Annual General Meeting

Friday 26th Sept 2025

2pm

Chair's Welcome

Julian Barlow

Welcome all to Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy's 2025 AGM.

This has been a truly transformative year for the organisation and I am delighted that so many members, old and new, are here today to look back on the success we've enjoyed and begin to plan for what's to come.

After much preparation, I was incredibly proud to launch WWCE's first public share offer for more than a decade and to see if attract so much support from climate-conscious investors. After a wonderful first round of fundraising for the Solar for Silverwood School project, we briefly relaunched the offer earlier this year and were able to smash our minimum target – raising a total of £500,000 to bolster our own contribution.

Our Keeping Warm This Winter programme also returned for a third season, this time partnering with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's Adult Wellbeing Groups and Carer Support Wiltshire. Our community fund continued to deliver grants for a range of projects that reduce carbon and promote wildlife across the county, and as an organisation we were able to commit to delivering our largest ever grant – promising £100,000 to further Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's (WWT) Lower Moor Farm restoration project.



As ever, I thank you all for making all this possible through your continued support.

Agenda

Julian Barlow

1. **Welcome and introduction** – Julian Barlow, Chair
2. **Revisit our aims and objectives** – Julian Barlow, Chair
3. **Minutes of last year's meeting and quorum** – Julian Barlow, Chair
4. **Technical performance of solar farms** – Tom Cosgrove, CfR
5. **Silverwood School** - Tom Cosgrove, CfR
6. **Land management** – Rob Gillies, Director
7. **Community fund** – Jon Bateman, CF panel chair
8. **Community outreach** – Julian Barlow, Chair
9. **Presentation of the audited annual accounts to end March 2025** – Tom Cosgrove, CfR
10. **Financial performance of the group, member interest and capital repayment** – Tom Cosgrove, CfR
11. **Future strategy** – Julian Barlow, Chair
12. **Member share withdrawal rule amendment update** - Tom Cosgrove, CfR
13. **Proposals and resolutions** – Julian Barlow, Chair
    a) approval of proposed Community Fund Payment
    b) election and re-election of directors
    c) other resolutions and/or proposals

The minutes of the 2023/24 AGM are available to download in the documents section on the Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy website: wwce.org/resources/

Questions

Julian Barlow

Everyone in the meeting apart from the presenters have been muted.

If you have any questions or comments, please communicate via the chat function.

Any questions will be answered at the end of the respective section.

