

Shropshire & Telford Community Energy

(STCE) Newsletter August 2023



Welcome to STCE's August 2023 newsletter. If you've not heard of us before please see the section on who we are on page 2. Otherwise please read on..

Our Twemlows Solar Farm share offer is now live!

We're pleased to announce our share offer is now open to local investors and more widely across the UK. See our website for the latest news and link to the ethical investment platform Ethex which is hosting the share offer. We are looking to raise around £730k in order to purchase the Twemlows 10MW solar farm, near Whitchurch, which can power some 3,400 homes and has generated nearly £100,000 of community funding since 2015.

The purchase is being arranged as part of an innovative collaboration with four similar groups around the country - collectively known as Community Energy Together (CET) - and should help significantly increase the amount of money the solar farm returns to the community in the coming years.

The share offer means individuals will be able to invest directly and earn a fair return of up to 6% with a low minimum investment of £250 - whilst supporting a vital source of green energy and helping to raise cash for some fantastic community projects. Several are described further below.

Shares for all the schemes are available through the ethical investment platform Ethex, see www.ethex.org.uk/invest/stce. (QR code below). Your Capital is at Risk. The value of your investment can go down and you might get back less than you invested.

We think it's an opportunity not to be missed and hope you'll join us in supporting the share offer in whatever way you can.



Community Energy Together



We are pleased to be working alongside Yealm Community Energy (Somerset), Kent Community Energy, Wight Community Energy and Gower Power (Swansea) in this unique collaboration.

We are starting to get some good publicity for the seven solar farms and five share offers that make up Community Energy Together.

Emma Bridge, Chief Executive of Community Energy England, said: *“The simultaneous launch of these five CET share offers marks a significant milestone for community energy. Raising £2.5 million from community investors to create community benefits of c.£20 million demonstrates the immense potential of the sector. Local ownership of our green energy infrastructure is vital for engaging people with the changes we must make to get to net zero.”*

Village hall warms to Twemlows cash boost

Longnor Village Hall was awarded £1,000 for insulation in the roof space from the Twemlows solar farm community benefit fund which we manage. STCE director Dave Green said: “We are very pleased to use our Community Benefit Fund to support important energy saving initiatives in this popular rural village hall.

This year we are also supporting Rushbury Village Hall, the Festival Drayton Centre and the URC Shrewsbury



Big Solar Co-op's First Install is in Shropshire.

The Big Solar Co-op is currently installing its first PV array having raised over £1m in share capital. This first install is at Kerry Foods in South Shropshire. Well done to all involved and we look forward to many more Big Solar installations, particularly in Shropshire and Telford.



Community Heat Unit Funding Success

Sharenergy have been successful in gaining Energy Redress funding to set up a Community Heat Unit. The Bishops Castle Heat and Wind project will be central to this unit and we look forward to collaborating with Sharenergy on taking this project forward. We are also hoping for some good news soon re the wind turbine planning situation.

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Who are STCE?

The STCE board consists of 7 volunteers, Robert Saunders, (Chair), Fran Hunt, (Secretary), Dave Green, (Treasurer), plus Howard Betts and Mark Latham with support from Dave Turvey and Clare Bellingham.

We started STCE as a working group in 2020 with the main aim of bringing the Twemlows Solar Farm into community ownership, but we are also keen to see new community renewable projects set up, hence our work in Bishop's Castle and with the Big Solar Co-op. For more background see our website below.

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