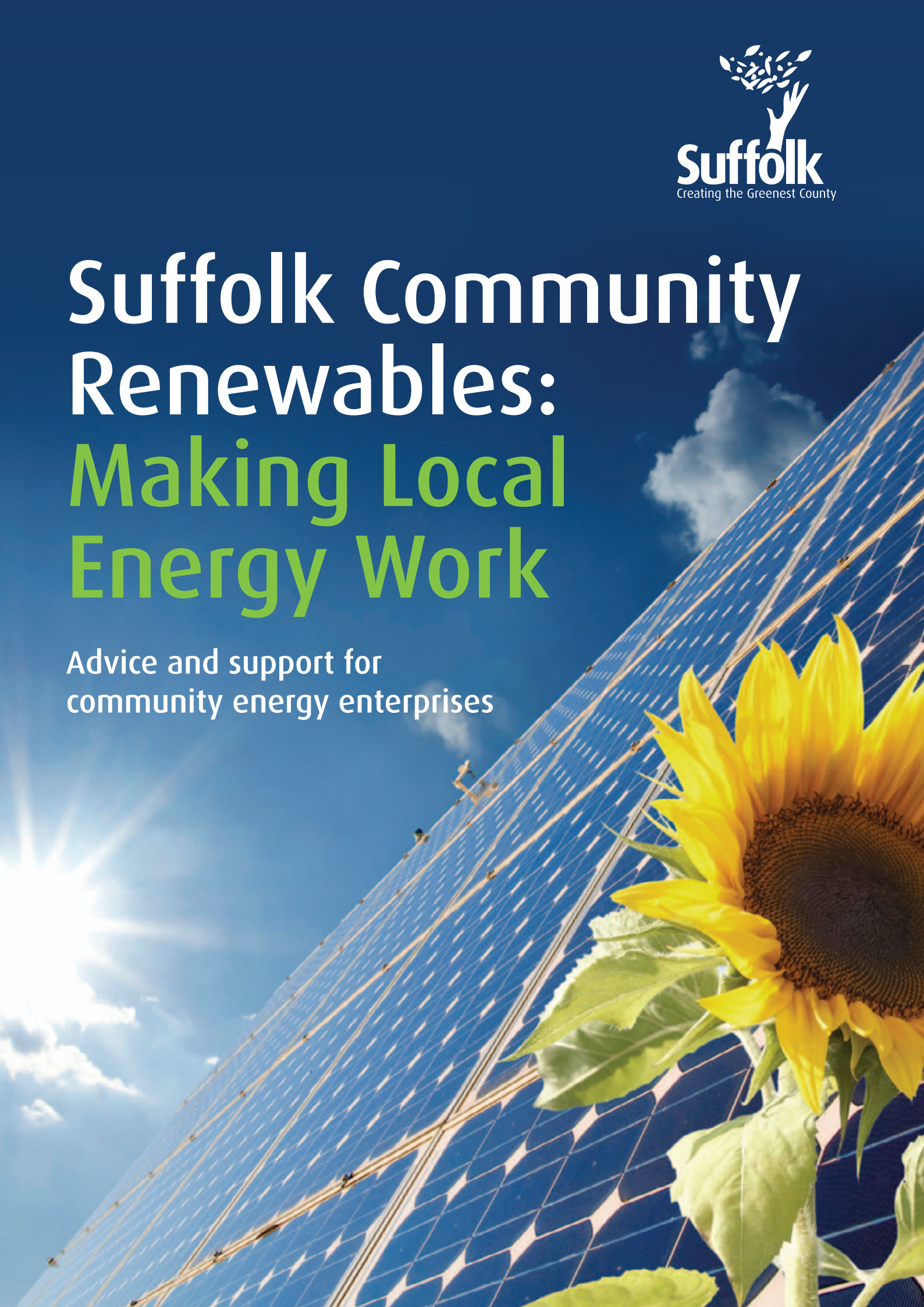
Suffolk
Creating the Greenest County

Suffolk Community Renewables: Making Local Energy Work

Advice and support for community energy enterprises



Foreword

A familiar image associated with climate change is the hockey stick curve. This now famous graph shows mankind's global CO2 emissions set against a timeline, with the flick of the hockey stick showing an exponential growth in greenhouse gas emissions since we in the UK initiated the Industrial Revolution over two centuries ago. It is not a hopeful image.

