

Chelworth Solar Array



Project Summary

Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy (WWCE), in association with Bath and West Community Energy (BWCE), built a 1MW ground mounted solar panel array on land owned by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust next to the Chelworth Industrial Estate. The array is on low grade agricultural land and financial surpluses from the project will support Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's social wellbeing programmes in the local area, and a fund to finance fuel poverty reduction projects.

Key Project Information



Technology

1 MW ground mounted solar PV



Lifetime Energy Generation

18,500 MWh



Total Community Revenue

£500,000



Carbon Reductions

4,131 tonnes

Chelworth Solar Array

Wiltshire



Loan Details

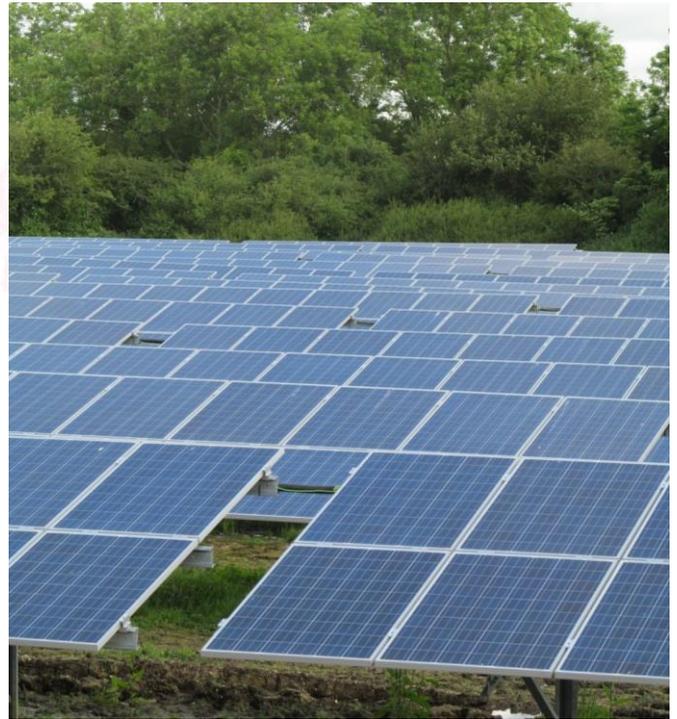
Project type – U.K. Community energy

Social impact – Fuel poverty reduction, youth well-being

Installation cost – £1,345,000

Pure Leapfrog loan – £100,000

Additional places on wellbeing programmes – 500



Project Details

The 1 MW solar PV array installed exports electricity to the national grid, thereby contributing to the process of de-carbonising the grid and resulting in a significant reduction in carbon emissions. The solar PV array will generate around 950,000 kWh of electricity over its lifetime, enough to supply the equivalent of between 200 and 250 homes.

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust acquired the Chelworth site as part of the same MOD disposal in 2000. The Chelworth site is both adjacent to the industrial complex and surrounded by hedgerows and trees that make it suitable for a solar array. The existing grass sward is of poor quality and a solar array is an appropriate use.

Pure Leapfrog provided a loan of £100,000 to enable the project to go ahead by meeting wildlife related contingency costs that were outside of the budget.

“We were delighted that we managed to raise double our initial fundraising target through our share offer. But this meant that we were unable to secure the balance from our initial debt provider who was not prepared to lend smaller sums of money. Pure Leapfrog stepped in at the last minute and provided a small but vital last piece of the jigsaw, enabling us to reach financial close and go onto build out our 1 MW solar array.”

Peter Capener, WWCE Director



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