards of governance and business planning required alongside strengthening our relationships with external bodies, such as Homes England.

The key next steps for the project are shown in the graphic above.

Find out more about the project and ways that you can get involved here:

<https://plymouthenergycommunity.com/pec-homes/kings-tamerton>

Community-owned renewables



Existing solar installations

Our community-owned renewable energy installations include 33 solar roof tops on schools and community buildings across the city and our solar farm at Ernesettle. These represent over 20% of the City's total non-domestic renewable generation capacity and over the last year these have generated a total of 5863MWh of clean energy, avoiding 1,244 tonnes of carbon emissions and saving £93,510 on the energy bills of local schools and community organisations.



Chelson Meadow community solar farm

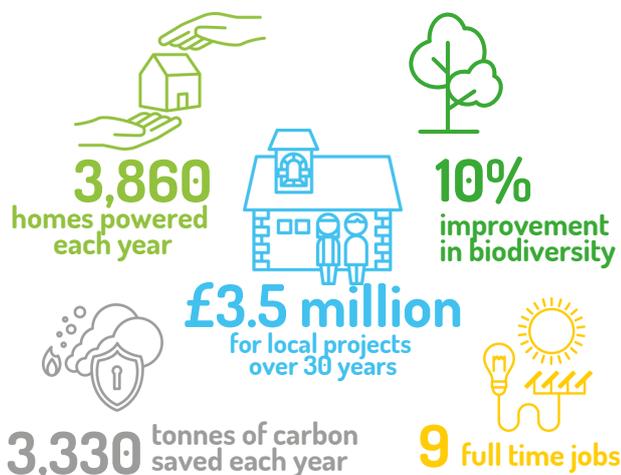
We are in the planning phase of our largest solar project yet and our first post-subsidies. We are working with Plymouth City Council to develop a community-owned solar farm on the old landfill site at Chelson Meadow (an area the size of 24 football pitches). It will:

- Put local people in control over a key part of Plymouth's ambition to get to net zero emissions.
- Put any surplus funds generated towards other local community projects that are responding to climate change and tackling fuel poverty.

To date, we have carried out substantial feasibility studies and working with key stakeholders, thanks to the Rural Community Energy Fund. We have been engaging with the local community through in-person visits, online info events and a city-wide survey.

We hope to submit a planning application shortly and start construction in late 2022. We aim to provide another opportunity for local residents and businesses to co-own this solar farm by investing in community shares. Investors will become members and will be paid a return on their investment. Visit <https://plymouthenergycommunity.com/our-work/chelson-meadow> for further information.

Potential benefits of Chelson Meadow



Additional information for PEC Renewables members

If you are a Member of PEC Renewables, please click on [this link](#) to read information about the technical performance of the existing solar installations, information about Member interest repayments and share withdrawal payments.

Financial summary

As a whole, the PEC family finances prove financial viability and longer-term sustainability. The numbers in the table below show the financial outcomes last year, compared to the previous year. They are in line with targets and show no significant variances to the latest financial models.

As a family, we are developing a long-term financial strategy to include the community benefit donations from PEC Renewables and Ernesettle Community Solar. These will support the growth of PEC trust and its ability to deliver its charitable objectives.

PEC Trust continued to acquire funding to support the development of the Kings Tamerton Zero-Carbon homes project, although new funding streams and procurement will gradually be undertaken by PEC Homes directly. PEC Community Benefit Society also provided some grant funding for the start up costs and overheads of PEC Homes.

	Reserves 2020	Turnover 2020	Reserves 2021	Turnover 2021
PEC Trust	£250,627	£602,093	£142,258	£1,247,312
PEC Renewables	-£106,228	£295,627	-£75,896	£364,871
Ernesettle Community Solar	-£111,384	£539,846	-£91,986	£505,064
PEC Homes	n/a	n/a	£6,557	£51,466
PEC CBS	£391,529	£114,454	£336,669	£0

Please click on the links below to see the full financial statements for each organisation in the PEC Family:

[PEC Trust Financial Statements 2021](#)

[PEC Renewables Financial Statements 2021](#)

[Ernesettle Community Solar Financial Statements 2021](#)

[PEC Homes Financial Statements 2021](#)

[PEC CBS Financial Statements 2021](#)

Governance summary

Plymouth Energy Community is a family of charitable and socially enterprising organisations. We have a cooperative ethos and seek to put our members, local people, in control. Governance is important to us, and to ensure that we are delivering our commitments around this we have established a number of independent entities that operate under the Plymouth Energy Community banner. These are explained below:



PEC Trust

PEC Trust trading as Plymouth Energy Community is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee and is our over-arching charitable organisation, responsible for most of our day to day activities. It has a two-tiered membership of members and supporters.