However, a new hockey stick curve was brought to my attention the other day and one which genuinely does signify hope for the future. It was a timeline showing the growth of community scale climate action groups over the past few years. Through the 1990s and early 2000s, groups were thin on the ground. But then something happened. Around 2006 an explosion of local grassroots-led action rippled across the UK - and the movement is still growing. And in the last five years the successes having been genuinely staggering.

Including many now from Suffolk, hundreds of enterprising local groups are taking the initiative, creating their own locally relevant solutions that make their communities better places to live. They're helping each other insulate their houses, supporting local food producers and shops, finding ways to make it easier to cycle and be less reliant on the car and I'm sure many other inventive ways of acting are being discovered all the time. The fact this action also leads to global climate benefits is a happy side effect.

Community renewable energy companies are shaping up to be another key ingredient of these places and possibly one of the most crucial ones. If each market town in the East of England, of which there are 250 in total, invested in two wind turbines the combined energy output would almost equal

Sizewell. And that's before we've counted all the solar power, the hydropower, the woodland, and the energy savings that the surplus revenue from those wind turbines could provide. That is the potential. Now is the time to be bold and as with the Industrial Revolution beforehand, where we go, the world will follow.

Richard Powell OBE, UUEAS;
Chair, Creating the Greenest County Executive Group

Suffolk: the place to be? Absolutely! Once again, it leads the way...

A local renewable energy revolution is underway in the UK and this toolkit will guide you through how to make it happen in your community, from the first spark of an idea to the first spark of power being delivered into the grid.

Who is this guide for?

Parish councils, householders, resident groups, churches, charities, sports clubs, community councils, Transition Towns, community centres, schools, landowners, allotments, farmers, social enterprises, businesses, investors... pretty much everyone.

Key contacts at a glance

Impartial advice on installers and technology

Community Advisor, SCCP
01473 432096

Free professional and legal support

Suffolk Prohelp
Tel: 01473 725613
www.bitc.org.uk/east_of_england/programmes/prohelp/suffolk_prohelp

Information on accessing small project development grants and to borrow wind & solar monitoring kits

Suffolk Climate Change Partnership
John Taylor, Community Advisor,
Tel: 01473 432096
Email: john.taylor@ipswich.gov.uk

Why here, why now?

The need to reduce our carbon emissions and break our reliance on fossil fuels is greater than ever. Also with rising prices, more and more households are falling into fuel poverty, which further increases the risk of health problems and social isolation.

With the Big Society putting more responsibility in local hands, we're all going to have to get smarter at meeting the needs of our neighbourhoods whilst maintaining our ambitions to become the greenest and healthiest county in the UK.

Local voluntary groups are already coming forward with solutions to these problems and a vision of life in their community that has warmer, healthier homes, more green jobs and a rejuvenated local identity and culture. However, in order for these plans to become reality, groups need time and resources - not an easy barrier to overcome in these austere times, but there is a way forward.

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The potential of community renewables

This guide shows how community owned renewable energy systems have a vital role to play in underpinning the transition to a localised, resilient, low carbon society.

A community-funded renewable energy system significantly reduces carbon emissions, provides green decentralised power and can now provide your group with a long-term source of income. How great is that?!

In your area there may be people or organisations that have money and the will to invest in renewable energy but their own property may not be suitable. At the same time, someone down the road may have the perfect site but not the money or will to develop something themselves. A community project can link these two groups together for everyone's benefit.

The key to this approach is to ensure renewable energy resources are developed in a way that benefits the local community, rather than for purely private profit or the gain of distant shareholders, ensuring any financial benefits generated stay under local, democratic control. This can potentially give a much needed boost to other green priorities such as household insulation, or security to a valuable community asset like a post office, shop, school or bus route at a time when other funding is scarce.

