

Winsley, Holt, Bradford-on-Avon and South Wraxall Community Energy Workshop Report

Contents

Introduction	3
Report summary	4-5
Why did we do the workshop?	6
What is the local area like?	7-8
Choosing renewables	9-10
Wind turbine suggestions	11-12
Solar farm suggestions	13-14
Impact of choices	15
Suggestions for community benefit	16

Introduction



When and why we did the workshop.

Bath and West Community Energy, Climate Friendly Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire Council and the Centre For Sustainable Energy hosted a community energy workshop in November 2025 for local people in the areas of Winsley, Holt, Bradford-on-Avon and South Wraxall.

Wiltshire Council

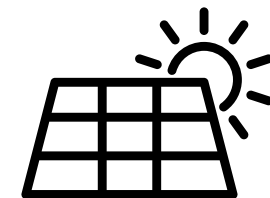
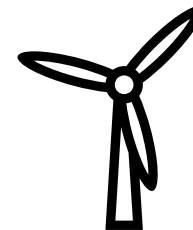
**Climate Friendly
BRADFORD ON AVON**

**BW
CE** Bath & West
Community
Energy



This project is a partnership lead by the Centre for Sustainable Energy and is fully funded by the Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme.

The workshop aimed to understand the type, size and rough location of renewable technologies supported by local people - these are technologies that would be owned by and for the benefit of local people (known as community energy). It was the start of a conversation about community energy in the area, to explore what might be supported.



This report shares what renewable technology, like wind turbines and solar panels, could be possible in the area. It tells you how much energy they would generate and what local people think about them.

A survey and follow-up community conversations will happen after the workshop. This is to find out what the wider public think.



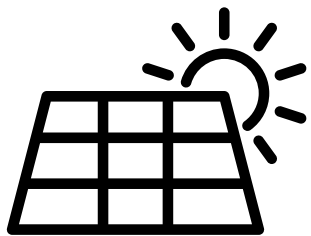
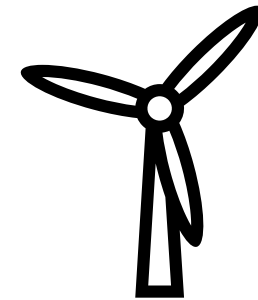


Report summary

During the workshop participants were given a map with possible areas for wind turbines and solar farms presented. These were based on initial evidence of how many could be built, and where might be suitable. This page shows how many possible areas were supported by people in the workshop, and how much energy could be generated from them. **This is not a commitment to developing all of these into projects**, but a discussion around what could be possible and some areas that might be looked at further.

Seven possible areas for wind turbines

People selected all available options for wind within the area and were interested in seeing what sizing up the turbines to 160m would do for greater efficiency, in producing more energy across a smaller land area. All possible locations are in the north of the mapped area, away from densely populated areas with some situated along the main roads. Sensitivity to areas of the natural environment was discussed.



Fifteen possible areas for solar farms

This is the equivalent of 105 football fields but a preference for smaller solar farms spaced out across the area was discussed. Similarly to wind turbines, many are located in the north of the mapped area, with a few in the south.

1,050 homes could be powered

1 large wind turbine and 1 solar farm would generate enough energy for 16% of the homes in the area. It was understood that not all of the possible 22 areas for wind turbines and solar farms would be delivered, but it's better to have more options of possible areas to look at in the beginning for further exploration. It was also highlighted that people who live near possible renewables areas should be spoken to as a priority.





Report summary

The workshop was attended by **18 members** of the local community, representing the four parishes of Winsley, Holt, Bradford-on-Avon and South Wraxall. This page shows some of the thoughts local people shared in the workshop.

“

Small bit of wind is ok, the noise isn't a problem for me.

”

“

Could do vegetation around solar farms.

”

“

I don't have enough information to rule a site out.

”

“

Feeling positive that local people could benefit from a local renewable installation.

”

Why did we do the workshop?



Increasing renewables

The way we produce and use energy needs to change. It's the main cause of climate change. We need a lot **more energy from renewable sources** like wind and solar to meet the UK's climate targets. Nationally, we need to quadruple the amount of renewables that have already been built. Communities should be at the heart of this.