Key achievements from 2024/25

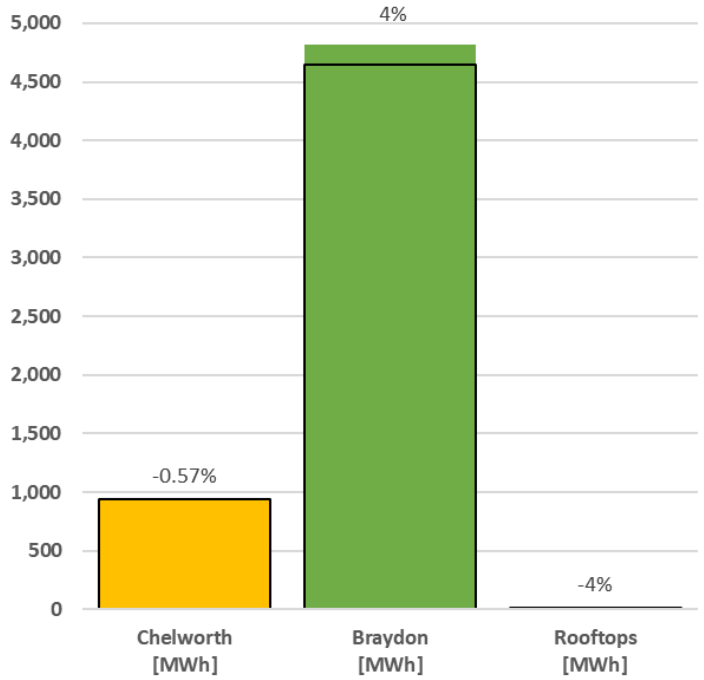
Julian Barlow

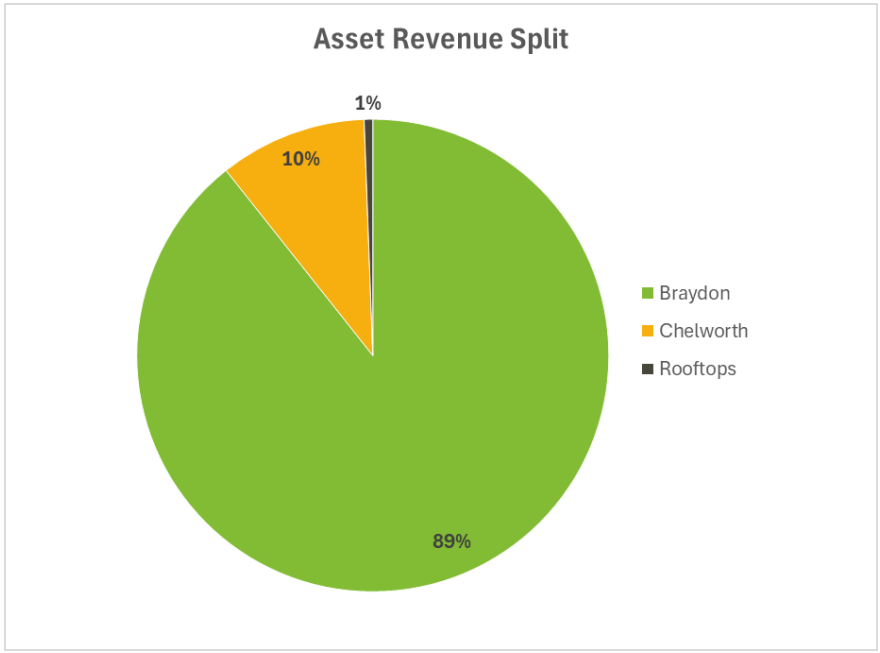
- Solar for Silverwood School share offer raised £500,000 and is now fully operational.
- Strong numbers of applications continue to be received by the Community Fund, with eight new projects supported.
- Keeping Warm This Winter has now delivered energy advice to almost 1000 Wiltshire residents and continues to feature in the press.
- Largest ever grant awarded to a single organisation in the form of £100,000 to bolster Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's Lower Moor Farm.
- Profit before tax in the 24/25 year increased by more than double from the previous period.
- Interest payments maintained at 7% for investors in the Braydon and Chelworth share offers.


