



31 January 2025

## Important information about changes to your portfolio

Dear Investor Member,

We're getting in touch with an important update regarding your investment in the Low Carbon Hub, whether Solar 2014, Solar 2016, Sandford Hydro, Community Energy Fund, or a combination of those.

After a focus group consultation with a number of our investors, the Board of Directors has approved a decision to consolidate all of our shareholdings into the Community Energy Fund.

Your existing investments will be transferred into that Fund with effect from 31 March 2025. If you are already an investor in the Community Energy Fund only, there will be no change to your shareholding.

## How you benefit from the Community Energy Fund

Launched in 2018, the Community Energy Fund has supported a range of renewable energy projects, including the 2016 solar portfolio, rooftop solar PV arrays, Sandford Hydro and Ray Valley Solar. By bringing all investments together under one more flexible portfolio we aim to offer multiple benefits to you as an Investor Member and us as an organisation.

- **Flexible investment:** going forward, the Community Energy Fund is our mechanism for raising new investment. It is an 'open share offer' and so offers regular opportunities for reinvestment.
- **Flexible capital withdrawal:** unlike earlier portfolios in which investors would automatically receive their capital back in small annual amounts over a fixed term, the Community Energy Fund offers a more flexible approach to capital return.
- **Extended membership:** consolidating all shareholdings into the Community Energy Fund means that we can manage the capital over the full 40-year life of our biggest projects.
- **Diversifying risk:** Managing the whole portfolio of projects within the single Community Energy Fund allows us to better manage the risk of poor performing projects caused by weather or unexpected outages.
- **More community benefit now:** A significant benefit of the Community Energy Fund is that it enables us to manage the funding of projects over the life of the whole portfolio, resulting in more community benefit to provide a socially just transition to a zero carbon energy system in Oxfordshire - as set out in our strategy.
- **Streamlined reporting and updates:** we will continue to report on the impact and progress of our projects and provide you with regular updates.

The Low Carbon Hub IPS Limited is a registered society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. Registration number 31903R.

Registered office: Holywell House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES

Email: [info@lowcarbonhub.org](mailto:info@lowcarbonhub.org) Phone: 01865 246099



**CREATING ENERGY WE CAN ALL FEEL GOOD ABOUT**

[lowcarbonhub.org](http://lowcarbonhub.org)

### Key changes

#### Capital returns:

The Community Energy Fund operates differently to our earlier portfolios where capital invested was returned to investors in annual increments over the anticipated project lifetime, generally 20 years. The Community Energy Fund allows Members to leave the full amount of capital in for longer, and therefore earn more interest. Members can request to withdraw some or all of their holdings should the need arise. The guidelines for withdrawals can be found [here](#).

#### Interest:

The Community Energy Fund offers a simple annual target interest rate of 5% which you'll start accruing from the transition date. This is in line with the Share Offer Documents issued for the Community Energy Fund which you can access [here](#).

### Next steps

This consolidation is an exciting development for us at the Low Carbon Hub and it will help us to achieve more impact as we launch into our [10 year Strategic Plan](#).

I recognise this is a significant change to how we structure some of our shareholdings, and our priority is to safeguard your investment and offer you more flexibility in managing your interest and capital returns.

I know you may have some questions, which is why we have arranged two forums to answer any queries you may have. You can join an online information webinar on:

- **Tuesday 11 February, 12.30-1.30pm.** [Register for the webinar.](#)
- **Thursday 13 February, 12.30-1.30pm.** [Register for the webinar.](#)

Additionally, we have prepared some Frequently Asked Questions that may be useful in answering your questions. You can find this, along with other key resources, [on this webpage](#).

And as always, you can also submit questions to us directly at [members@lowcarbonhub.org](mailto:members@lowcarbonhub.org).

With best wishes,

Barbara Hammond

CEO, Low Carbon Hub

The Low Carbon Hub IPS Limited is a registered society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. Registration number 31903R.

Registered office: Holywell House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES

Email: [info@lowcarbonhub.org](mailto:info@lowcarbonhub.org) Phone: 01865 246099