More affordable energy

At the same time, it's difficult for many people in the UK who can't keep their homes warm in winter, even though it's essential for their health and wellbeing. Being able to afford to **keep warm in winter is a basic right** for everyone.

Community energy

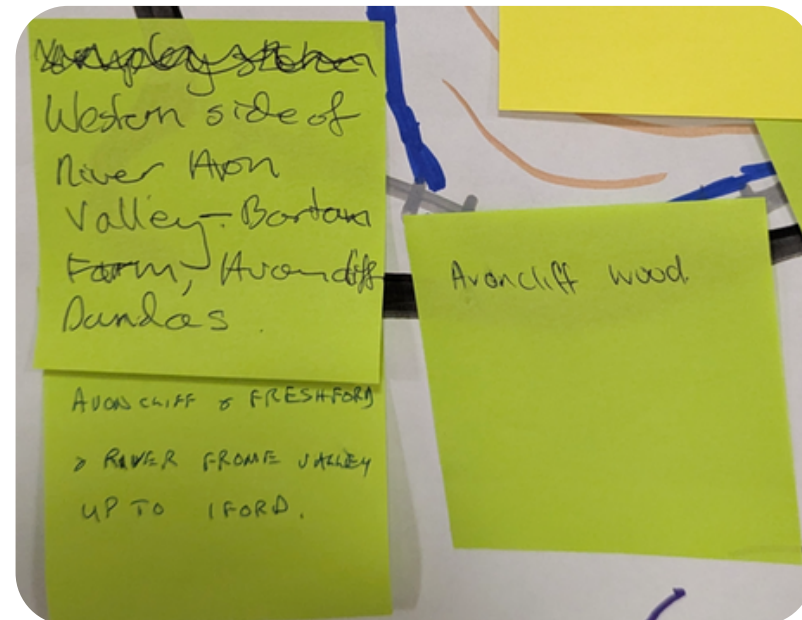
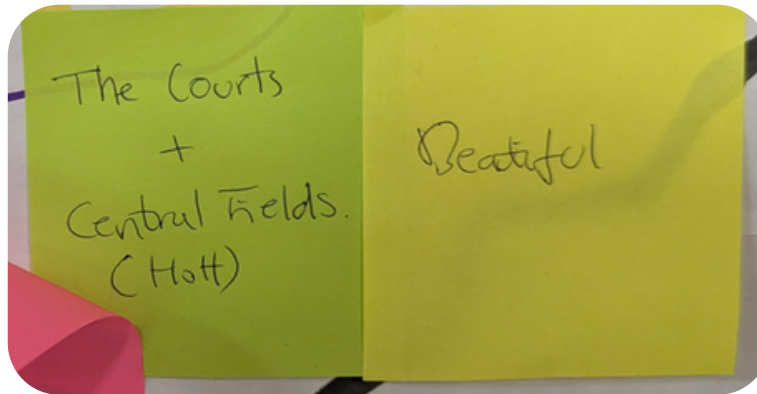
Community-led energy projects **keep benefits local** – from cleaner air to investment in local facilities. When communities lead energy projects, they create solutions that work for everyone – **tackling both climate change and rising energy costs**. In 2023, community energy projects contributed £12.9m to local economies and saved £4.4m in energy bills. They also reduced carbon emissions by 166 mega tonnes, the same as 200,000 passenger round trips from London to New York.

We want to increase awareness about community energy so that communities have the support to lead their own local projects and play a role in the energy transition.

What is the local area like?



The workshop started with people sharing their thoughts about the local area. Individually they added post it notes to a large hand drawn map of the four parish areas, indicating areas they liked, areas they disliked, and and feelings or emotions.





What is the local area like?

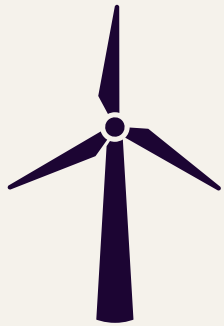
Participants identified valued landscapes such as woodlands, river valleys, and historic areas, alongside concerns about traffic, flooding, and brownfield sites. These insights highlight the need for careful siting of renewable projects to protect local character while addressing community priorities. These comments were added by individuals and not agreed upon by the whole group.

