Community-public sector partnerships workshop

LOCAL ENERGY SCOTLAND



Net Zero Scotland
Scottish Government

LET'S DO NET ZERO

Community-public sector partnerships workshop

- Fund overview
- Speaker introductions
- Presentation, discussion/Q&A
- Session wrap up



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Public Body Partnership Support
Fund overview

- Support is available where a public body is working in partnership with a community organisation and the proposed activities will help achieve the objectives of the community project
- Examples of eligible partnerships…….
- Public bodies cannot initiate an application independently. The support must first be requested by a community organisation
- Maximum grant available under this support strand is £50,000 per project
- Examples of eligible costs ……
- Funding to be claimed and paid by 17 March 2027

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Speaker introductions

- **Chas Booth** – Director, Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative and Edinburgh City Councillor
- **Richard Witney** – Project Manager, OnSite Energy Generation, supporting the development and installations
- **Jim Lee** – Energy4All, supporting the community share offer and fundraising programme
- **Andrew Crighton** – Energy and Sustainability Manager, City of Edinburgh Council



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EDINBURGH COMMUNITY SOLAR CO-OP

EDINBURGH COMMUNITY
SOLAR CO-OPERATIVE

EDINBURGH COMMUNITY SOLAR CO-OP
SUMMARY



- Established in 2013 by local residents who believed communities should take an active role in meeting their own energy needs.
- Working in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council since 2015.
- Raised £2.1 million over two community share offers in 2015 and 2020.
- Solar installations across 30 buildings in the city and additional 8 buildings now live as part of Phase 3.
- Majority of investment raised locally within Edinburgh.





EDINBURGH COMMUNITY SOLAR CO-OP

MISSION

- Generate renewable energy, helping tackle energy security and climate change. Address Fuel Poverty
- Reduce demand for grid electricity in public buildings and support educational and sustainability work.
- Make renewable energy more commonplace in our city.
- Support sustainable development in Edinburgh and contribute towards reducing CO_2 emissions.
- The more investment ECSC raises, the more solar panels can be installed, meaning greater environmental impact and increased returns to support community goals.
- Simple, scalable business model:
  - ECSC installs solar panels at no upfront cost to host buildings.
  - Hosts receive long-term, competitively priced electricity.

EDINBURGH COMMUNITY SOLAR CO-OP MEMBERS


Ratho Primary School

ECSC is a Community Benefit Society, owned by its members and operated for the benefit of the wider community. A society operating for community benefit is governed by Rules, largely in standard form, which are approved by and registered with the Financial Conduct Authority.

Each year the co-op holds an Annual General Meeting (AGM) – to which all members are invited and each member has one vote. At the AGM, members:

- Approve Annual Accounts
- Appoint Directors
- Appoint Auditors
- Approve how surplus funds (profits) are distributed
- Can propose member resolutions

Each share offer document sets out an indicative year that share capital will start to be returned, in addition to the interest payments made to Members for the capital they have invested.

- Phase 1: 5% interest
- Phase 2: 4.5% interest

As shares are gradually redeemed, the total interest ECSC must pay decreases, which increases the funds available for the Community Benefit Fund

EDINBURGH COMMUNITY SOLAR CO-OP

THE BEGINNING



With support from Co-operative Development Scotland, ECSC was created to take the project forward. Energy4All was engaged to help develop the project, funding and support from CARES.

Along with City of Edinburgh Council a Memorandum of Understanding was agreed to investigate the benefits of installing Solar PV on public buildings.

Initially ECSC selected approximately 100 public buildings with a community function. A short list was then produced based on roof orientation, size, electricity consumption and condition.

Desktop study by On Site Generation was made of some 47 buildings, of which 33 underwent a preliminary survey visit and 29 were considered viable.

EDINBURGH COMMUNITY SOLAR CO-OP

THE BEGINNING



ECSC signed a licence with CEC to install solar panels on these buildings with a Power Purchase Agreement ('PPA') for 20 years.

The agreement allows CEC to purchase the generated electricity at a fixed price for the next 16 years based on 2015 rates.

A share offer was launched in September 2015 and £1.46m was raised. UK Gov. helped the first phase with the Feed in Tariff ('FiT') (Not available now.)

Structural surveys of the buildings were then undertaken and of the initial batch of buildings 24 were installed with solar panels.