Technical performance
Tom Cosgrove, CfR CIC, Asset Manager

Technical performance

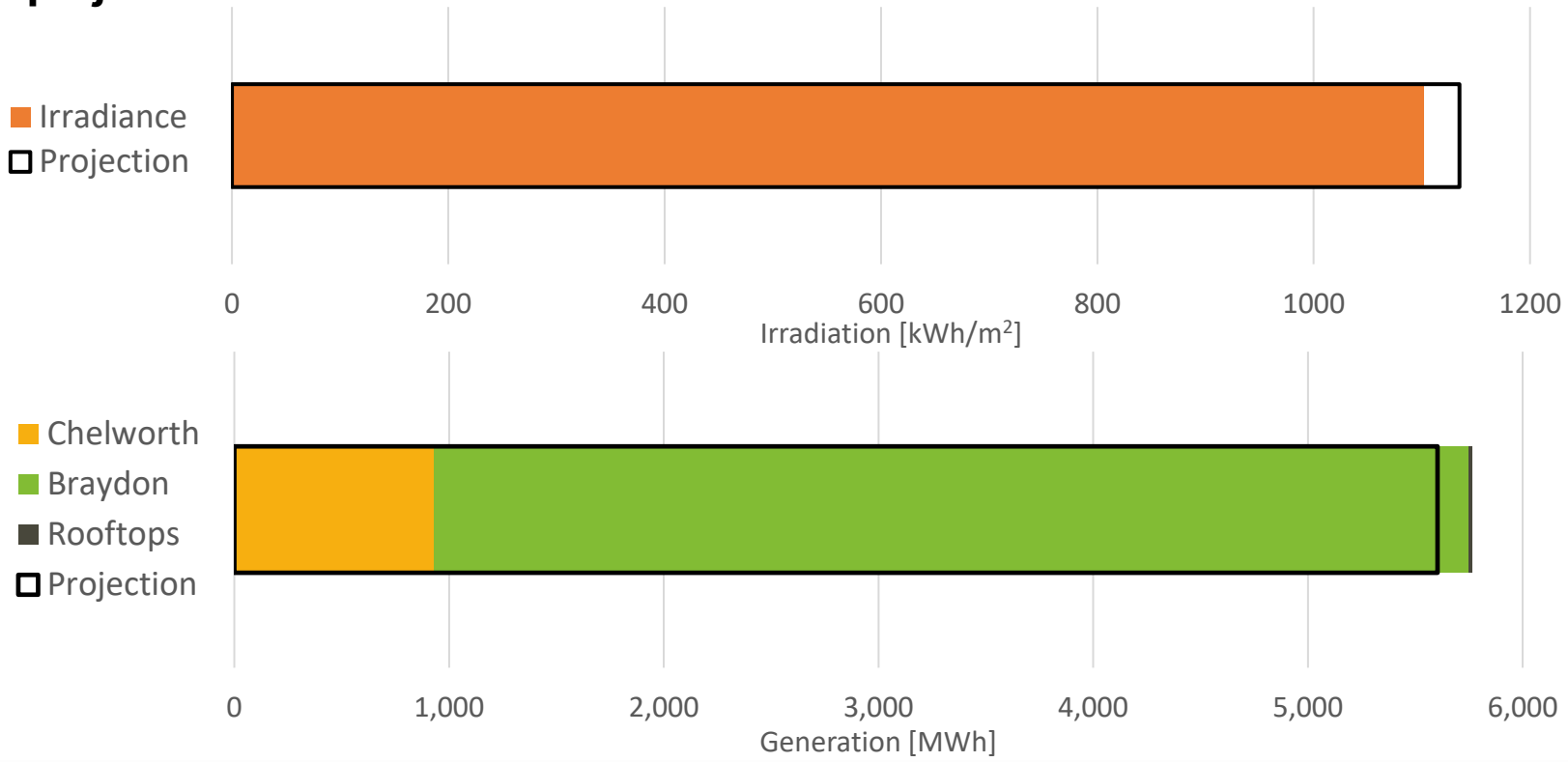
- This year, total generation was **2.83%** ahead of projections
- Chelworth performed as expected, falling just short of its generation projection for the year by 0.6%.
- Braydon continues to do well, surpassing its generation projection by **4%.**
- The WWCE rooftop sites were **4%** below their original projection for the period.





Technical performance

- Average irradiance this year totalled at **1101 kWh/m², ** behind the sites' projected figure of **1135 kWh/m²** by **2.94%**.
- This year, the WWCE portfolio generated **5762 MWh**, enough energy to power **1600 average UK homes** for a year*.
- The target for the portfolio was **5603 MWh**, meaning we were, in overall, **2.83% ahead of projections**.



Challenges and solutions

Braydon (5MW)

- 109 modules were identified to be suffering from shorted bypass diodes. A warranty claim was successfully raised with the module manufacturer in early 2025.
- Drone thermography survey was completed in April 2025, module cleaning, I-V curve testing and ecological monitoring and grassland survey were completed in June 2025.



Chelworth (1MW)



- The warranties on ten of the SMA inverter units on site were extended in July 2025 for 15 years to be co-terminus with project lease.
- The removal and recycle of faulty inverter units from the spare parts container in March 2025 to alleviate space for any spares procured in future and allow easier review of the parts held.

Rooftops (18kW)



- A visual inspection of all arrays was completed in February 2025 by a solar PV contractor. All arrays were in good working order and confirmed to be supplying the respective properties.
- All three rooftop arrays continue to be monitored using remote metering equipment installed in late 2021.


Silverwood School
Tom Cosgrove, CfR CIC, Asset Manager

Silverwood School

- In Autumn 2024 WWCE launched its first share offer in nearly a decade to bring a 521 kWp rooftop solar system at Silverwood's Devizes Campus SEND School into community ownership.
- On 24th April 2025, the offer closed with backing from over 200 community investors raising £499,917, leading to the successful purchase of the system from developer Willmott Dixon.
- Communities for Renewables has monitored the PV's performance since August 2024. Most snagging issues have been resolved, with ongoing work alongside Willmott Dixon to address remaining items, improving performance and increasing long-term reliability.
- WWCE is developing plans for the £5,000 annual community fund to support wildlife and environmental education with the school and in due course will be seeking Silverwood investor members to oversee this dedicated Solar for Silverwood School fund.