Areas that are special	Areas that are disliked	Other descriptions and thoughts
Chalfield is beautiful and rural	Main road traffic in Holt	Better renewables than a housing development
The courts & Central fields in Holt are beautiful	Brown field sites in Holt	Amazing woods in the area
Great Bradford wood	Flooding to north of Staverton	Co-locating wind and solar on the same sites
Widbrook Wood near Bradford-on-Avon and Trowbridge	Bradford-on-Avon golf course	Some beautiful open landscapes
River Avon, especially through Bradford-on-Avon on both sides as it's a bat commuting corridor	Trowle Common, completely unhealthy agricultural land, prone to flooding	
Bradford-on-Avon historic area, can't have a visual impact	High land left of Bath Road (opposite Cumberwell golf course)	
Canal tow path from Bradford-on-Avon to Dundas and on to Bath	Traffic along Bath Road entering Bradford-on-Avon	
Avoncliff Wood, river Frome valley up to Iford	Bath Road - surrounding agricultural land has been sprayed with pesticides	



Choosing renewables

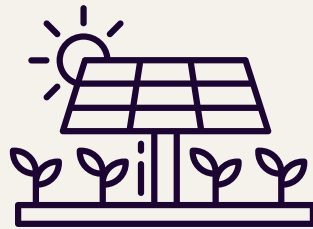
The main part of the workshop brought everyone to 'Sunshine Cafe' where a menu of renewable energy options was shared to help participants visualise the scale and impact of possible technology. This page shows the technology on the menu.



Wind Turbine

Powers 177 homes,
100 metres tall, 1 megawatt.

Maximum **13**



Solar Farm

5 megawatt solar farm
powers 343 homes (13 acres,
or about 7 football fields)

Maximum **29**



This menu is based on technical evidence showing what could work in Winsley, Holt, Bradford-on-Avon and South Wraxall. The evidence looks at things like flooding, green belt land and wind speed - so these are already thought about before the maximum number possible is decided. 'Maximum' isn't a number to aim for though, it's a guide of what could technically be delivered, but people in the workshop chose the technology based on what they thought is acceptable for the area. This does not mean any of these would be built any time soon. Any areas the community wants to look at further would be subject to a lot more thought, community conversations and the planning application process.

