



Energise Barnsley Social Impact Report 2016/17

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Executive Summary

Energise Barnsley was established with the aim of deploying solar PV at scale for Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, using commercial expertise whilst retaining a core community energy model to deliver a project with strong social impact.

The core community energy model included the project vehicle registered as a Community Benefit Society with the Financial Conduct Authority, protected with an asset lock, and a custodian trustee. Another core element was to offer participation in the project to like minded community investors via the Barnsley Solar Bond, in return for a fair financial return. Finally, all profit surpluses were to be used for the community fund to facilitate further community initiatives.

Project social impact was delivered using local employment where possible, and through tenant engagement via tenant liaison officers to educate tenants on the best use of their solar generation. Electricity savings to tenants equates to over £65,000 since inception, with over 800 tonnes of equivalent carbon emissions saved. Our residential battery storage project is seeing increased savings and increased energy confidence for our predominantly retired community where the project is taking place.

The 2016/7 community fund has delivered excellent results with case studies to follow in this report.



Background to Energise Barnsley CBS

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Energise Barnsley was established in July 2015 to own solar PV panels installed on Barneslai Homes properties across the Borough and manage the community cash fund generated from surplus profits. The project was developed by a collaboration between Gen Community Ventures, a social enterprise, British Gas, a commercial energy provider, Social Finance, a socially motivated finance intermediary and project partners Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council and Barneslai Homes

The project was financed initially through a £2 million underwriting loan from Ignite Social Enterprise. Energise Barnsley subsequently raised £800,000 through the 'Barnsley Solar Bond' and secured a £1.2 million long term debt facility from ethical lender, Charity Bank.

This structure gives community bondholders ownership and control of the CBS.

Fuel Poverty

2.5m households are affected by fuel poverty in the UK

Impact Reporting

The CBS aims to achieve social and environmental impact at scale. Reporting on impact helps to demonstrate the positive outcomes achieved by organisations and share learnings on what works in supporting disadvantaged groups in the community. This report covers three overarching strands of achieving impact:

- Alleviating fuel poverty through reduced electricity bills
- Community participation and engagement
- Community Fund

What is a CBS?

A Community Benefit Society is a Registered Society set up to benefit the community. Investing members may be separate from the benefitting community.

- CBSs are registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) but not regulated by the FCA.
- There is an asset lock within the Society rules, meaning that the assets are protected only for use to achieve the objectives of the CBS.
- Members of the CBS are actively involved in decision making at board level and at the Society's Annual General Meeting.

A CBS provides an opportunity for local individuals to invest and directly engage in a project, whilst also providing a legal framework which enables social impact to be delivered.

The Energise Barnsley Solar Bond has >40% local ownership.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the CBS, please contact
andy.energisebarnsley@gmail.com

Alleviating Fuel Poverty

Community energy projects are designed to sustainably alleviate fuel poverty and create long term income to tackle local community social issues.

Core project aims:

- Establish a CBS to own the solar PV panels
- Provide local community ownership of the CBS through Community Shares or Bond
- Maximise the social, financial and environmental benefits to tenants and the wider community
- Fight fuel poverty and promote efficient energy usage and behaviour change
- Reduce UK carbon dioxide emissions and educate communities on low carbon technologies
- Provide free daytime electricity to benefitting households
- Decentralize energy generating capacity

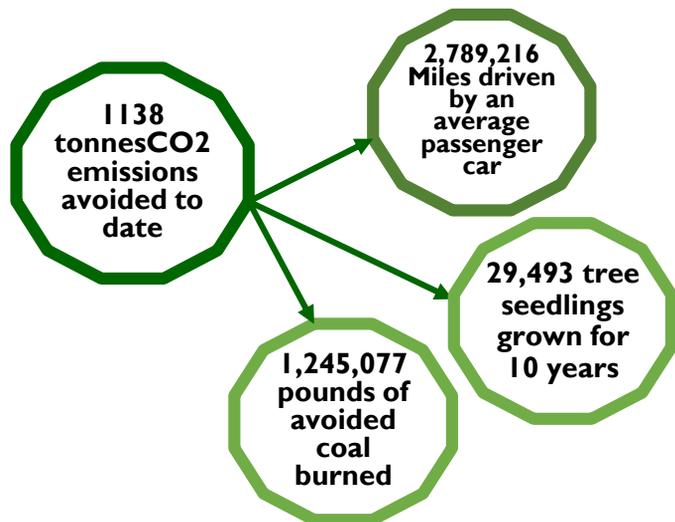
Solar PV & Battery Storage

Both these technologies combined create a mini power station on individual homes. The homes are likely to self consume at least 60% of their electricity needs, providing energy security, confidence and lower bills.