Everybody consumes energy in some form or other and traditional energy companies make a lot of money delivering it to us. Take a moment to consider how much your community must spend on buying in energy. Even diverting a small percentage of that income flow into a community renewables project could deliver big benefits.

Our section on community enterprise and finance models, including community share issues and green bonds, will explain some of the possibilities of this social enterprise approach.

We also cover how to choose which technologies are right for your project and who to approach to get the best advice.

Key ingredients:

To make a successful community renewable energy project you will need three key ingredients:

- **Project leader** – These local champions have a vision and lead the way in making it happen. A strong team of volunteers will be required to oversee and develop different parts of the project. The reward comes when you get to decide how to spend your well earned feed-in tariff income.
- **Investors** – You may not have the time to volunteer, but there's no better way to show your support for a local renewable energy scheme than buying a share in it or donating some money.
- **Host** – If you have land, a large roof-space, a windy hilltop or a fast flowing river why not help out a local project and earn a share of the income by hosting a renewable energy system.

Beaumont Primary School, Hadleigh

Renewable energy working for your community

Renewable energy technologies produce electricity and heat from resources that are naturally replenished and cause low or zero carbon emissions. Suffolk's rivers, sea, sunshine, wind and woodland have the potential to be sources of affordable green energy, keeping our homes warm, our businesses running and our communities healthy.

Since gas and oil have historically been so cheap, we haven't made the most of our renewable resources, but with fossil fuel prices once again on the rise and the strong link established between man-made greenhouse gases and climate change it is time for renewables to have their day.

This transition to renewable energy is important, but at the moment the upfront costs of these technologies are still quite high. The bad news is that over the last year a lot of the grants for renewable energy have been withdrawn. The good news though is they've been replaced with something even better!

The new Feed in Tariffs mean that renewable energy is not only good for the environment, it's now also good for your pocket too. For example, a system that once qualified for a one off grant of £2,500 will be guaranteed an annual payment in the region of £900 a year for the next 25 years. That totals £22,500, nearly a 10-fold increase, not to mention the potential 'avoided costs' of energy you will now be generating yourselves.

Feed-in Tariffs explained

As a generator you now get paid a generous rate for every unit of power produced, and that's before you've even used it yourself or exported it to the grid. The tariff is designed to provide a minimum of 5-8% return on investment and for some technologies this can be even higher. The payment will be made to you by one of the main energy suppliers.

For more info visit:
www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Generate-your-own-energy/Sell-your-own-energy/Feed-in-Tariff-scheme

Renewable Heat Incentive explained

The Renewable Heat Incentive is a payment scheme similar to feed-in tariffs but applies to heating technologies such as heat pumps, solar thermal panels and biomass boilers. It is due to be launched in Summer 2011, but any system that was installed from July 2009, or from now on will be eligible to receive the payments. A heating section will be added to this guide once further details are known.

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Microgeneration Certification Scheme explained

In order to qualify for the feed-in tariff, both the technology and the installer need to be certified under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS). This is the national accreditation scheme that backs up the feed-in tariff. In order to qualify for the payments your system must be an approved model and be fitted by an approved installer.

To attain the accreditation the firms will have been through a rigorously-reviewed assessment and are required to give an accurate estimate of energy produced by a system.

You can search for accredited systems and installers on the MCS website **www.microgenerationcertification.org.**

Alternatively, for some impartial advice on products and installers call the **Community Advisor, SCCP - 01473 432096.**

How to get started – step by step

1. Identify possible site.
2. Establish who owns it.
3. Build community support and bring in partners.
4. Investigate and decide upon a technology.
5. Assess feasibility using an accredited installer or independent consultant.
6. Get planning permission if needed.
7. Establish Legal entity.
8. Raise finance.
9. Commission installation – contracted out to an accredited installer.
10. Generate power!
11. Maintain system – can be contracted out, or train local residents.
12. Reinvest your income.

Accessing professional advice and support

At some stage in your project you may need access to professional services such as drafting lease agreements with host organisations or developing a robust share issue document. To this end we have teamed up with Suffolk Prohelp who are a group of 29 professional companies, each pledging their services free of charge to voluntary and community groups in their local area.