‘Less carbon, more wildlife’
Land Management
Rob Gillies, Director

Chelworth

- This Spring saw our flock of sheep, which have been grazing the site full-time for several years, taken off the solar park. We are moving to a winter grazing regime where removing the spring and summer grazing will hopefully encourage wildflowers and native grasses to flourish. Sheep will be brought back later in the year to provide grazing over the winter. Initial observations have shown very encouraging results with several important wildflower meadow species seen including: ladies' bedstraw, bird's foot trefoil, ox-eye daisy, red clover and pepper saxifrage.

- In less positive news, our neighbours in the industrial estate have removed a length of mature hedgerow on their land adjacent to the wildlife area (without our knowledge). This has left the wildlife area much more exposed to the elements and has removed valuable habitat. We will be planting a new hedgerow on our land later in the year to replace the lost habitat although this will take many years to establish.





Braydon

- We have been working with our operations contractors and specialist ecologists to identify areas for additional works to improve biodiversity across the solar park.
- This year will see the sowing of four marginal areas with seed sourced from the WWT's Avis Meadows, brush harvested just a few kilometres away. We'll also supplement this seed mix with Yellow Rattle:- a hemi-parasitic wildflower which will naturally suppress grasses ensuring the new wildflowers have the greatest chance of success.




Community Fund
Jon Bateman, Panel Chair

Community Fund: Overview

- WWCE's Community Fund continues to go from strength to strength, growing its portfolio with a further eight projects receiving funding in the year to 31 March 2025, as well as completing a number of ongoing schemes. Since then, five more projects have been financed, and a number of new applications are due for consideration at our next panel meeting.

- WWCE donates part of its surplus to community causes and we thank members for approving the £40k funding at the 2024 AGM. Members can also donate their interest to the fund. To date WWCE has supported local groups and helped deliver projects worth over £141k.

- The Fund is administered by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and governed by a Panel of members from WWCE & WWT. The Panel meets 3 times a year to: review applications, award grants and monitor projects. In 2025 We were delighted to welcome Ali Nott, engagement manager in the Fundraising & Engagement Directorate at WWT to the fold this year. We currently have a vacancy for a WWCE member and would be delighted to hear from anyone interested.

- Promoting the Fund, effective marketing and redefining the award criteria has stimulated interest across the county resulting in a greater number and range of projects.

Projects Funded in 2024-25

Following member approval, the Fund received £40k from WWCE for 2024-5.

Projects supported in the 2024-5 financial year include:

- Oliver Tomkins School to develop a student accessible wildlife area Swindon
- Broken Bridges Nature Reserve contribution to land acquisition for a nature reserve and purchase of equipment for wildlife education facilities Salisbury
- Sustainable Sherston for solar power generation at the local Primary School Sherston
- Sustainable Warminster's Toad Patrol; information board and road closure campaigning Warminster
- Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon for a thermal imaging camera to promote energy efficiency. Bradford on Avon
- Ivy Wildlife Garden. Community garden Chippenham
- Churchfields Village School outdoor learning area and wildlife garden Atworth and
- Salisbury Transition City's 'People in The Park' event