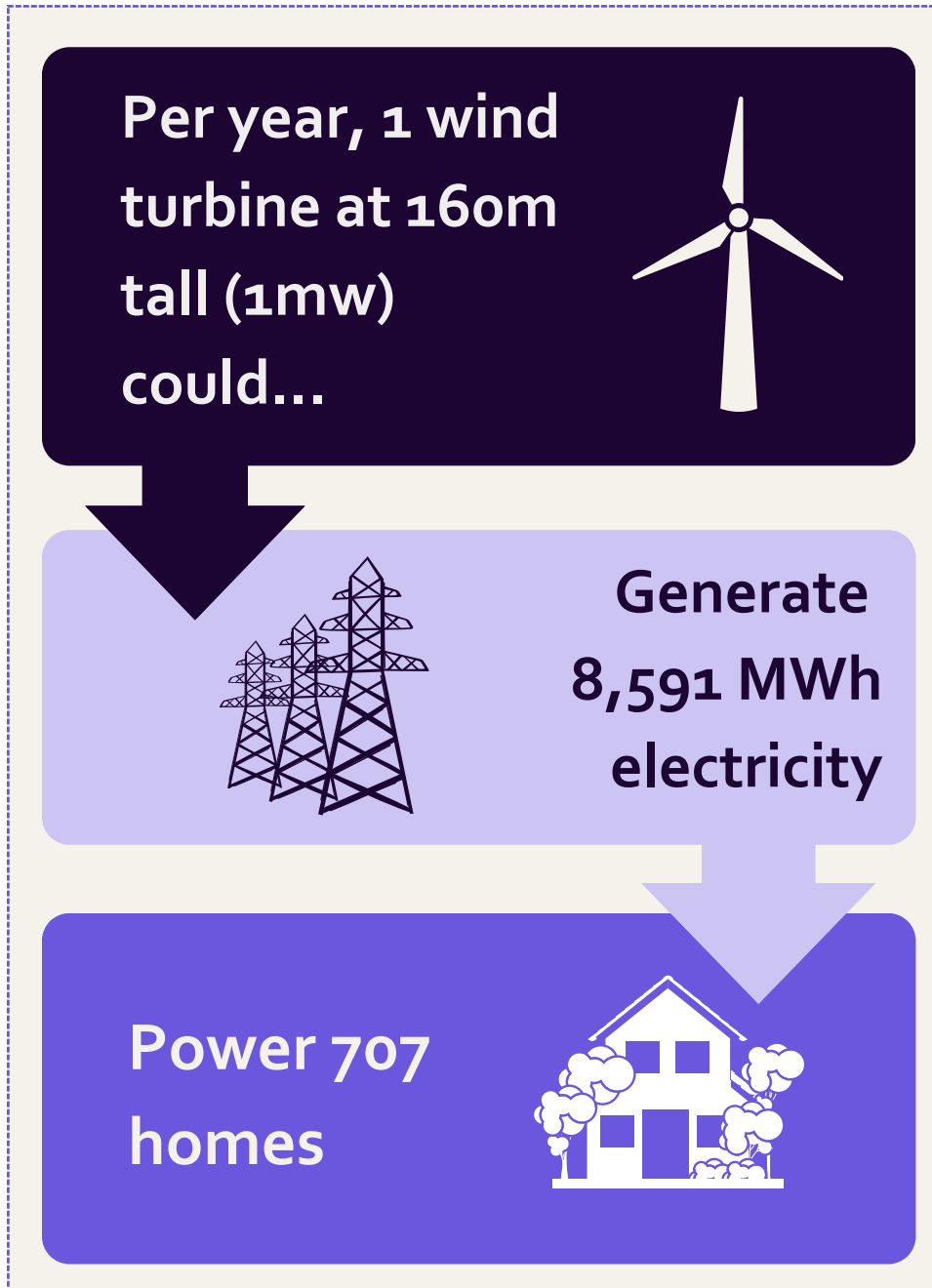
Choosing renewables



In small groups everyone had time to discuss the menu options, arrive at a consensus as a group, before feeding back to the whole room.



Wind turbine results



Main workshop thoughts shared about wind turbines

North area around M Farleigh would be appropriate

Areas in the north are potentially better as not as near where people live

Need to be conscious of existing natural environment such as Avon Leigh organic orchard

Areas in the west may be significant for bats

Generally attendees were keen for most potential sites apart from those in the far west of the parishes