The group consists of surveyors, engineers, architects, accountants, solicitors, public relations & marketing specialists, property consultants and a professional fundraiser.

For more information about how to apply for support visit their webpage:

www.bitc.org.uk/east_of_england/programmes/prohelp/suffolk_prohelp

Or call **Keven Mulley, Suffolk Prohelp Manager,** on **01473 725613.**

Creating the Greenest Communities support network

There are now hundreds of community groups looking at renewable energy, both in Suffolk and across the country. As well as getting professional support, it's also good to meet with similar groups to share your experiences and ideas. That is why in 2010 we started Creating the Greenest Communites, a support network for community led climate action groups in Suffolk. We hold regular gatherings and training events hosted by different communities across the county, giving you the chance to visit successful projects and to build your confidence in doing your own.

It is also far better to go and see some of these technologies in practice than to just read about them so we often partner with the Suffolk Green Buildings Network to arrange open days and tours of succesful green projects. You can also view case studies of these places online.
www.greensuffolk.org/green_buildings

To register your interest or to find out more please visit **www.greensuffolk.org** or contact our Community Advisor on **01473 432096** or **john.taylor@ipswich.gov.uk**

Choosing the right technology for the job

In this section we will look at the various opportunities and business models that are now possible for community scale renewable energy developments. They range from the very large to the very small, and each will be more appropriate for some areas than others, depending on your local natural resources and existing infrastructure.

Each technology has a short introduction about how they work, followed by ideas about the various ways they can be used in a community setting to generate energy and income.

For impartial advice about any of these technologies or community developments, please contact the **Community Advisor, SCCP - 01473 432096.**

Solar photovoltaics (PV)

Solar PV are silicon panels that generate electricity from sunlight, so to make the most of them they need to be facing due south, although a range from SE to SW is feasible. They are one of the easiest technologies to integrate into the existing built environment; they can be fixed onto existing roofs, or integrated into roofs in the form of roof tiles, or set up independently on their own mountings. The feed-in tariff for solar PV is guaranteed for 25 years.

Planning permission

Solar panels are permitted development so should not need planning permission if installed within certain criteria. An installer should be able to advise you on this. However, for larger or ground-mounted projects, or those in conservation areas or on listed buildings it's always best to contact your local planning department early on to discuss your plans.

Community solar PV development options

1. Large arrays on community buildings

Where a large roof-space is owned by a community organisation, a self-funded solar PV system can be commissioned and the full feed-in tariff income can be received by the community. The system will sit on the building and be connected to the building's electricity meter. This means that whenever the panels are generating power and you turn a switch on, you will be using the power from the panels rather than importing power from the grid. The rest of the time your surplus power will be sold back to the national grid.

2. Local roof rental agreements

There are now companies offering free solar panels to householders and community groups in return for the feed-in tariff income. Under this model you rent your roof to the company in return for free electricity or an annual payment.

There is potential for a local group to form a social enterprise and to be the body who leases the roof-space. This model has the benefits of allowing householders a solar PV system at no up-front cost, but the feed-in tariff stays under local control and can be recycled into other local projects.

3. Ground-mounted arrays

Solar panels can also be fitted as large ground mounted arrays. Under this model, a large community-owned PV system could be hosted on local farmland, or even a car park, allowing a more cost effective installation. It should still be possible to perform other activities under the panels such as grazing livestock, seasoning wood or providing parking spaces for cars and bikes or charging points for electric vehicles.

4. Bulk buy schemes

An agreement is made with an installer to offer discounted prices if a certain number of people in a community sign up for an installation. Alternatively a group could arrange the purchase of accredited systems in bulk and then contract an accredited installer to fit them to the properties. Savings of around 10% can generally be expected; the more people in the scheme, the bigger the discount.

Wind power

Wind turbines are a well-established technology that generates electricity from wind, much like an old windmill was used to drive a millstone. When sited in the right places they can be a great force for good, generating power from a free, non-polluting resource.