Supporting the Community











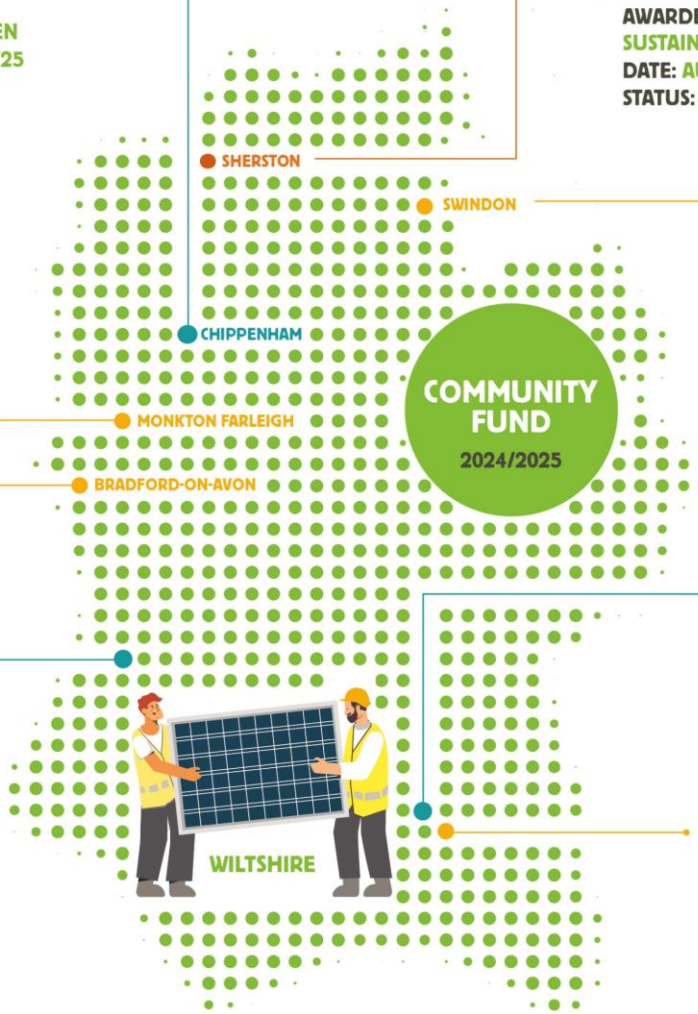








Supporting the Community



£1,641
AWARDED TO:
IVY WILDLIFE GARDEN
DATE: WINTER 2024/25
STATUS: COMPLETE

£2,500
AWARDED TO:
SUSTAINABLE SHERSTON
DATE: AUTUMN 2025
STATUS: PENDING

£1,500
AWARDED TO:
CHURCHFIELDS THE VILLAGE SCHOOL
DATE: SUMMER 2025
STATUS: IN PROGRESS

£5,000
AWARDED TO:
OLIVER TOMKINS SCHOOL
DATE: SPRING 2025
STATUS: IN PROGRESS

£350
AWARDED TO:
CLIMATE FRIENDLY BRADFORD ON AVON
DATE: AUTUMN 2025
STATUS: IN PROGRESS

£1,000
AWARDED TO:
SALISBURY TRANSITION CITY
DATE: SPRING 2025
STATUS: COMPLETE

£1,822
AWARDED TO:
WARMINSTER TOAD PATROL
DATE: AUTUMN 2024
STATUS: COMPLETE

£5,000
AWARDED TO:
BROKEN BRIDGES NATURE RESERVE
DATE: SUMMER 2025
STATUS: IN PROGRESS

Looking Forward

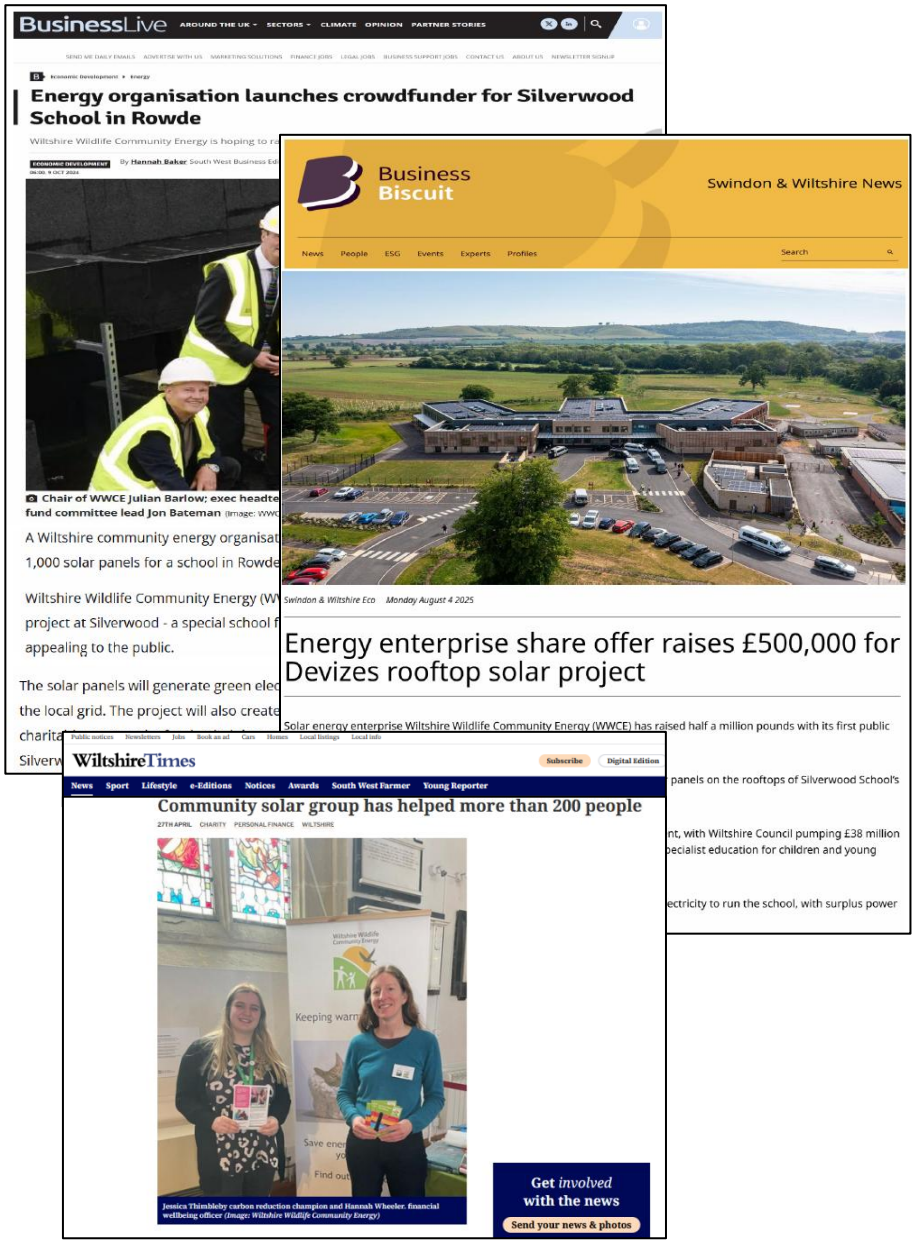
- The remaining balance has been used to start projects approved since April 2025. Full details will be in next year's reporting, but projects include solar energy generation and rainwater harvesting programmes.
- For next year we are recommending to members approval of a £40k donation from WWCE, which will allow us to continue promoting WWCE's community involvement and further increase the number and range of supported projects.
- To help us encourage communities to prepare schemes for funding, we also welcome members' support in networking with potential applicants; and of course comments suggestions are always welcome. If you feel able to help our many climate and nature-friendly projects come to life, we'd love to hear from you!
- We currently have vacancies for a panel member and later this year, we'll be seeking Silverwood investor members to oversee a dedicated fund based around Silverwood School.
