

SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT 2017

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Low Carbon Hub is a pioneering social enterprise, working for a massive change in the UK's energy system. We think we need to get much more local about our energy system, and much more renewable, so that the benefits of renewable energy generation strengthen local communities.

We develop community-owned renewable energy in Oxfordshire and re-invest 100% of our own surplus in our mission to create an energy system we can all feel good about.

In this, our first social impact report, we share the progress we have made against four sets of indicators – planet, prosperity, people and perception - by the end of the 2016/17 financial year.

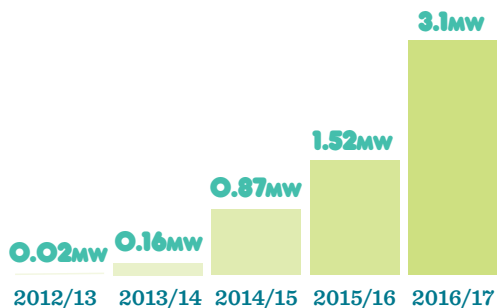
We are just at the start of our journey and want to achieve so much more, but we're proud of the progress we've made during our first five years. Thank you to the many individuals and organisations that have worked with us to make this possible.



PLANET

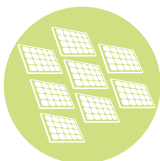
We want to protect our warming planet both by creating renewable energy projects and by reducing energy demand. Much of our work so far has focused on powering up renewable energy generation in Oxfordshire, placing solar panels on schools, businesses and community buildings.

Growth in installed generation capacity:



We've been doubling our capacity to generate renewable electricity year on year.

In 2016/17 we:



INSTALLED
1.6
MW GENERATION
CAPACITY



GENERATED
1,552,027
KWH ACROSS ALL
OUR LIVE PROJECTS



SAVED
541
TONNES
OF CO₂

This brought our total installation portfolio to:



36
RENEWABLE ENERGY
INSTALLATIONS



3.1
MW INSTALLED
CAPACITY

Together, each year, they can...



GENERATE
2,643,140
KWH GREEN ELECTRICITY



SAVE
1,188
TONNES OF CO₂¹



POWER
853
TYPICAL HOMES²



PROVIDE
166
PEOPLE'S SHARE OF
OXFORDSHIRE'S DIRECT
ENERGY NEEDS³

¹ CO₂ savings based on UK electricity CO₂ intensities of 0.44932 kgCO₂e/kWh (2016 generation) and 0.50035 kgCO₂e/kWh (2015 generation).

² Typical household annual electricity usage based on OFGEM typical tier 1 domestic medium user of 3,100kWh.

³ Total energy used to power our homes and organisations each year, divided equally between the county's residents.



PEOPLE

Community energy is a grassroots, people-centred movement for change. The success of Low Carbon Hub is due to the phenomenal support of individuals and organisations. Everyone can play a part in making the shift to a sustainable energy future. Those who support our work include:

Our Members



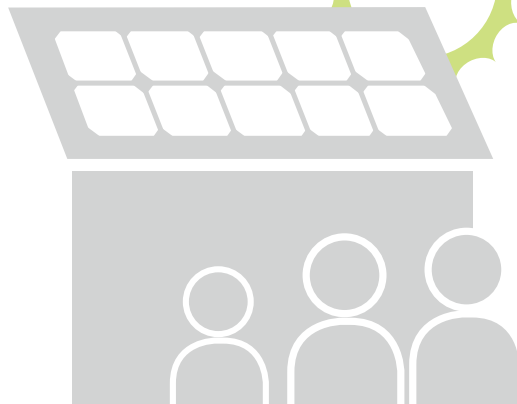
647 INVESTOR MEMBERS

Who help finance the upfront costs of our projects and whose investments bring energy into community ownership.



27 COMMUNITY SHAREHOLDERS

Low carbon community groups who share our aims and have a stake in us.



Our partners

31 HOST ORGANISATIONS

The schools, businesses and community organisations that host our energy projects.



24

SCHOOLS



5

BUSINESSES



2

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

72 PROJECT PARTNERS

The individuals and organisations who collaborate with us to deliver innovative projects and services.



Our community

The wider community we serve, and the people who share an interest in our work.



60

HELPDESK USERS



317

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS



2,275

TWITTER FOLLOWERS



2,953

NEWSLETTER RECIPIENTS

Together they are helping develop a people-centred renewables-based energy system. That's why we keep track of these numbers and aim to grow them.



PROSPERITY

By pooling energy, enthusiasm, knowledge and expertise our projects create collective wealth.

The benefits of our installations are then shared three ways:

- 1 Investors get a **return on their investment** in return for helping fund the upfront costs of our projects.
- 2 The host organisations – businesses, schools and organisations hosting our installations – get **discounted electricity** and a cost-effective way to reduce their carbon footprint.
- 3 Low Carbon Hub has a **sustainable income stream** to support activities that deliver community benefit and help achieve further carbon cuts across Oxfordshire.

We report both on the total benefits that our portfolio of installations is projected to deliver over its lifetime, as well as actual benefits achieved to date.