The amount of power generated increases with the size of the blades; community-sized wind turbines provide some of the largest carbon reductions and highest financial incomes available under the feed-in tariff scheme. Therefore it makes sense for people to pool their resources to build a single large turbine rather than having a small turbine each.

This approach is very popular in countries like Denmark and Germany where they have had feed-in tariffs for longer. Entire towns and villages can form guilds or cooperatives to build their own wind farm, providing huge amounts of clean electricity, as well as a large income to help households insulate their homes and improve local infrastructure.

Planning permission

With community-scale wind turbines it is particularly important to strike the right balance between maximising the social, economic and environmental benefits whilst minimising impacts on the local landscape. Wind turbine applications undergo a more rigorous planning stage so it's always best to speak to your local planning department early on (see pg 17) and be open and honest about your plans with your neighbours and wider community.

A Gaia 11kW wind turbine has a hub height of 18m.

Are wind turbines viable for your area? – How to make an easy assessment.

Step 1:

Wind speed: Check the national wind speed database using a local grid reference or postcode. An interactive map is available on this website **www.rensmart.com/Weather/BERR.** If it is around 5m/s or higher a wind turbine should be viable.

Step 2:

Local history: Check for the historical presence of windmills in your parish on the Suffolk Mills Group database **www.suffolkmills.org.uk/archivewindmills**. This may help discussions with planners and other local residents if you can show it's part of the parish's heritage. There may also be evidence on village signs or photos in village halls or local pubs.

Step 3:

Planning restrictions: Talk to your local planning department early on. They will be able to help you identify any restrictions that may be in place locally, such as proximity to airfields, housing or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (see pg 17).

Step 4:

Make a list of potential sites, either owned by the parish or by a supportive landowner.

Step 5:

Check the electrical connection at the site. Larger turbines will need a 3-phase supply and can potentially overload the surrounding grid infrastructure. You may need to contact UK Power Networks, our District Network Operator, to assess capacity and make any necessary upgrades, which is a potential cost to factor in. **UK Power Networks Contact number: 0845 234 0040**

Step 6:

The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership can loan you a wind speed monitoring kit to help you locate the most productive wind resource within your chosen area. Call **John Taylor** on **01473 432096** or email **john.taylor@ipswich.gov.uk** for more information.

If you have reached this stage and all is still looking positive you may wish to conduct a professional feasibility study to support your business and planning case. We keep a list local installers and consultants who can help with this work. Call the **Community Advisor, SCCP** for more information on **01473 432096.**

Community wind development options

1. Medium turbines connected to community buildings

If a community-owned facility has enough land surrounding it, such as a large car park or playing field, it may be possible to erect a standalone wind turbine. These generally range in size from 10m to 25m tall.

2. Turbines hosted by a local landowner

Under this model the community group come to an arrangement with a local landowner, who hosts the turbine and runs it through an existing grid connection. Under this arrangement the group can decide how to reward the host - whether they are to benefit from free electricity provided by the turbine or through some form of rent. This will be the most common arrangement with small to medium wind turbines, which tend to fall in the range 15 – 45m tall.

3. Grid-connected standalone turbines

This is similar to option 2, with the turbines being hosted by a local landowner, but a new grid connection is made and 100% of the power is exported to the national grid. This setup may be more common with large wind turbines or wind farms, unless a particularly large electricity demand is located nearby where a direct connection can made. Turbines in this bracket could be anywhere from 15m to 150m tall.

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Hydropower

A recent study by the Environment Agency highlighted many opportunities for small scale hydro power installations in East Anglia where there would be 'win-win' opportunities to generate green electricity and improve river access for wildlife.

The Environment Agency have published **'Hydropower: A guide for you and your community'** that gives an excellent overview of the hydropower development process.

This can be found at: **www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/water/32022.aspx**

Community hydro development options

1. Refurbished watermills

Where there is an obvious historic precedence for hydro power and existing infrastructure, it could be feasible to integrate a modern turbine to generate electricity.