- wwceapplications@wiltshirewildlife.org
  - 01380 736096 or 07568 231015


Community Outreach
Julian Barlow, Chair

WWCE in the press

Since our last AGM, WWCE has been featured in print or online on average at least once a week, every week. This regular coverage is a result of announcements about the launch and successful close of our first share offer for more than ten years, the return of our energy advice service, our sponsorship of local events, and the Lower Moor Farm deal amongst others.

As well as producing and placing press releases and blogs from our chair, our external communications consultant has also worked with ethical funding platform Ethex, WWT and other third parties to create content for their websites and blogs, as well as e-news alerts, case studies, and social media posts.



WWCE in the press continued…

The return of the Keeping Warm This Winter initiative generated considerable regional coverage earlier this year, with articles appearing in print in the Melksham Independent News, Swindon Advertiser and the Gazette & Herald, as well as being featured by the publication's online counterparts. The story also ran across thisiswiltshire.co.uk and the Wiltshire Times.

In addition to written coverage, the organisation repeatedly attracted the attention of broadcast journalists from BBC Radio Wiltshire and local TV station, That's TV. Rob Gillies, Jessica Thimbleby and Julian Barlow have all been invited to take part in interviews, garnering further coverage for the launch of the Solar for Silverwood School share offer and the Lower Moor Farm agreement, discussing eco-housing and our energy advice service, and fielding questions on solar to mark Earth Day.