Solar Co-op deals with operation and maintenance

Solar Co-op supplies electricity to the council below grid price at fixed rates.

Estimated a saving of nearly a million pounds for City of Edinburgh Council

EDINBURGH COMMUNITY SOLAR CO-OP & ENERGY4ALL



- Edinburgh Community Solar Co-op is supported and assisted by Energy4All, the leading social enterprise in the UK for delivering community owned renewable energy schemes.
- Energy4All, the leading social enterprise in the UK for delivering community owned renewable energy schemes.
- Energy4All have supported and the development and delivery of Phase1 (2015) and Phase 2 (2020) and currently Phase 3
- ECSC is a shareholder of Energy4All along with E4A Directors and 35 plus other community energy Societies in the UK.

EDINBURGH COMMUNITY SOLAR CO-OP COMMUNITY FUND

ECSC profits are allocated as grants to community organisations whose work aligns with the co-op's values and supports people across Edinburgh.



ERIC LIDDELL COMMUNITY: £2,050

To make the community garden more accessible and dementia friendly. Plant sensory plants, increase colour contrast; disability accessible furniture; raised beds. Purchase accessible gardening tools



EDINBURGH & LOTHIANS REGIONAL EQUALITY COUNCIL: £2,000

C3R (Community Reuse Reduce Recycle) towards the cost of a marquee where events can be delivered at various festivals.



TINDERBOX COLLECTIVE: £4,000

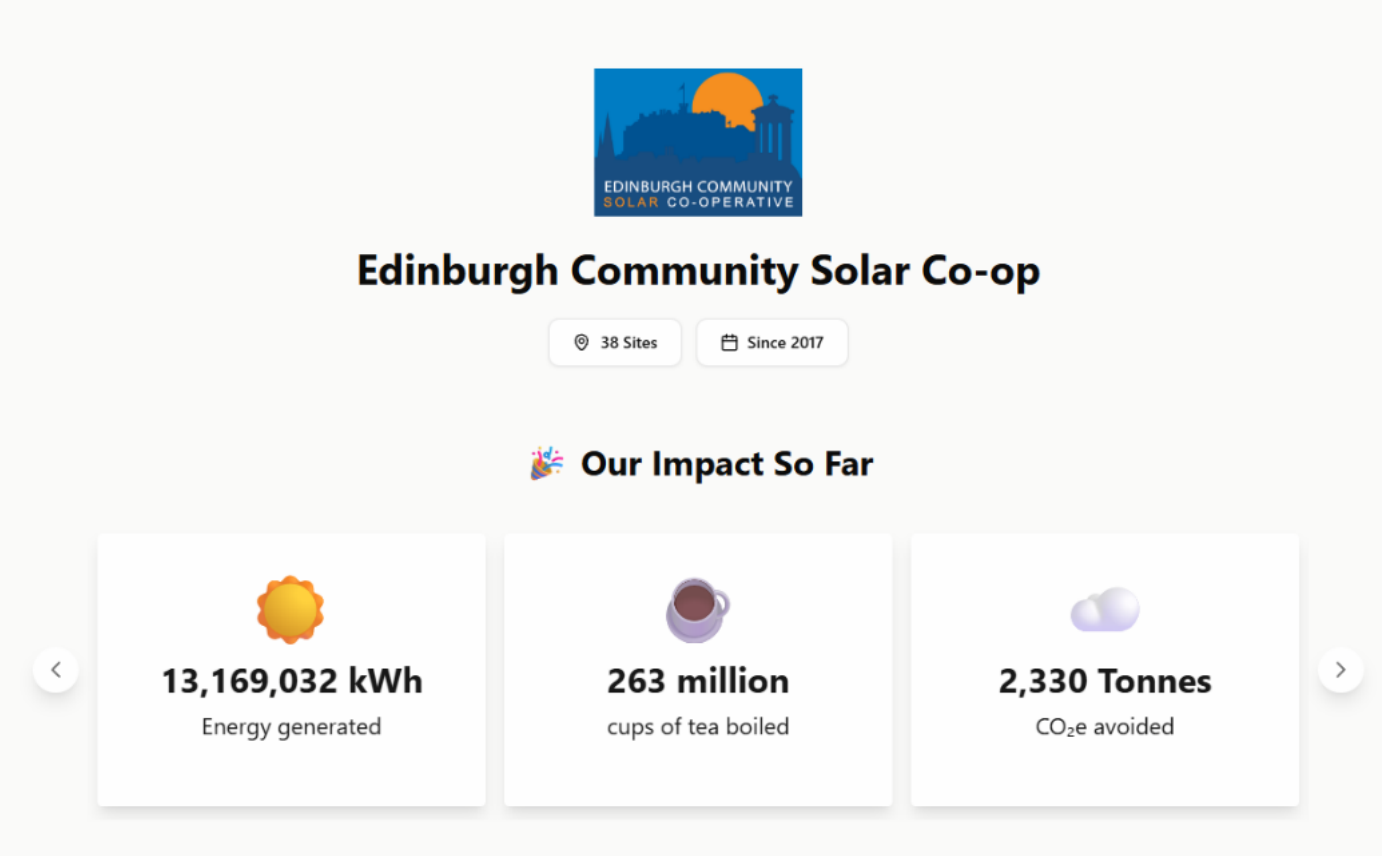
To provide access to musical instruments & tuition for young people. Shared instruments on loan through public libraries.