2. Weirs and other river obstructions

Where there are man-made obstructions in the river such as weirs or flood control gates it may be possible to utilise the height differences to work in a hydropower scheme. Fish passes can also be integrated providing benefits to wildlife and improving biodiversity. In these cases, the Environment Agency will be a key partner, as projects may require significant re-engineering of their current infrastructure.

3. Tidal power

As a coastal county with many tidal estuaries and rivers, an innovative community may be able to make use of tidal flows to generate power.

Suffolk Hydropower Group

If you are a mill owner or there is a suitable stretch of river in your community, why not join our Suffolk hydropower group? This forum will allow groups investigating hydropower to share their experiences, gain easier access to professional advice for feasibility studies, arrange discounts for bulk purchasing equipment and provide a single point of contact for dealing with planning departments and the Environment Agency.

To register your interest email: **john.taylor@ipswich.gov.uk** or phone **01473 432096**

Community enterprise models

The key thing that distinguishes a community enterprise from other businesses is the legal structure guarantees that profits are reinvested for the social and environmental benefit of the community. Aside from an existing organisation funding their own system, to make this possible a new entity may need to be formed that has the right legal and governance structure for the task. The following section outlines the most common legal structures - why they're most suitable for community projects, as well as the best ways you can raise the finance to fund your installations.

Choosing the right legal structure

1. Community Benefit Society (formerly Industrial and Provident Society)

The majority of community-owned renewable energy projects in the UK are set up as a Community Benefit Society or Cooperative. This legal structure offers flexibility in raising finance and is democratic in its membership structure and can include a community asset lock. It is a familiar structure already widely used within the cooperative movement.

The key benefit of this model is it opens the door to raising finance through community shares (see pg 15), allowing people to receive a share of the income and promoting democratic control of local energy generation. Members are usually allowed to invest between £20 and £20,000, but it remains one member, one vote to allow fair access to all members of the community. Investors will usually be offered a return on their investment once the scheme is generating an income, often around 4-5%. Alternatively members can sign over their shares or dividend to a trust account, meaning more money is available to spend on further carbon saving projects.

The shares can usually be withdrawn with some notice, which means you can always recover your money if you need to, something that you couldn't do if you had bought your own system.

To set up a Community Benefit Society you must submit a set of rules to the Financial Services Authority for approval. For help with this process, guidance and model rules are available from the organisations listed in this document:

www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/small_firms/MSR/pdf/sponsors.pdf

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2. Community Interest Company

Community Interest Companies (CICs) are limited companies set up to deliver a specific community benefit. This means that any assets and profits are locked in and dedicated to that purpose. They can raise funds from shareholder members and by issuing bonds, but don't have the democratic public involvement found in Community Benefit Societies and can't issue shares to the public. Nevertheless this may be an appropriate model for an enterprising group to develop renewable energy installations that are locked into delivering an ongoing community benefit.

3. Company Limited by guarantee and charity

As there are no specific examples of community renewable development projects operating under these structures that we are aware of at this time we are not covering these in this guide. However, these structures are unable to issue shares to the general public so cannot call on a community share issue to raise funds.

If you wish to discuss the potential of these options please contact Barry Henson of **Suffolk ACRE on 01473 345300.**

Further information

For more information about legal structures there is an excellent guide available from Cooperatives UK called **'Simply Legal'** that can be found on this website: **http://offline.cooperatives-uk.coop/SimplyLegal**

Or to get a paper copy please contact
Penny Claiden on 0161 246 2953.

Raising the finance

Community shares

This is where you raise a large amount of money by getting lots of people in your community to buy a small share in the project. This crowd-source funding model gives local people an opportunity to show support for a local project whilst getting a better rate of interest than they would get in a savings account. It also allows people who'd like to own a renewable energy system but don't have the right roof angle or access to land a chance to be part of a larger project. This is most commonly found in projects set up as a Community Benefit Society.

The main advantage is a Community Benefit Society can issue community shares and bonds without recourse to the Financial Services Authority, as they are exempt social investments.