PEC Homes

PEC Homes as an independent community land trust and Community Benefit Society, set up to build locally owned, net zero affordable housing developments in and around Plymouth.



PEC Renewables

PEC Renewables is a Community Benefit Society, set up to fund, build and manage community-owned renewable energy installations in Plymouth.



Ernesettle Community Solar

Ernesettle Community Solar is a wholly-owned subsidiary of PEC Renewables, set up to manage our 4.1 MW community-owned solar array in Ernesettle.



Plymouth Energy Community

PEC Trust (charitable organisation) evolved from Plymouth Energy Community Community Benefit Society (PEC CBS). PEC CBS still exists to support new innovative ways to reduce carbon emissions and fuel poverty.

Governance summary

The changes to the Boards of the PEC family organisations are outlined below:

PEC Trust

PEC Trust is managed by a Board of Trustees. The Board is made up of one Plymouth City Council representative, up to six elected members and up to four Trustees co-opted for their skills and expertise. Under the PEC Trust articles, each year one third of our elected Trustees must stand down. The Trustees standing down at this year's AGM are Jess Holliland and Paul Hardman, however both Jess and Paul have put themselves forward for re-election.

There are two member vacancies. No new nominations have come forward from our membership. As the number of nominations were the same as the number of vacancies we do not require a full ballot and Jess and Paul shall be deemed elected at the AGM.

PEC Renewables

PEC Renewables has a Board of Directors, made up of up to three Directors elected by the members and up to three Directors as representatives nominated by the Community Supporting Organisation. Under PEC Renewables' Rules, one third of elected Directors must stand down each year; however, they can stand for re-election. At this year's AGM, Dave Garland will be standing down. Dave is a founding member of PEC and has served as Chair of PEC Renewables since its inception in 2014. A loyal, enthusiastic and constant support, Dave was instrumental in bringing schools on board. He will be greatly missed.

There is one member vacancy. One new nomination has come forward from our membership. As the number of nominations are the same as the number of vacancies we do not require a full ballot and the candidate shall be deemed elected, providing ten members or more affirm the candidacy, by virtual show of hands at the AGM.

PEC Homes

PEC Homes is managed by a Board of Directors. The Board is made up of one Plymouth City Council representative, up to five elected members and up to four Directors co-opted. Michelle Virgo and Greg Wootton are standing down. Greg is re-standing for election. We extend warm gratitude to Michelle for her contributions to date and wish her well in her endeavours. Nick Carter has joined the Board as the representative of Plymouth City Council (a position not previously filled).

There are two member vacancies, in addition to Greg, one new nomination has come forward from our membership. As the number of nominations were the same as the number of vacancies we do not require a full ballot and the candidates shall be deemed elected at the AGM.

Plymouth Energy Community (CBS)

Plymouth Energy Community (Community Benefit Society) has a Board of Directors, made up of up to three Directors elected by the members. Under PEC Rules, one third of our elected Directors must stand down each year; however, they can stand for re-election. At this year's AGM, Lee Richards will be standing down, however Lee will also be standing for re-election.

There is one Director vacancy. There have been no new nominations. As the number of nominations were the same as the number of vacancies we do not require a full ballot and Lee shall be deemed elected at the AGM.

Made possible thanks to:

Rural Community Energy Fund
Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme
National Community Lottery Fund
Plymouth City Council
Citizens Advice Plymouth
Livewell Southwell
START
Redcross
Cornwall Community Land Trust
Groundwork
Homes England
HBH Woolacotts
Olympus Power
Sungift Solar
Pfeltz solar
Argand Solutions
Earth Energy Education
Art & Energy CIC
Plymouth Social Enterprise Network
Sustainable Earth Institute
Real Ideas Organisation
Nudge Community Builders
Ethex Registry
Communities for Renewables
Energien UK
Foot Anstey
Energiesprong
South West Water
Naturesave
Stattkraft

Power to Change
Centre for Sustainable Energy
Mutant Creative
Carbon Coop
Western Power Distribution
Norley Energy Services
A Cook Agency Services
Usher Brothers
Richard Brown Plastering Contractors
Springfield Building and Maintenance
Carbon Saving Group
Insulated Homes
Sunrise Windows (Plymouth)
Evolve Home Energy Solutions
The Plumbing Doctor
JAH Electrical Services
JD Plumbing and Heating
Devon Community Energy Network
Tamar Energy Community
Exeter Community Energy
South Dartmoor Community Energy
361 Energy
Community Energy Plus
Bromhead
BEIS South West Energy Hub
All of the schools and organisations hosting
our solar arrays
Everyone who contributed to our
crowdfunder

**This list is in no particular order
and is not exclusive.**