THE MELKSHAM INDEPENDENT NEWS

HAVEN TIMBER

Latest News | About Us | Digital Edition | Back Issues | Contact us | Advertise with us | Family Me

Energy enterprise supports Melksham residents

February 12, 2025 in Latest news Reading Time: 2 mins read

407 22 AA 0

An energy advice session was held at the town's food bank recently, educating local people on how to keep warm at home and save money by reducing their energy use.

Carbon Reduction Champion Jessica Thimbleby from the local community solar group Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy (WWCE) joined a busy session at Melksham Foodbank on 3rd February, speaking to people about everything from draught-proofing and insulation to reducing damp to avoid mould. She also answered questions about ways to make homes more comfortable during the chilly winter months.

The session was part of WWCE's Keeping Warm This Winter programme, designed to provide practical advice to those struggling with fuel costs, as well as signposting people to further support. Since 2022, more than 700 people across the county have been helped through pop-up energy advice sessions, many of which have been held in Melksham.





Carbon Reduction Champion

Jessica Thimbleby

Role jointly shared with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to help both organisations achieve mutual aims of reducing carbon and boosting nature's recovery by encouraging more wildlife.

At WWCE:

- Reduce carbon with an initiative focused on increasing energy efficiency in low-income households
- Increase awareness of WWCE and the Community Fund



You can follow us via WWCE's [Facebook Page]



Carbon Reduction Champion

Jessica Thimbleby

Keeping Warm This Winter 2024/25

Objectives

- Raise awareness of, and provide practical energy efficiency help and advice to low income, vulnerable households in Wiltshire
- Signpost people to caseworker support and available energy efficiency grants
- Partner with community-based organisations to support their attendees and service users



Carbon Reduction Champion

Jessica Thimbleby

Keeping Warm This Winter 2024/25

Impact

Pop-up ‘Energy Advice Cafes’ to answer questions and talk about and demonstrate simple, low-cost but effective ways to be warmer at home while reducing energy use.

The project worked with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Adult Wellbeing groups, returned to 3 Foodbanks visited last year and partnered with Carer Support Wiltshire to visit 12 of their ‘Carer Cafes’ across the county in both urban and rural areas.

- Spoke to 240 people at 20 events about energy efficiency and reducing energy use
- At least 57 people took one or more ‘energy efficiency’ action at home following these conversations
- 59 people were signposted to the Warm and Safe Wiltshire service for further support
- To date over three winters we've spoken to 953 people over 54 sessions

Carbon Reduction Champion

Jessica Thimbleby

"Partnering with Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy has been a fantastic experience…

It's essential for carers, who often juggle numerous responsibilities, to receive the right information at the right time. This collaboration has provided a perfect platform to share invaluable advice, helping to prevent the overwhelming impact of high bills and energy overconsumption for our busy carers"

Poppy Connell, Head of Grant Initiatives and Service Management for Carer Support Wiltshire





"Cold, damp, energy-inefficient homes are a fact of life for many on low incomes, and poor mental health is often linked to poverty.

Participants on WWT Wellbeing programme had lots of questions for Jess about making their living spaces more comfortable on a low budget."

Andrea and Sue, WWT Adult Wellbeing Team Leaders



Accounts and finances

Tom Cosgrove, CfR CIC, Asset Manager

Financial performance
12 months to March 2025

WWCE Financial results to 31 March 2025

	Last Year 31 March 24 (£k)	Current Year 31 March 25 (£k)	Comments (current vs last)	Next Year 31 March 26 (estimate)
Revenue	1,256	**1,806**	48% increase	**1,500**
COS & Admin	626	**692**	10.5% increase due to inflation in contracts	**700**
Revenue net of opex	630	**1114**	Almost twice as much as last year	**800**
Financing costs	356	**348**	2% decrease due to reducing capital balances	**318**
Profit before Tax	275	**768**	Improvement of £493k on the previous financial year	**482**
Members Interest	7%	**7% / 5.5%***	Full interest payable due to strong financial performance.	**7% / 5.5%***

***7% member interest is applicable to investments in the Braydon and Chelworth share offers. The 5.5% member interest is applicable to investments in the Solar for Silverwood School share offer.**
Silverwood share interest payable this year for investors at first close for the period from 1st February 2025 to 31st March 2025.