-  700+ tenants benefitting from lower electricity bills
-  321 houses with solar PV installations
-  1536 MWh's of electricity generated
-  £65,971 value of electricity savings (33% usage at 13p unit rate)

Joyce Aged 92

"I am now on the internet and I have solar panels and a battery. I'm saving around £17 a month, and no longer have to choose which room to heat"



Elaine, Oxspring

"I've made savings from the solar panels, by changing a few of my habits in the home. I am also more confident when switching energy supplier, which has also reduced my bills."

Community Fund

The Community Fund is a resource for CBS members to allocate to supporting prevalent social issues in the local area. All investees are working towards the benefit of the community.

The Fund will bring the community together around a shared social interest, allowing the community to determine where and how the money is spent.

The Fund will allow the social impact of the project to stretch beyond environmental and sustainability issues, to support other vulnerable groups within the community.

By receiving regular income, it will ensure engagement throughout the lifetime of the project.

Funds available

£20,000

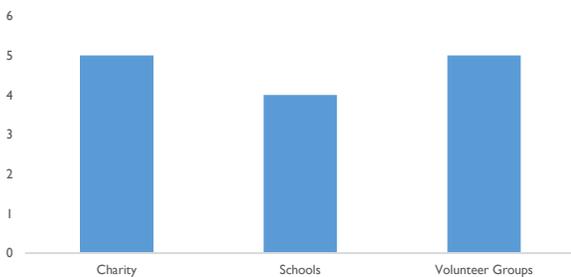
Investments to date

£15,000

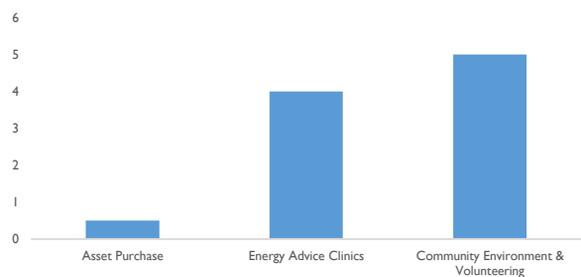
Volunteer hours

1012

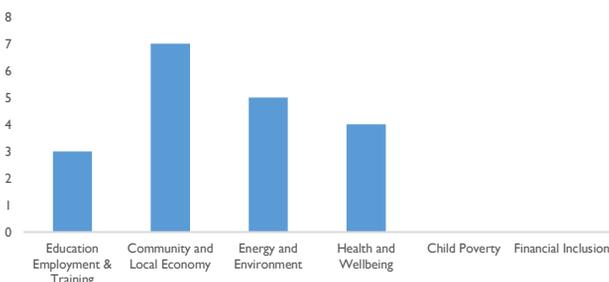
No. Investments made by sector



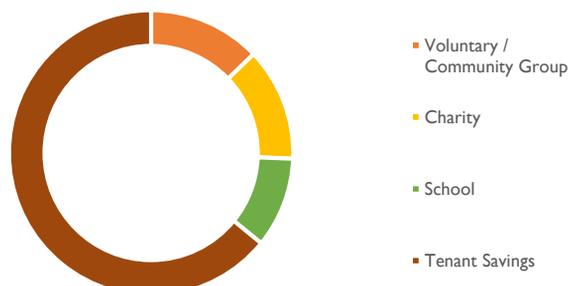
Uses of Funds 2016/17



Size of investments by sector



Local Economy



Community Impact

Energy Efficiency and Sustainability

5627

Solar PV panels installed on residential and commercial rooftops benefitting Berneslai homes residents and BMBC tenants

1138

Tonnes in reduced CO2 emissions

40

Residential batteries fitted to tenants homes

Education, Employment and Training

9

schools with solar PV installed in Barnsley

11

Staff members of Berneslai homes trained in solar PV and/or battery storage benefits