For more information on Community Shares visit: **www.communityshares.org.uk/resources**

For detailed practical guidance on running a community share issue, the following document is invaluable:

www.communityshares.org.uk/sites/default/files/practitioners_guide_final_7_7_10.pdf

Green bonds

Another way to raise finance is to issue a green bond. Raising capital by issuing bonds is a popular alternative to selling shares, as it allows a company to avoid relinquishing ownership of part of the business. The organisation technically owes the lender a debt and is obliged to repay the investment with interest when the bond matures after a given time period. This can be a cheap and quick way of raising finance. Just make sure your feed-in tariff returns are enough to repay the bondholders.

Commercial loans

It may be financially viable to use commercial loans to help fund projects. You may need to have some local funding in place to act as equity and make sure your projected income will be enough to repay the loan and its interest. Ethical banking providers that have contributed to community renewable installations include the Cooperative Bank, Triodos and the Ecology Building Society. Other sources may also be available.

Pension funds

Pension funds can be great sources of large amounts of finance, with the added benefit that contributors to the pension scheme can see their investment funds being used in a way that benefits their local community. As an example, the Totnes Renewable Energy Society is already working in partnership with the Devon Local Government Pension Fund.

Grants

Some grants are still available to support renewable energy projects but you have to be careful how much capital funding you get. If you receive too much it may make you ineligible to receive feed-in tariff payments due to EU State Aid regulations. If your combined grant and feed-in tariff income over a 3 year period is more than Euro 200,000 then you will not be able to claim the feed-in tariff. See: **www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environment/fits/Grants/Pages/Grants.aspx**

Grants can be used to fund other aspects of an installation, including feasibility studies, upgrades to National Grid connections and fish passes to name a few examples.

For a list of possible grants visit: **www.greensuffolk.org/at_home/funding_opportunities**

Other finance issues

Corporation tax

Community Benefit Societies or Cooperatives are liable Cooperative Societies (IPSs) are liable for corporation tax on profits made, they would rarely if ever pay it. This is because cash left over after covering operating expenses and depreciation is distributed to members as 'interest' and that is specifically excluded from corporation tax:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/ctmanual/ctm40560.htm

Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS)

If you engage in a community share issue, it is important to obtain EIS status. This gives investors extra income tax relief on their investment, making your share issue more attractive.

Warning: Always get proper legal advice and have a robust business plan before running a share issue or taking on debt. (See above – Suffolk Prohelp)

Crowd source funding allows lots of people to buy a small share and achieve something big.

Planning department contacts

Babergh District Council

For general enquiries please contact

Planning Support
Telephone: **01473 825858**
Monday to Thursday **9.00am - 5.00pm**
Friday **9.00am - 4.30pm**
Email: **planningcontrol@babergh.gov.uk**
Fax: **01473 825708**

Forest Heath District Council

Development Control & Enforcement
Telephone: **01638 719480**
Email: **dc@forest-heath.gov.uk**

We operate a Duty Officer System whereby general planning advice is available from 9am to 1pm Monday to Friday. If you have a general enquiry about a planning matter please telephone or visit the offices between these times. If you visit the office please come to Planning Reception (between 12pm and 1pm you will need to visit the main reception)– no appointment needed. If you wish to see a specific officer please ring to make an appointment.

Ipswich Borough Council

Contact: Planning (general enquires)
Telephone: **01473 432913**
15-17 Grafton House, Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2DE

Mid Suffolk District Council

Duty Planning Officer
Telephone: **01449 724612**
Email: **planningadmin@midsuffolk.gov.uk**
Fax: **01449 724549**

St Edmundsbury Borough Council

Development Control (planning)
Telephone: **01284 757675**
Email: **planning.helpdesk@stedsbc.gov.uk**
Fax: **01284 757374**

Suffolk Coastal District Council

Planning Helpdesk
Telephone: **01394 444403, 01394 444428**
Email: **d.c.admin@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk**
Fax: **01394 385100**

Waveney District Council

Email: **pbc@waveney.gov.uk**
Telephone: **01502 523023**
for Lowestoft and the following parishes; Ashby Herringfleet and Somerleyton, Barnby, Beccles, Blundeston, Carlton Colville, Flixton, Gisleham, Kessingland, Lound, Mutford, North Cove, Oulton, Rushmere, Worlingham.