Total investment raised: £3,459,462

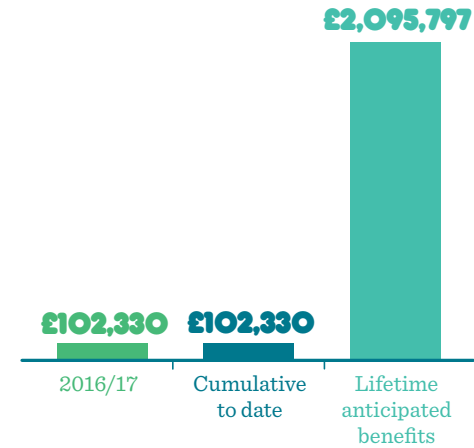


**£1,412,861
RAISED IN
2016/17**

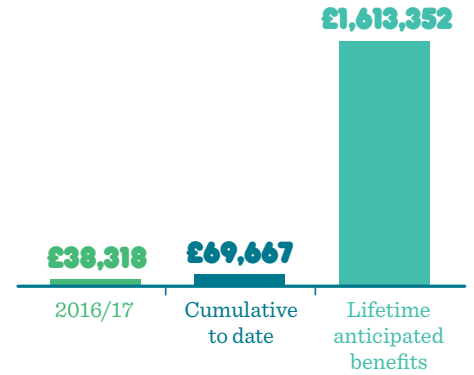
Distribution of benefits

Low Carbon Hub IPS's renewable energy installations deliver:⁴

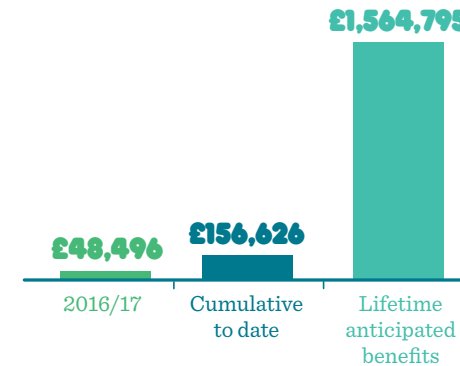
INTEREST TO INVESTORS



SAVINGS ON ELECTRICITY BILLS BY HOSTS



COMMUNITY BENEFIT INCOME⁵

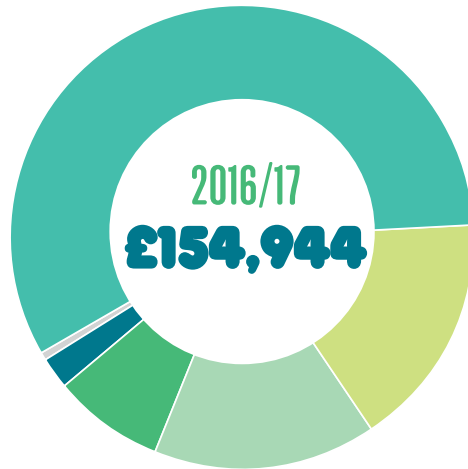


⁴ Nominal values modelled over a twenty-year lifetime and based on investment equity levels as of 2016/17 year end.

⁵ Community benefit donation from Low Carbon Hub IPS Ltd to Low Carbon Hub CIC Ltd.

Delivering community benefit

We use the surplus from the Low Carbon Hub IPS, along with grants, donations and other sources of funding, to encourage community energy to flourish in Oxfordshire and beyond. This is how these funds were spent:



 **£89,167** Grants and loans supporting social enterprises

 **£25,577** Innovation, investing in new ideas

 **£23,965** Grants to low carbon community groups

 **£12,268** Helpdesk support, advice and information

 **£3,163** Strategy development

 **£804** Shared surplus with GreenTEA (arising from two PV arrays in Eynsham)



PERCEPTION

We are committed to developing a sustainable energy system for community benefit. We aim to be a transparent and trusted partner, and to share knowledge and expertise openly. In early 2017 we conducted our first stakeholder survey to see how we are doing and learn how we can improve.

Percentage of respondents⁶ who ...

...have **quite high or high trust** in Low Carbon Hub's expertise around local, renewable energy and low carbon

98%

... perceive Low Carbon Hub to be **quite or highly committed** to the creation of a low carbon, locally owned renewable energy system

96%

... report Low Carbon Hub had a **moderate or substantial impact** on their knowledge

85%

... report Low Carbon Hub has made them **more positive** about the potential of community-owned solutions to energy issues

81%

... report Low Carbon Hub has contributed to their taking **some or substantial action** on energy or environmental issues

71%



www.lowcarbonhub.org

The Low Carbon Hub is two organisations working together: The Low Carbon Hub IPS Limited (registration number: 31903R) and the Low Carbon Hub Community Interest Company (registration number: 7583663).

The Low Carbon Hub IPS Limited is a Registered Society that operates for the benefit of the community. It generates income from the feed-in tariff and by selling renewable electricity. It aims to make a surplus that will enable the Low Carbon Hub IPS Ltd and Low Carbon Hub CIC to lower carbon emissions across Oxfordshire by helping businesses, the public sector and communities to develop renewable energy projects and reduce energy demand.

To the best of our knowledge, the information contained herein is accurate and reliable as of 31 March 2017.

Both are registered in England and Wales and the registered address is 9 Park End Street, Oxford OX1 1HH.