Health and Well-being

1

electric dependant house fitted with battery, DC lighting & LED lights

£65,000

Saved in tenants electricity bill savings

1012

Volunteer hours towards community resilience

Energise Barnsley has two main outcomes and impacts from it's initial solar PV project

- *Tenants' savings from reduced electricity bills*
- *Increased tenant energy awareness and confidence in energy switching*

Impact from the battery storage & solar PV project are

- *Energy security with less dependence on grid supplies*
- *Reduction in tenant electricity bills*

Impact from the community fund

- *Funding community initiatives to improve lives*
- *Enhance community resilience and co-operation*

Case Study – Goldthorpe Development Group

Environment, Well Being and Volunteering

The Goldthorpe Development Group was founded as a voluntary organisation in 2012 by residents and workers of Goldthorpe in order to revitalise the community. The group have a multi-pronged approach to achieving their aims. Promoting community cohesion, quality of life enhancement and improving the local economy.



£5,000

2016/7 Grant provided

- 19 events held around Goldthorpe
- Street planter refurbishment works
- Planting activities
- Street cleans and skip clean-up activities
- 832 volunteer hours with 46 participants on a semi-regular basis
- 1,300 plants/shrubs added in Goldthorpe with 30% via donations
- 500 bulbs planted
- 16 Skips used to remove fly-tipping/large rubbish
- 63 bags of rubbish collected
- 18 wooden Goldthorpe Town Centre Planters & 18 street features

Success:

- ✓ There has been a gained public appreciation and support for our group activities.
- ✓ Residents are gaining interest in the activities and there is a greater respect for the wider environment.
- ✓ The litter count is falling in some areas

Failures:

- 'Anti-social behaviour has resulted in some plant theft and vandalism to the works undertaken'

Co-operation:

- Goldthorpe Development Group communicates within the police and the council on their activities. The group would like more help in preventing anti-social behaviour



Case Study – AGE UK (Barnsley)

Retired Community and Energy Savings

Age UK Barnsley was set up in 1974 following an initiative from Age Concern England. Age UK Barnsley promote the well being, fulfilment and happiness of older people living in the Barnsley Metropolitan District



£5,000

Grant provided

- target beneficiaries were elderly residents who used the Age UK Barnsley one stop shop & elderly residents who are house bound
- grant went towards the purchase of a lap-top for mobile visits and towards the cost of employing an energy advice clinic specialist, including travel arrangements
- Energise Barnsley and Age UK held a joint energy advice clinic in september at St.Aidans Community Hall
- 63 older persons have completed an energy advice session and gone on to complete an energy comparison
- largest saving to date was £614.88
- average savings are £229
- out of 63 energy comparisons, 53 showed a saving
- launch of a Christmas 'pop-up' cafe

Success:

- ✓ having a dedicated lap top and personnel to fully understand energy tariffs
- ✓ savings and engagement with elderly residents

Lessons:

- The targeted client group often needs support on an on-going basis to switch suppliers
- Smaller suppliers might offer the cheapest quote but do not provide an adequate customer service
- Lethargy – some folk reluctant to move energy providers because of familiarity of supplier, even if more expensive



Reflections from the Board

The Energise Barnsley board is very pleased with the recipients of the first year community fund, and the work they have undertaken within their respective communities.

In addition to the case studies in this report, a £3,300 grant was given to Wombwell Primary School to refurbish the school playground. The school was able to match fund the grant with a £4,659 grant from the Tesco Groundworks Scheme, and the school contributed £1,173. There are 258 full time pupils in school, and 52 part time nursery pupils. 33.2% of Wombwell residents have no educational qualifications. The old playground did not provide the required challenge or engagement for the pupils and was too small in size. The new playground and the solar PV panels on the school roof are improving the pupils health and well being.

We undertook another community fund project which unfortunately could not proceed. St.Aidan's Community Hall in Oxspring, Barnsley has a pivotal role in the local community. The popular Wednesday afternoon 'pop-in' club is visited by many of the local Berneslai Homes residents. Energise Barnsley undertook a desk top survey, a site survey and grid connection request to install solar panels on the community roof. The site survey revealed that the roof structure used hay as installation, which prevented solar panels and the electrical cables to be installed.

