

Energise Sussex Coast and
Brighton Energy Cooperative present

Community energy for the 1066 area



“Schools and Colleges sit at the heart of our communities so - as a community organisation - we’re very pleased to help them reduce their electricity bills. Locally-funded renewable energy is a virtuous circle of local investment and local solar projects, and we’re delighted that Ore Valley College has joined the groundswell of educational organisations getting on board with community energy.”

– Will Cottrell, founder and Director of Brighton Energy Co-op

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Support community energy in your area

Energise Sussex Coast, in partnership with Brighton Energy Coop, are raising £180,000 through community shares to fund 250 kilowatts of solar panels (roughly 1066 panels as it happens) on East Sussex College. If you would like to invest please visit <http://brightonenergy.org.uk/product/join>

The investment offer

If you buy shares you would become a member and shareholder in Brighton Energy Coop (BEC), a Community Benefit Society (CBS) set up in 2010.

To date BEC have raised £1.9 million and installed 29 solar arrays (and growing). A CBS is radically different from a normal company – each member in the society has one vote for example regardless of the amount invested. BEC aim to provide new members a return on investment of 5% a year, as they have for all their existing members, starting 12-18 months after each project is installed. 5% of capital is also available for repayment each year.

The minimum shareholding is £300 and the maximum is £100,000. It is important to read BEC's Share invitation document in full <http://brightonenergy.org.uk/view-share-invitation>

The Directors of BEC have generously allowed 1066 Local Energy investors an option to review the community developed solar projects in Hastings and Rother in 2 years time and consider whether it makes sense to create a new community benefit society of local investor members who will own and manage these solar assets separately.

Our vision

Our vision for a cleaner, safer and fairer world starts with this community solar project in Ore. We want it to be the first of many such projects in the 1066 region. The current energy market is unfair and penalises the vulnerable. This could not be more obvious than in the Ore Valley which has some of the poorest neighbourhoods in Britain. By investing in and generating renewable energy locally on East Sussex College we can begin to change that. The energy market is transforming so quickly it will soon be possible for locally owned renewable energy

to be shared with local residents and for prices to stay affordable. We see schools, colleges, churches, mosques, community buildings and businesses as the green power stations of the future, generating and storing clean energy for their local communities. This can happen in any village and urban neighbourhood. Schools and colleges are especially important, since their pupils and students need to become the energy champions of the future.

What is Community Energy?

There are 3000 energy communities across Europe. The EU commission estimate that by 2030, more than 50 GigaWatts (GW) of wind and more than 50 GW of solar could be owned by energy communities, representing 17% and 21% of installed capacity.

In England there are 228 community energy organisations who believe they can empower their communities by taking back the power from large companies and owning power locally. Community energy groups do everything from generating power and giving energy advice to running electric vehicle car clubs and EV charging points.

In 2017 UK community energy organisations reached 84,000 community members, generated 202 Gigawatt hours (GWh) of energy (enough for 67,000 homes a year) and saved 71,000 Tonnes of CO₂. Most community energy organisations are co-operatives or community benefit societies, founded on principles of co-operation and democracy and to benefit their community, while at the same time trying to address the challenge of climate change.

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Why the hurry now?

The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) announced recently that we have 12 years to act to limit carbon emissions if we are going to keep global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees and avoid climate catastrophe. This means transitioning very quickly to a low carbon economy. Projects we have been talking about for years need to happen now. It is a great pity that the UK Feed in Tariff comes to an end in March 2019. This subsidy and the export tariff, which also comes to an end, still provide a 20-year guaranteed and index-linked income for community energy projects, allowing us to pay dividends of up to 5% to our investor members. The same cut off applies to homes that want to install solar. No one knows what will happen after April 2019, but the good news is that solar and battery prices are continuing to fall.

We are trying to sign up as many solar roofs as we can before April next year, 1066 in fact.

Set up your own solar investment club!

We think investing in local solar is a great legacy for the future. If the minimum shareholding is too high for individuals we recommend that family members and friends form an informal investors club and choose one member as the shareholder (who could be a child or grandchild).

**Contact: Kate Meakin, 07840 485344,
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“East Sussex College Hastings is delighted to be part of an exciting and innovative project to deliver renewable energy in Ore Valley. The project delivers training and apprenticeship opportunities and educational benefits to our students, staff, stakeholders and local community, alongside real financial benefits to the College via reduced utility bills. In as far as local colleges should be an integral part of their local community, and that ultimately they should support our young people for their future lives ahead, this exciting innovation ticks all the boxes!”

– Biram Desai, Chief Financial Officer, East Sussex College



Spreading solar across the 1066 area

Pre-register your community building now!

Community Energy organisations have some advantages over commercial developers or local authorities. We can pre-register potential solar projects and gain an extra 12 months in which to install solar panels (effectively till April 2020). We also don't require a minimum D rated Energy Performance Certificate (EPC).

Anyone with a connection to a school, college, faith community building, business premise or communal roof should contact us as soon as possible. All that is required is the MPAN (meter number) and EPC details. There is no commitment for pre-registering and the solar feasibility is provided at no cost. Where economically viable, the installation would be free to the site owner.

Join the 1066 Campaign

Wherever you live, you can join the 1066 Energy campaign which aims to increase the amount of locally generated and owned solar power.

www.1066energy.org.uk



Our Solar PV offer to homeowners, tenants and landlords

Energise Sussex Coast holds a list of trusted solar and battery suppliers. By referring you to our suppliers you can access a solar feasibility survey and multiple quotes. We aim to give you the confidence that independent checks have been undertaken on their service, equipment and financial status. This agreement ensures that choosing to have solar or batteries installed will be as easy as possible and will allow you to benefit from the best prices resulting from our supplier relationships.

Energise Sussex Coast is aiming to offer a 'pay as you save' finance soon which will remove the upfront cost of a solar roof.

Email kate@energisesussexcoast.co.uk

Energise Sussex Coast is a local St Leonards based energy co-operative.

We are a not for profit Community Benefit Society set up in 2012 to work on renewable energy projects and challenge energy injustice.

www.energisesussexcoast.co.uk

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