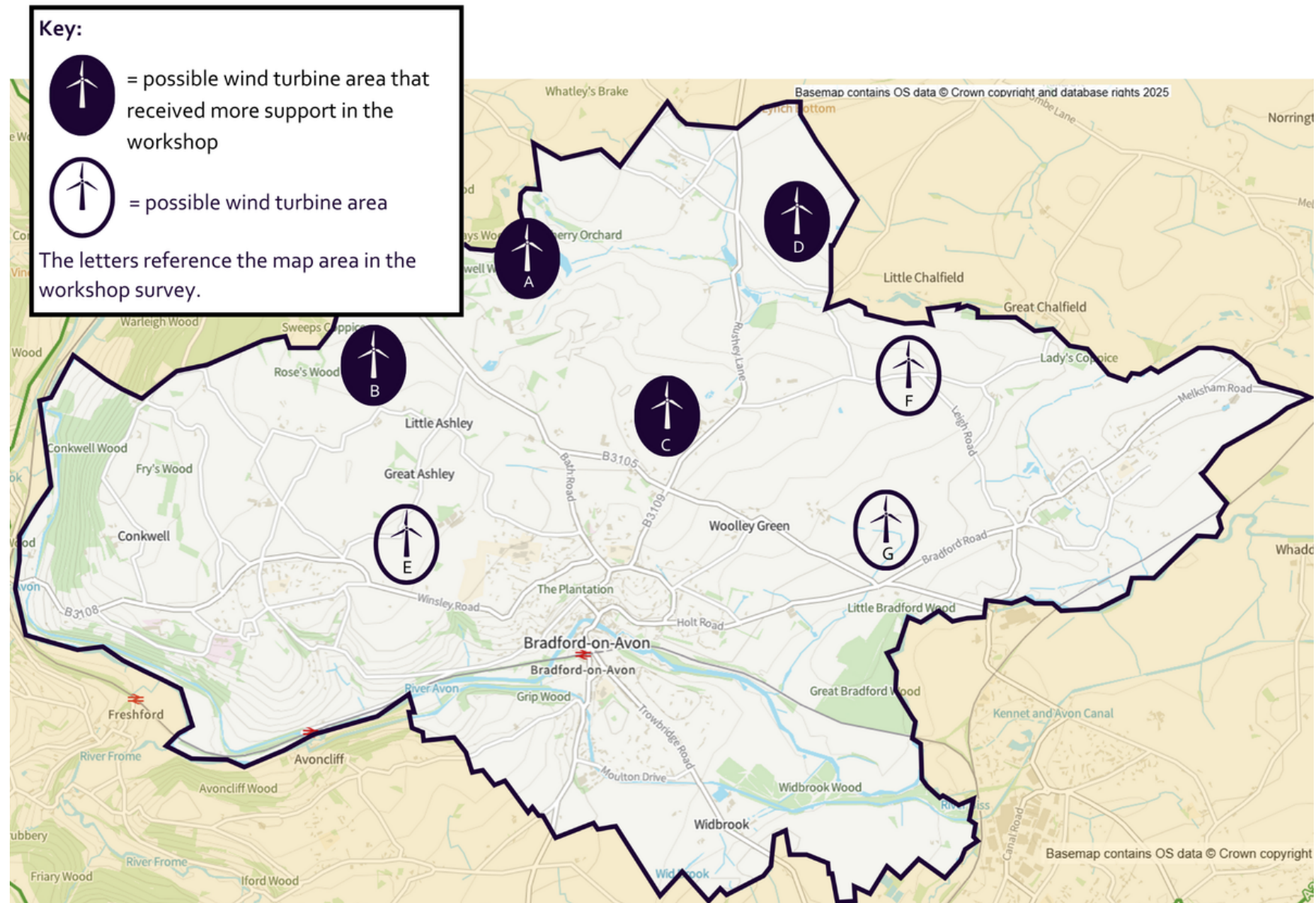
Currently no locally generating infrastructure so we should be open to something

Three large (160m) and four medium (100m) turbines estimated



Possible areas - wind turbines

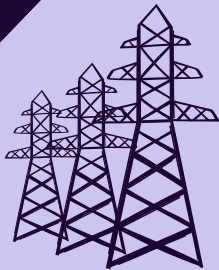
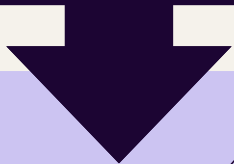
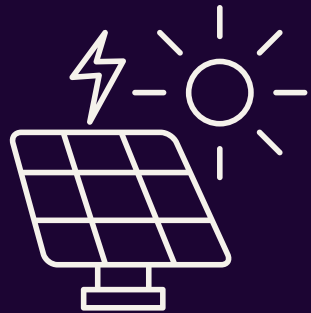
All of these areas received some support in the workshop, however not all areas would be pursued as part of a potential future project. Any area that is taken forward would have more consultation.



Solar farm results



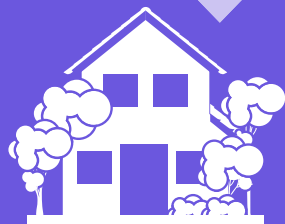
Per year, 1 solar farm at 5mw could...