The community fund is limited in size, and will vary each year, depending on the performance of our solar panels, and the cost to administer the project. However, the impact of our smaller grants has been very satisfying, and all the groups have been able to record and report their social impact.

The board will continue to work with the residents who have received the solar PV to reduce their electricity bills, increase their energy awareness, and work on initiatives where the non-solar PV tenants will also be able to directly benefit.

Reflection 1

We had good communication and contact with the groups who received the awards. In some instances we presented the grant in full at the outset, and in others we awarded the grant when requested after milestones were achieved. Making a small amount of money to go a lot further is very rewarding to see.

Reflection 2

The only challenge we had in measuring impact was with the school playground grant. The long term benefits of having a playground engaging enough for all pupils in a primary school to enjoy is harder to measure, compared to seeing first hand results from pupils reactions to the improved playground.

Reflection 3

Goldthorpe Development Group has done exceptionally well to engage a very wide section of the local community in the volunteer work they undertake. Social impact starts with exceptional local groups engaging one another for a common purpose. When Goldthorpe Development Group has engaged the Energise Barnsley board for support and backing for their community initiatives with larger local government organisations we have been very willing to support them with their wider aims.

Do you have an idea for the Community Fund?

Applications for the year 2017 – 2018 are now open

If you have a project that fits with the aims of the society, please apply to the Energise Barnsley Community Fund

Deadline for applications: 15/12/2017

The Community Benefit Society aims:

- To deploy low carbon technologies to provide social impacts for the benefit of the community.
- To support local authorities, local community and voluntary organisations generate and supply renewable sources of energy and promote energy efficiency.
- To support members of the community suffering from fuel poverty by ensuring people's needs for affordable warmth and other energy services are met.
- To support vulnerable members of the community for example, those suffering from education inequality, unemployment, and child poverty to ensure people's needs for a healthy and stimulating life are met.

