
Appendices

1. Questions from attendees

Asked by attendees, responses by the Centre for Sustainable Energy, Bath & West Community Energy and Empowered.

Question	Answer
If engagement is low, how will you get more responses and make sure it is representative?	We will continue to use surveys and encourage wider participation by working with local community groups (and please spread the word from these workshops).
How will you establish a consensus?	We'll assess whether there's sufficient interest to continue exploring ideas. If there is significant disapproval, the process won't continue.
Have landowners been spoken to?	No - this is a later stage of the Energy in Your Community process. We are focusing on community interest for locations first.
Does being an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty stop solar or wind development?	No, but planning requirements are more stringent and landscape sensitivity is a key consideration.
Why is the surplus not invested into future projects?	It can be! A community energy organisation is generally required to use surplus for community benefit – either future renewable energy developments <u>or</u> community support schemes like local grants. Any projects it invests its surplus in would need to pass the community benefit test. For example, Bath & West Community Energy is a Community Benefit Society regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Interest to their investors is capped and surplus profits must go instead

Question	Answer
	to community support schemes or renewable projects.
How is the scheme funded?	In general, community energy can be funded by loans, grants and community investors. A community energy scheme must prove it will make enough profit from selling electricity to cover the loans and interest to investors. A community energy organisation would usually use loans or grant funding to cover the essential preparation work to make a planning application. Community investment money isn't used for this work as the returns aren't guaranteed yet. Once planning is successful, Bath and West Community Energy's funding model raises local shares for community investors, promotes locally, caps interest at around 5%, and returns the surplus to the community through benefit schemes. Funding for a community energy scheme in this area will be covered in more detail in future workshops, as there isn't a site with consensus right now.
Solar vs wind – how much energy do they produce, is one better than the other?	Wind turbines produce more energy for the land they use, compared to solar farms. However, wind is area dependent (e.g., some places aren't windy).
Do grid connections matter?	Yes, the area will only be suitable if it can connect to the grid. Grid feasibility will be part of the in-depth feasibility review.
Will wind or solar be noisy?	Both create noise, but sound levels are tested and assessed as part of in-depth feasibility (e.g., proximity to residents).

Question	Answer
How long from possibility to reality?	Roughly 3 to 5 years. There are legal, financial, planning, and fundraising steps involved.

2. Technical constraints by location

	Site	Technology	Agricultural Land Classification	RADAR	Slope (Degrees)	Wind Speed (m/s @ 100m)	Listed Buildings	Scheduled Monuments	Historic Landfill	National Landscapes	Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Green belt	Conservation Areas	Priority Habitats	Ancient Woodland	Residential / Non-residential	Local Plan Housing proposal
A	Between Peasedown & Wellow	Solar	3 & 4	N/A		N/A			10m							100m	Overlaps
B	Disused Coal Mine	Solar	3	N/A		N/A										40m	
C	White Hill	Solar	3	N/A		N/A						Inside				150m	Overlaps
D	South of White Ox Mead	Solar	3	N/A		N/A						Inside				200m	Overlaps
E	White Ox Mead	Solar	3	N/A		N/A						Inside		10m - Good quality semi improved grassland			
F	Twinhoe Solar	Solar	3	N/A		N/A	80m			Inside		Inside		20m - Deciduous woodland			
G	Upper Baggridge	Solar	3 & 4	N/A	Max 14.7	N/A	50m					Inside		30m - Lowland calcareous grassland, Trad orchard & Deciduous woodland		100m	
A	North of Peasedown	Turbine	3	120m	Max 9.7	7.9						Inside				110m	Overlaps
B	White Ox Mead	Turbine	3	160m		7.6						Inside		10m - Good quality semi improved grassland		250m	

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C	South of Combe Hay	Turbine	3 & 4	120m		8				Inside		Inside		30m - Deciduous woodland	30m		
D	Twinhoe Turbine	Turbine	3	120m		8.2				Inside		Inside			198m	250m	
E	Baggridge Hill	Turbine	3	100m	Max 11	8.1						Inside		Lowland calcareous grassland		200m	
F	Near Covert Woodland	Turbine	3	160m		7.4						Inside					
G	Near Woodborough Farm	Turbine	3	120m	Max 8.3	7.6										400m	
H	North of Round Hill	Turbine	3	100m		7.8										300m	

Figure 4: High-level constraints review conducted by Empowered Projects renewable energy consultancy to inform discussion of potential wind and solar locations.