**Generate
4,164 MWh
electricity**



**Power 343
homes**



Main workshop thoughts shared about solar farms

It was felt that people don't tend to like the visual impact of solar farms on the landscape

In the North East there is a large tree planting project at Greater Chalfield so not suitable

Solar farms could help boost biodiversity in some areas, we would need more information on how rare species could be protected

At the moment there is not enough information to discount any sites, would want to investigate further before ruling any out

We would need to investigate consent more locally for each solar farm

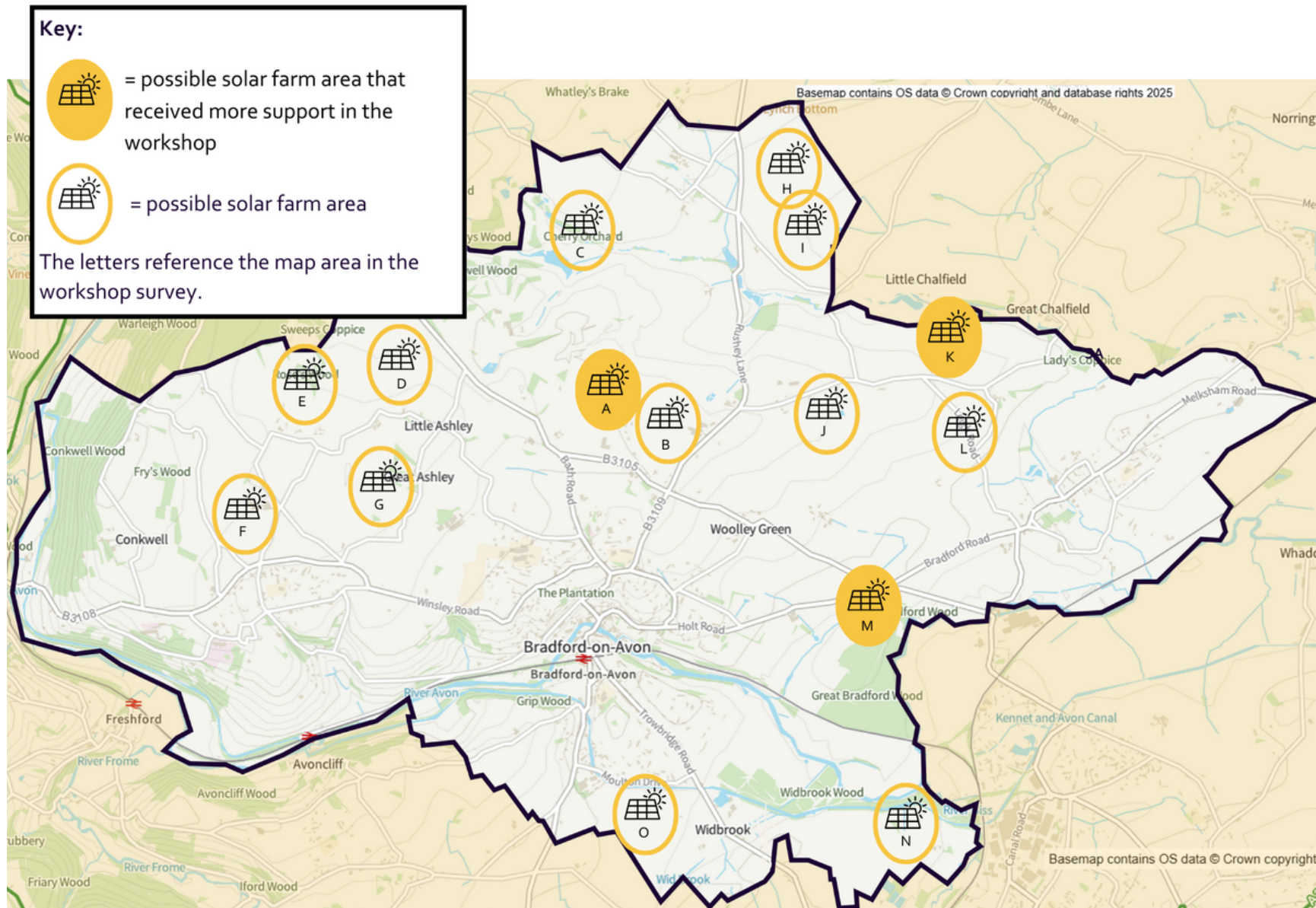
There are a number of sites listed that are currently golf courses

It would have been great if the solar farm at/near Whaddon would have had some community benefit



Possible locations - solar farms

All of these areas received some support in the workshop, however not all areas would be pursued as part of a potential future project. Any area that is taken forward would have more consultation.