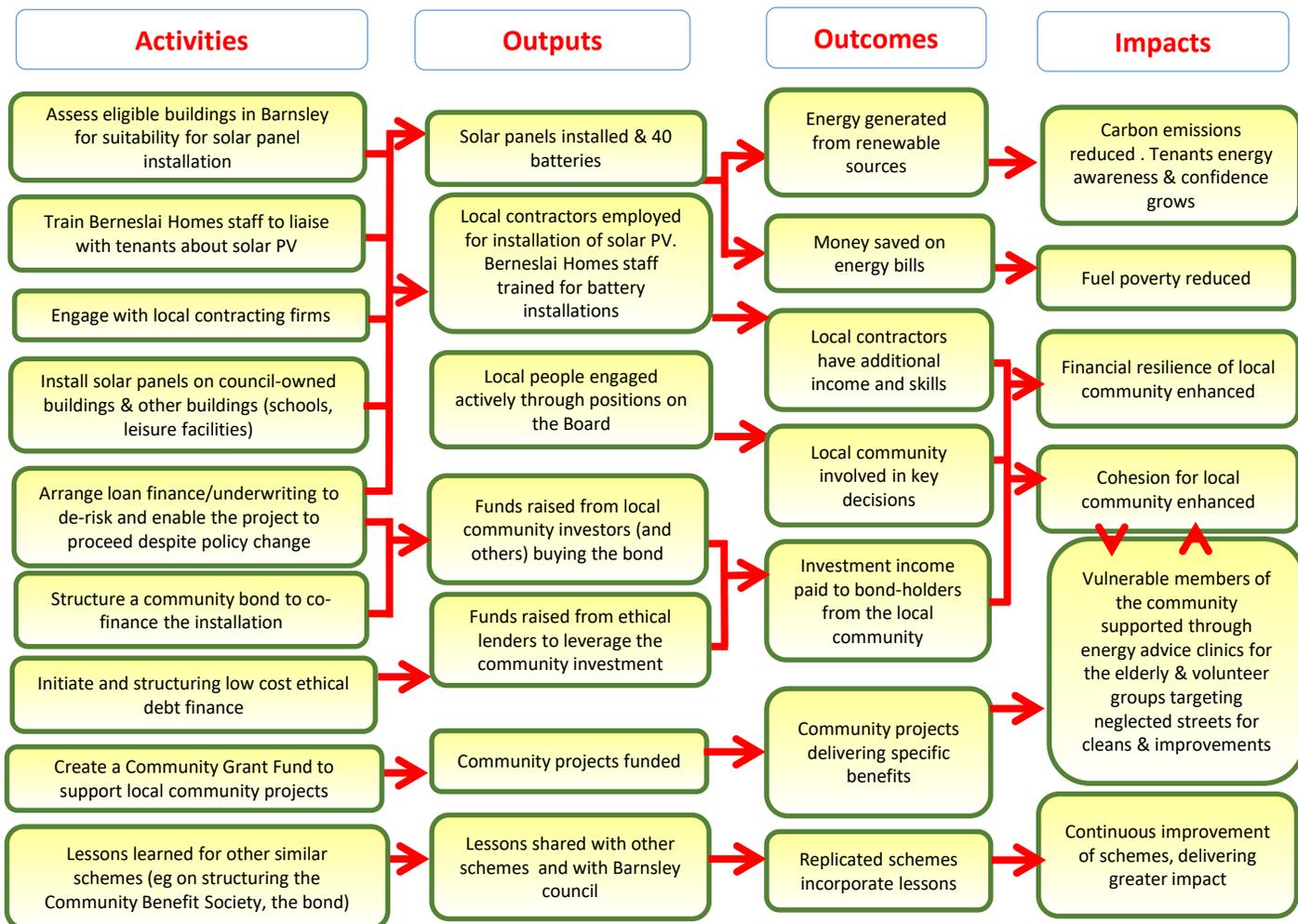
Eligibility criteria

Proposals must meet all of the following criteria in order to be eligible for Board consideration:

- The proposal aligns with at least one of the aims of the CBS.
- The amount of the funding requested is at least £100.
- The funds are being used for the benefit of the local community to meet a demonstrable local need.
- There is a defined impact from the use of the funds.
- Projects will be delivered within Barnsley for the benefit of its residents.

If you would like more information or would like to discuss your application with the Board, please email andy.energisebarnsley@gmail.com

Energise Barnsley – Route To Social Impact (2015 to 2017)



Energise Barnsley – Potential Indicators

| | | Potential Indicator |
|--|--|---|
| Output | Solar panels installed | 5,627 solar panels installed - a 1.5MW capacity of rooftop solar PV |
| | Local contractors employed for installation | 18 local contractor employees for solar & battery installations |
| | Local people engaged actively through Board | Three local representatives on the Board (75%) |
| | Funds raised from local community investors (and others) buying the bond | 40% of funds raised from local community investors in the bond (local postcode definition) |
| | Funds raised from ethical lenders to leverage the community investment | £1.2 million of funds raised from ethical lender – Charity Bank |
| | Community projects funded | £15,000 provided to community projects to date (2017) |
| | Lessons shared with other schemes | Blogs written for lessons learned for other community groups, Community Energy England conference speech and widespread media coverage of solar PV & battery installation to create a 'mini-grid.' |
| | Outcomes | Energy generated from renewable sources |
| Money saved on energy bills | | £65,000 saved on residential electricity bills |
| Local contractors have additional income and skills | | Payments made to local contractors for solar panel installation |
| Investment income paid to bond-holders from the local community | | £16,000 payments made to local bond-holders (to date). £80,000 to local bondholders over the life of the bond (5 years) |
| Community projects delivering specific benefits (separately defined) | | Energy advice clinics delivering benefits for the retired. Volunteer groups delivering benefits for an area in need of community cohesion and resilience. Children benefiting from a playground improvement project |
| | Replicated schemes incorporate lessons | Qualitative review of how new schemes incorporate lessons |
| Impact | Carbon emissions reduced | 1138 tonnes of Co2 saved |
| | Fuel poverty reduced | Survey to determine % of people with solar panels that are no longer in fuel poverty |
| | Vulnerable members of the community supported | 63 energy advice clinics delivered for elderly residents |
| | Continuous improvement of schemes, delivering greater impact | Qualitative assessment of how the impact of follow-on schemes may have been enhanced through incorporating lessons from Energise Barnsley |