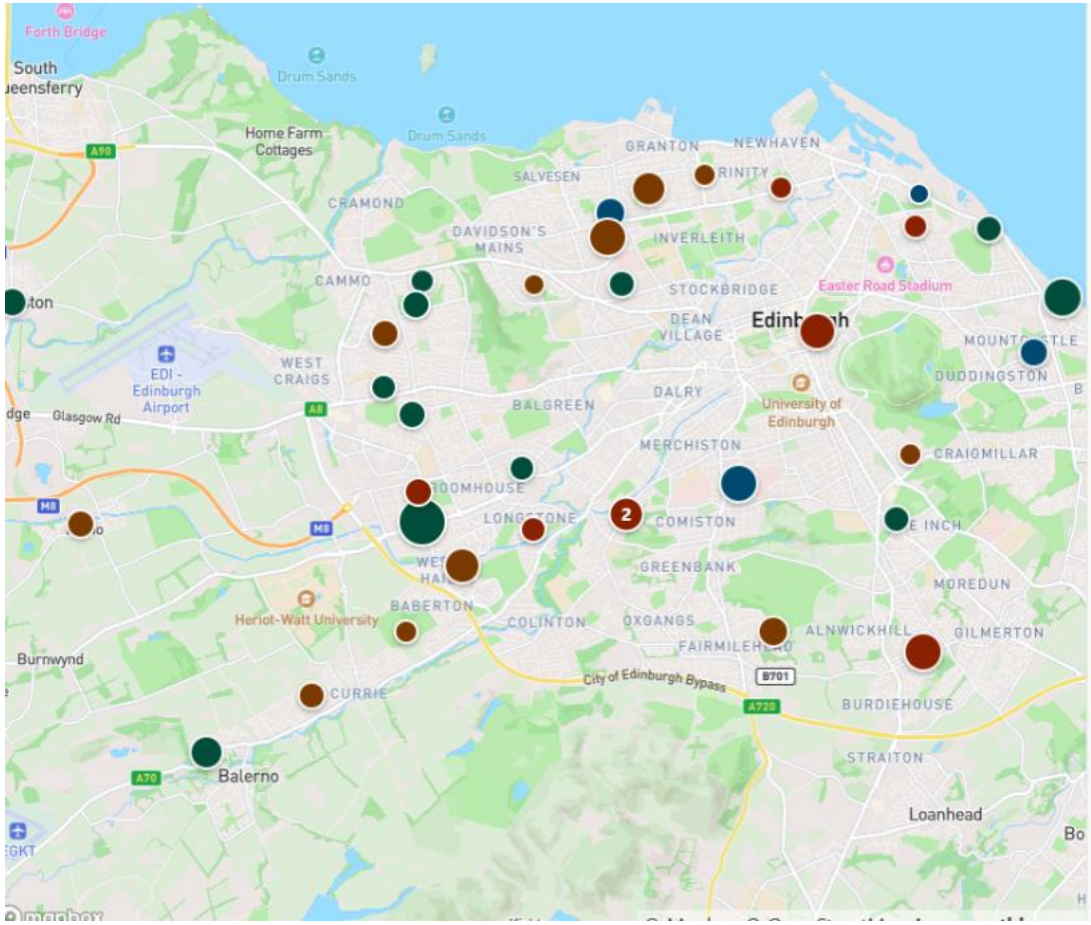


SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION: £1,882

Warm Space initiative – one day a week provide a heated space, hot drinks and activities (craft, films, games). Help reduce isolation