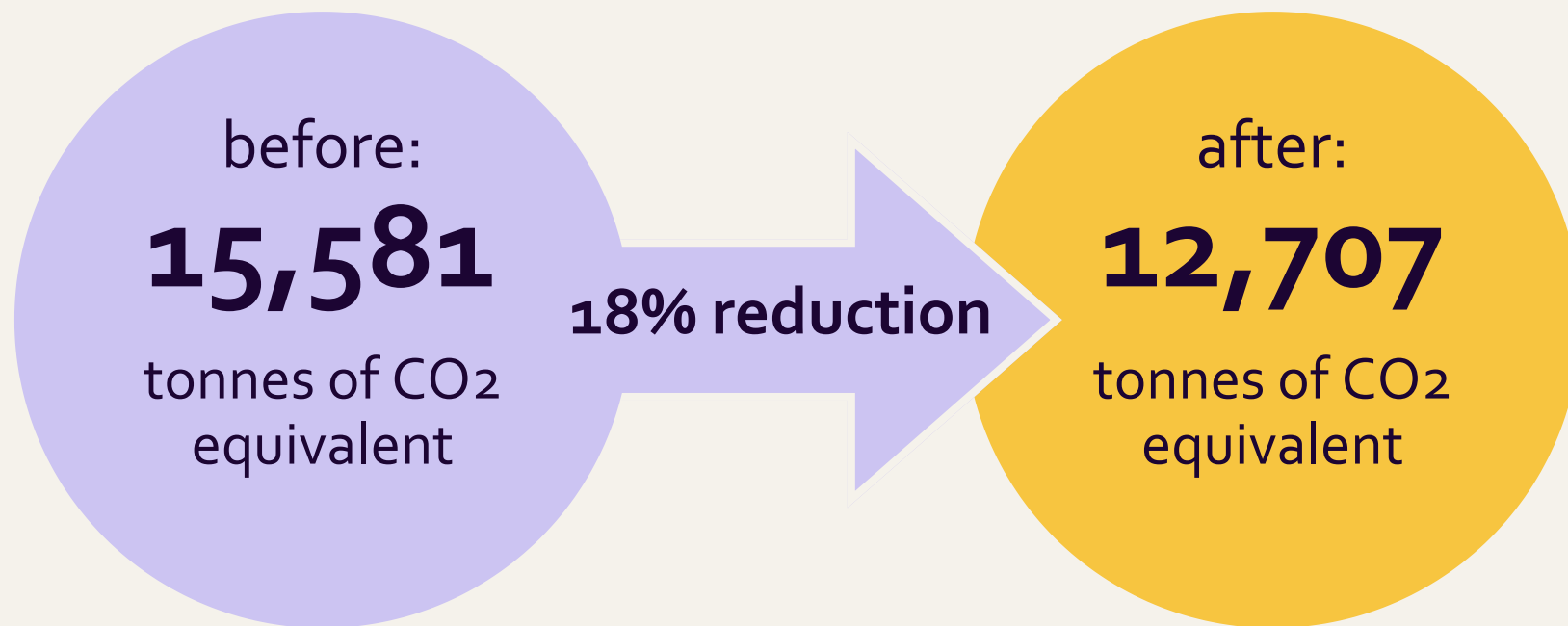




Impact of choices

This page shows the current carbon emissions in parish from electricity and heating use. It then shows how much those emissions would be reduced if one wind turbine and one solar farm were built and installed, with rooftop solar and heat pumps. Making and installing renewable technologies creates carbon, however after approximately 2-3 years the technology will save more carbon than it's used.

The annual carbon emissions of Winsley, Holt, Bradford-on-Avon and South Wraxall before and after renewable technologies.





Suggestions for community benefit

This page shows some suggestions made by participants on how the community might benefit from a renewable energy project that is owned by the community. Most options would use revenue from any potential renewables site to reinvest in community projects.