Phone: **01502 523020**
for all other parishes in the Waveney area.
Fax: **01502 514617**

Community renewable case studies

Case Study 1: Green Energy Nayland

Set up by residents in the village as a Community Benefit Society, their first installation will be a large Solar PV on the local primary school. The project is being funded by parents and villagers each buying a small share of the system. The school gets cheap electricity, the investors get a better return than on their savings account and Green Energy Nayland aim to get a surplus revenue to move onto other community buildings.

Website: **www.greenenergynayland.org.uk**

Case study 2: Cookpole Energy Action

Cookpole Energy Action is run by a group of residents in the parishes of Cookley and Walpole in North East Suffolk. Their aim is to reduce their community's carbon footprint, their fossil fuel use and their energy costs.

Their first project is to build two 11kW, 18m tall wind turbines on local farmland to generate green electricity and an income, which they will use to fund further projects in their area. The group have successfully gained funding to help develop the idea and establish the feasibility of the scheme; a recent volunteer day saw them erecting wind speed monitoring kits to help with their planning application.

They are hoping to fund the turbines through a mix of grants and local finance from the community.

Website: **www.energyaction.org.uk**

Case Study 3: Emmanuel church, Bungay

Emmanuel church have been working to reduce their carbon footprint for many years and saw an opportunity with the introduction of feed-in tariffs to put their large south facing roof to good use. Through a mix of grants and donations and 0% loans from church goers the team raised the funds and now host one of the largest solar panel arrays in the county. The system will generate enough income to pay off their investors, leaving the church with their own source of power and a long term boost to their finances.

Anyone who would like to visit the church and find out more about their photovoltaic panels should contact **Graham Gibbs on 01379 852415**.

Project News item:
www.becclesandbungayjournal.co.uk/news/bungay_church_gets_green_boost_1_725473

Case study 4: Totnes Renewable Energy Society

Totnes Renewable Energy Society is a community-owned company set up to develop the renewable energy sources around the town of Totnes and its surrounding parishes for the benefit of the community.

It is set up as an Industrial and Provident Society (Community Benefit Society), membership of which is restricted to the local area. Members can invest anything between £20 and £20,000.

Its first project is to develop a 4.5MW wind farm in partnership with a private developer on the outskirts of the town.

Website: **www.tresoc.com**

Case study 5: Brighton Energy Cooperative

Brighton Energy Cooperative is the first solar cooperative in the UK. The group is looking to raise £1million in share capital from community investors to build a massive solar PV array covering thousands of square metres.

Website: **www.brightonenergy.org.uk**

Bro Dyfi Community Wind Turbine - www.bdcr.org.uk

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For more information on Community Scale Renewable Energy in Suffolk, contact the guide's author, John Taylor, on 01473 432096 or john.taylor@ipswich.gov.uk. John is the Community Advisor for Suffolk Climate Change Partnership and works across the county giving impartial advice and support to communities seeking to act on climate change. He grew up in Felixstowe and has a post graduate degree in architecture and renewable energy from the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales.

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The information in this document is relevant as of February 2011.

If you need help to understand this information in another language please call **08456 066 067**.

Se precisar de ajuda para ler estas informações em outra língua, por favor telefone para o número abaixo.
Portuguese

بەم زانیاریەی شتنی ئەو بەت گەیەتی ەە یارمەر پ ویستیت بەگەیە
بکەوەی خوارەم ژمارەندی بەیوە پەزمان کی تر تکایە
Kurdish

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tych informacji w swoim języku zadzwoń na podany poniżej numer.
Polish

如果你需要其他語言來幫助你了解這些資訊，請撥以下電話。
Chinese

এই লেখাটি যদি অন্য ভাষাতে বুঝতে চান তাহলে নিচের নম্বরে ফোন করুন
Bengali

اگر شما نیاز دارید که این اطلاعات را به زبان دیگری دریافت کنید لطفاً به شماره زیر تلفن کنید.
Farsi

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