EDINBURGH COMMUNITY SOLAR CO-OP





www.app.alentisenergy.com/community/EdinburghCoop

EDINBURGH COMMUNITY SOLAR CO-OP

PHASE 3

- Ten new sites including one community site.
- Sites include the Royal Commonwealth Pool.
- Share offer now live and seeking up to £1.13m (closing date 13th December)
- All sites completed by next April 27.
- Scottish Government – CARES – provided just under £0.5m in grant funding

ECSC **Share Offer page**

www.edinburghsolar.coop/share-offer/

Total Raised so far: £223,080





EDINBURGH COMMUNITY SOLAR CO-OP

WHY A SUCCESS STORY?



Co-operative Project

Strong leadership

Co-op Values and Principles

Partnership

Trust in community

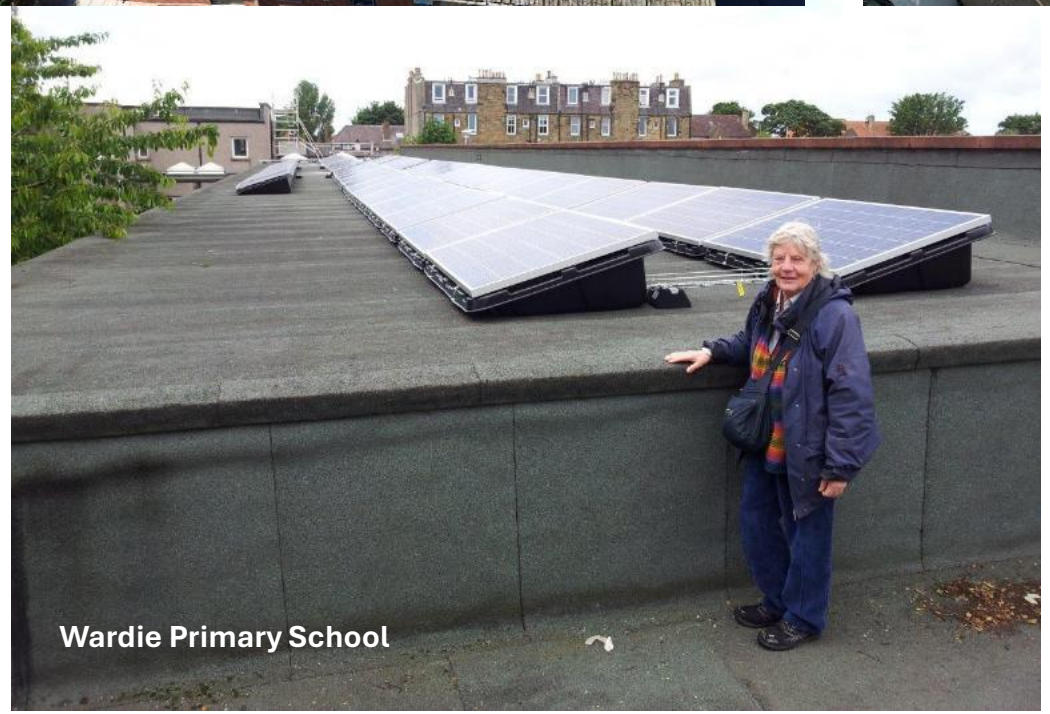
Energy4All

Some of our buildings


North Edinburgh Childcare


Seafield Recycling Centre

EDINBURGH COMMUNITY SOLAR CO-OPERATIVE


Wardie Primary School


Tumbles Gymnastics and Soft Play

Networking break

Up next:
15:00 – 16:00

Afternoon sessions 2

- Community buildings: operations and maintenance – Auditorium B
- Unlocking energy opportunities on public land – Auditorium C
- Community-public sector partnerships – Room 6&7
- Keeping energy value local – Room 4&5
- Heat in Buildings workshop – Room 1

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