Community share
offer or benefit
fund

A community bus

Tailored energy
surveys and advice
that is trusted and
impartial

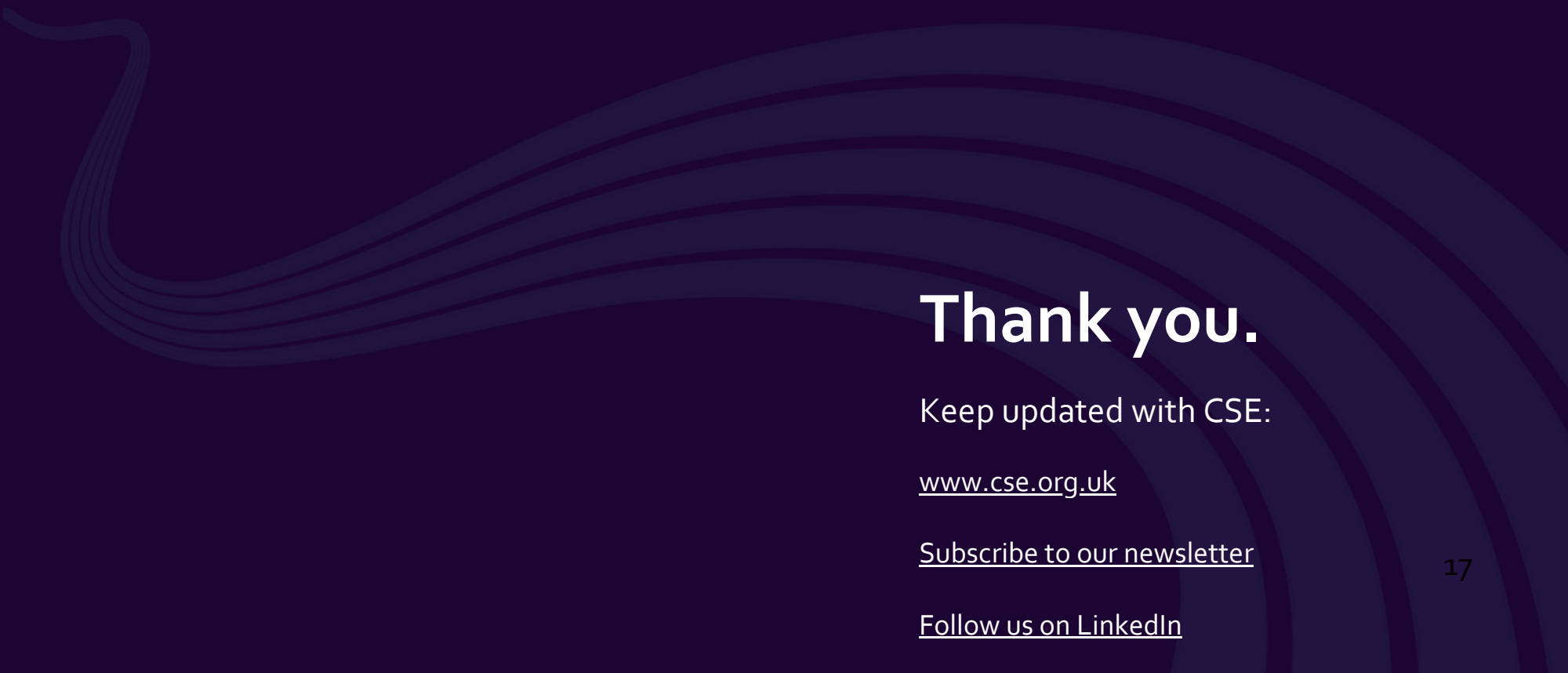
Social / affordable
housing

A cycle route for
Bradford-on-Avon,
Melksham via Holt

Electric car and
bike club

Benefits for nature
including tree
planting, meadow
planting or
swiftbricks

Community land
purchase

A series of dark blue, wavy, concentric lines that sweep across the bottom right of the slide, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Thank you.

Keep updated with CSE:

www.cse.org.uk

[Subscribe to our newsletter](#)

[Follow us on LinkedIn](#)