Future Financial Estimates

Our future financial projections show;

- Reducing future electricity sales revenue, but 95% protected by FiT minimum price until end of FiT term (2036).
- We still project full repayment of the Triodos loans (within loan terms) and member capital by 2042.
- To date, we have repaid £860k (20.3%) of the initial £4.2m at the full £1 per share value, with a further £400k of redemptions proposed for the current year.
- Surpluses of c. £1m generated in the short term to further the group's objective of less carbon, more wildlife in Wiltshire.


Future Strategy
Julian Barlow, Chair

Lower Moor Farm

Rob Gillies

- In Mid-2025 WWCE awarded £100,000 of funding, split over 2 years, to WWT to support biodiversity and habitat enhancements of over 48 hectares of land at the Trust's Lower Moor Farm reserve through a carefully considered conservation programme. The area of the project represents over a third of the 129-hectare reserve.
- The project, which commenced in July 2025, aims to restore parts of the reserve with wooded pasture and ponds and open a wooded part of the site to grazing. This approach will hopefully allow nature regeneration to occur and return these parts of the site to a more wildlife friendly form of management whilst addressing several challenges in parallel through flood management, climate change resilience and biodiversity increases.
- Some of the benefits of this project include:
  - Increase in species diversity and supporting a range of habitats
  - Increased carbon sequestration, hydrological function and flood management
  - Improved welfare of livestock
  - Education, PR and further follow up project opportunities
  - Supporting both WWT and WWCE's respective missions
- Please see WWT's press release on the project for more information here: https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/news/funding-secured-lower-moor-farm

Our aims and objectives for 2025/26

Julian Barlow

- Evaluate the initial period of operation for our Silverwood School rooftop arrays and achieve our targeted 5.5% return for investors.
- Establish a dedicated Solar for Silverwood School community fund and work with the school to deliver educational programmes with a focus on the environment.
- Deliver our largest ever grant to a single organisation, with two payments of £50,000 to WWT to support its Lower Moor Farm project.
- Undertake a comprehensive review of WWCE's finances with a view to investing in a greater number of projects that will reduce carbon and deliver long-term financial rewards.
- Continue to maximise the impact of our Carbon Reduction Champion on local communities by developing our Keeping Warm This Winter initiative.
- Maintain the level of awareness we have achieved around our Community Fund, and strive to expand its reach – delivering grants to more schemes across the county.
- Strengthen our board and our Community Fund panel by attracting new member representatives, broadening our expertise and injecting fresh perspective.
- Continue with our mission of promoting delivery of the right solar, in the right place, for the right reasons.



Member share withdrawal rule amendment update

Tom Cosgrove, CfR CIC, Asset Manager

Member share withdrawal rule amendment update

Tom Cosgrove

- Following approval of the proposed amendment to rule 22 (withdrawal of member share capital) by the members at the 2024 AGM, we proceeded to submit the required documentation to the FCA for review and approval.
- The FCA subsequently rejected the proposed amendment due to it, in their opinion, not being equitable. This is despite prior discussion with the FCA which indicated the changes were acceptable in principle.
- In late August 2025, the WWCE board decided to seek legal advice on the matter as it is believed that the rule amendment mechanism and wording is suitable and equitable.
- Through seeking legal advice, we are hoping to reach an agreed position with the FCA on the rule amendment and re-table the amendment to the rules for approval by the members at the 2026 AGM.

Formal AGM Business

Julian Barlow

This brings us to the formal business of the AGM including payment of member interest, and proposals for contribution to the community fund and director re-election.

Voting will take place through a poll which will appear on your screen.



Formal AGM Business

Julian Barlow

1. 7% interest will be paid to Braydon and Chelworth share offer members for the year to 31st March 2025, to be paid by end of November 2025.
2. 5.5% interest will be paid to Silverwood shareholders that invested prior to the first close for the period from 1st February 2025 to 31st March 2025, to be paid by end of November 2025.
3. Proposal to make a contribution of £40k to the community fund.
4. Election and re-election of directors:
    1. Julian Barlow is standing for re-election by the members
    2. David Lewin is standing for re-election by the members

Members to vote by online poll

*Please scroll down on the online poll to see and vote on the other resolutions

Any questions?

Thank you for attending

For further information on any of the topics discussed, please contact:

info@wwce.org

01209 705 423