

Community co-operative ownership of renewable energy



Mike Smyth, Chair, Energy4All



Winner of a 2012 Ashden Award.

Energy4All's Mission

- To help the UK's transition to a low carbon economy
- To engage ordinary people in the operation and ownership of renewable energy
- Mission shared with Energy4All co-ops and delivered through Energy4All – by co-ops co-operating

Community Energy Co-operatives

Co-operative principles (Industrial & Provident Society)

- One member, one vote
- Local board elected by members
- Social ethics: responsibility, equality, fairness
- Supports environmental and social goals
- Co-op devotes % of profits to 'social' projects
- Independent

Energy4All

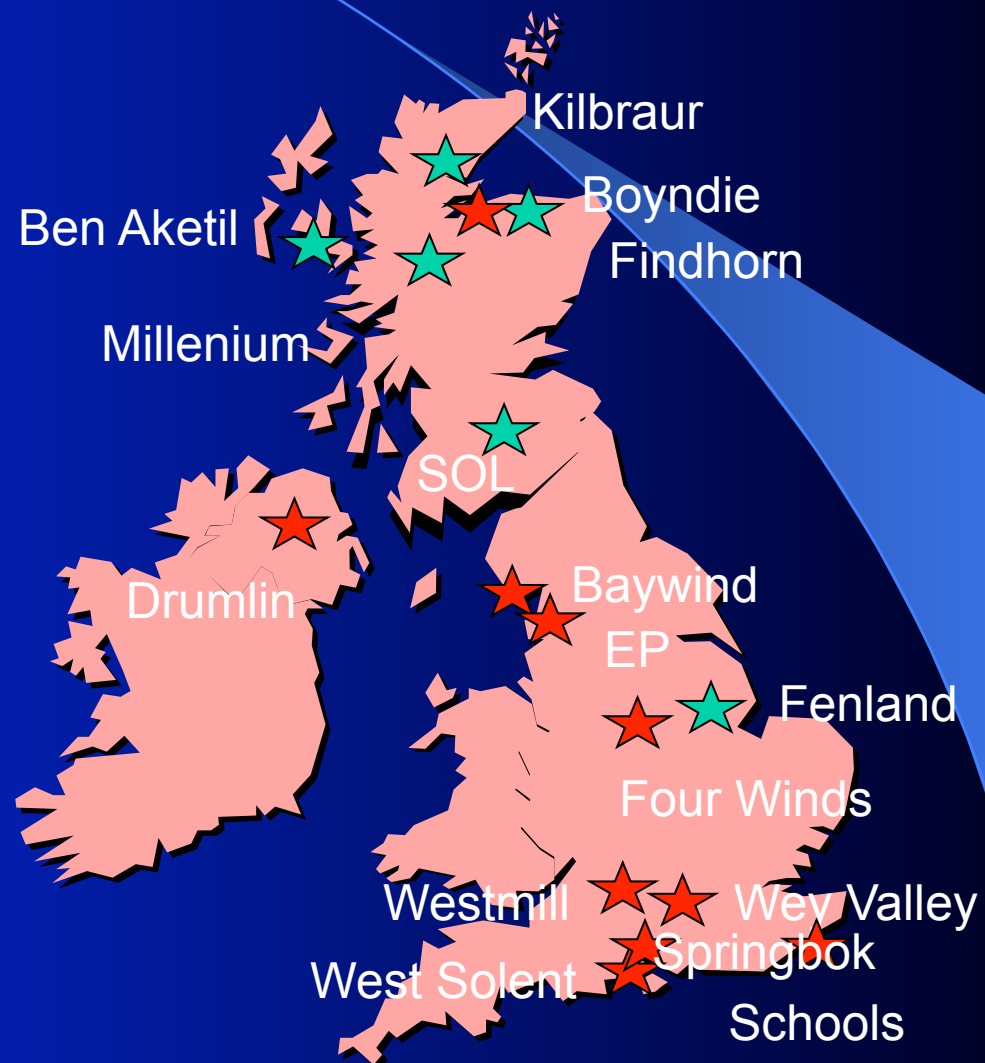


- Self financing
- Non profit distributing; owned by co-ops and staff
- 16 renewable energy co-ops; 22 more in development, extension or repowering
- Raised over £30 million share equity from over 10,000 community members
- Raised over £10 million in past 12 months
- 10 staff (full time equivalent); many volunteers in the co-ops

Energy4All projects

★ Fully community owned

★ Share in developer sites



Energy4All – key services

- Project development and due diligence
- Fundraising (equity and debt)
- Project installation
- Project operation (monitoring, PPAs, maintenance)
- Co-operative management
- Representation

Wey Valley Solar Schools Solar PV Installations

School Name	Size of Array kW	kWh generated in year ending July 2013
Beacon School, Banstead	42	40878
Broadwater School, Farncombe	47.53	45026
Godalming Sixth Form College	49.63	45531
Guildford County School	17.48	18012
Rodborough School, Milford	47.92	39507
Woolmer Hill School, Haslemere	33.57	32189
Christ Church, Hastings	30	-



West Solent Solar Co-operative – April 2014

- 2.4mw solar farm on site of landfilled gravel pit
- £2.4 million needed – raised in six weeks
- Projected 5% initial yield and average of 8%, plus EIS relief
- Largest community funded solar farm new build to date
- Major biodiversity benefits

Marketing

- Database of those interested/previous investors (15,000/10,000)
- Constantly seeking to expand that data base generically
- Project specific marketing: pr, public launch, advertising, networking, intermediaries (green groups, churches etc); public meetings, leaflets, posters

Key features

- Investment not donation
- Ownership not debt; engagement
- Mass movement, not “wholesale” or “high net worth” - social investment for everyone
- Tangible, ethical investment: to help the UK’s transition to a low carbon economy
- Profit making, not maximising

Key features

- Retail returns enables greater community benefit
- EIS relief (enables lower returns/greater take-up)
- Renewable energy *plus* return *plus* a story
- Mission driven
- Local element
- Debt on top
- Control destiny – not reliant on grants

Regulation

- Co-operatives and community benefit societies have certain exemptions from the share issue rules under FSMA
- Co-operative values ideal for social enterprise of this nature
- Prospectus and FCA regulation
- Crowdfunding regulation

What you can do – help deliver the community energy revolution

- Invest! – register your interest at www.Energy4All.co.uk
- Broadcast! – we need thousands of new supporters and investors – please tell everyone!
- Participate!