

Shropshire & Telford Community Energy

September '23 Newsletter – over £150k raised!



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

Twemlows Solar Farm share offer has now raised over £150k!

Following a successful launch at the end of July to local investors and more widely across the UK, we're happy to announce that we've raised **over £150,000!** 😊

We're looking to raise around £730k in total in order to purchase the Twemlows 10MW solar farm, near Whitchurch, which can power the equivalent of around 3,400 homes and has generated nearly £100,000 of community funding since 2015.

The share offer means individuals, businesses and organisations 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.

Shares for all the schemes are available through the ethical investment platform Ethex, see www.ethex.org.uk/invest/stce, or scan the 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 any way you are able to.



Community Energy Together



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.

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

We continue to get good publicity for the seven solar farms and their share offers that make up Community Energy Together.

Enhancing the biodiversity at Twemlows

At Shropshire and Telford Community Energy we believe that climate breakdown and the biodiversity crisis are two sides of the same coin - we can't address one without addressing the other. That's why we are working with partners to establish a biodiversity baseline for the site and also an enhancement strategy to ensure Twemlows Solar Farm can make a meaningful contribution to nature's recovery.



A bat detector on the fence at Twemlows

So far, we've collated existing survey reports, assessed the condition of the hedgerows, undertaken breeding bird surveys and established a strategy to monitor the local bat population. We are developing our enhancement plans, including our hedgerows, pollinator resource and resident skylarks. We are also identifying partners to work with when delivering these enhancements including the Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

As well as this, we're looking to share our findings with the wider network of community energy groups in the UK. We have approached Community Energy England and a number of individual organisations to explore establishing a "Community Energy and Biodiversity" working group as a way to share best practice and raise standards.



If you're keen to learn more about the work we are doing to enhance the site's biodiversity, or would like to register with us as a volunteer for future habitat management events,

please contact Mark at:

naturebasedlatham@gmail.com

Who are STCE?

The STCE board consists of 7 volunteers; Robert Saunders (Chair), Fran Hunt (Secretary), Dave Green (Treasurer), Howard Betts and Mark Latham, with much appreciated 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, please see our website (address below).