



# Welcome to Low Carbon Hub



for low carbon community groups



Our community groups are at the heart of our network and bring fresh energy to our shared mission of building a better and more sustainable future.





# What is Low Carbon Hub?

Low Carbon Hub is a social enterprise that's out to prove we can meet our energy needs in a way that's good for people and good for the planet.

We develop **community-owned renewable energy installations** across Oxfordshire, including 50+ rooftop solar arrays with schools and businesses, a hydro on the Thames and the largest community-owned ground mount solar park in the UK.

Installations also produce an ongoing income, which is reinvested in further carbon cutting projects. We help local organisations become more energy efficient, fund green innovation, and back further community energy projects.

 **Find out more about our work: [www.lowcarbonhub.org](http://www.lowcarbonhub.org)**





## The programmes we're supporting

- **Community Grants and Support:** Help, support, advice and funding supporting community energy.
- **CAPZero:** The first local energy action plan in the UK developed at a community level.
- **Cosy Homes Oxfordshire:** A domestic retrofit service for cosier, healthier, more energy efficient homes.
- **Action on Carbon and Energy in Schools:** An energy efficiency support service to help schools in Oxfordshire carry out energy saving measures.
- **Energy Solutions Oxfordshire:** Improving organisation's energy efficiency across the county, from SMEs to village halls.

# How we work with communities

We believe that communities should be at the heart of a clean energy future. We work with low carbon groups from across Oxfordshire to make that happen.



If the work of your community group has a particular focus on creating a zero carbon energy system - supporting renewable generation, energy efficiency and green transport - you can apply to become a member of Low Carbon Hub.



When you become a member of Low Carbon Hub, you can apply for **grant funding of up to £5,000** to help with projects that lower carbon emissions or generate renewable sources of energy.

We work in partnership with over 50 community groups across Oxfordshire, supporting local projects to tackle climate change and lower the carbon footprint of the county.



# Community grants



Our community group members are using Low Carbon Hub grants to make their communities greener, and to inspire others to join us in our bid to tackle the climate crisis.

Here's a few examples of inspirational projects our community group members have created.



## **Making sustainable travel easier**

Low Carbon Oxford North (LCON) received a £5,000 grant from Low Carbon Hub's Community Grant Fund to help launch a new sustainable travel website. With transport responsible for around 23% of Oxford's carbon emissions, the site gives locals, commuters, and visitors clear alternatives to travelling by car.



## **Inspiring the Next Generation**

Westmill Sustainable Energy Trust (WeSET) received a £1,500 grant from Low Carbon Hub's Community Grant Fund to engage young people in renewable energy and climate action. They continue to use the materials to involve young people, students, and teachers in community energy and climate issues across the county.



## **Better comfort, lower bills**

Kidlington Eco Group received a £500 grant from Low Carbon Hub's Community Grant Fund, along with support from Cherwell District Council, to run a community 'Draughtbusting' project. They saw a gap in awareness about reducing household energy demand and wanted to support residents facing fuel poverty after the surge in energy prices.

# What our groups say



Being a community group member of Low Carbon Hub means more than access to funding. We hold regular events and celebrations, with the aim of creating one big sustainable family!

Here's what a few of our community group members had to say...



**Eleanor Watts, Rose Hill and Iffley Low Carbon**

“It’s a combination of experience, knowledge, and idealism that makes Low Carbon Hub so special. I’m frightened at the pace of climate change and don’t know what to do about it! I enjoy being part of a community that believes we can avert the climate crisis if we act together.”



**Angus Fraser, Heat Clanfield**

“The support of Low Carbon Hub has played a big part in Heat Clanfield’s progress. They are a kind, intelligent, committed team with a clear vision for a cleaner, fairer energy system. Their expertise, guidance, and patience helped us work through some thorny issues...”



**Low Carbon Oxford North**

“A huge thank you to Low Carbon Hub for their partnership and support over the years, helping to fund both Energy Saving Homes and Housewarming, spreading the word and consistently championing home energy improvements on all fronts!”

# What support can you access?

## Grants for your group

- The opportunity to receive a small grant of £500 once a year.
- We also offer a number of large £5,000 grants in a competitive process annually.

## Have your say at our AGMs

Each community group member elects one Authorised Representative to be the voice of the group at our AGM.

## Energy support for community buildings

You can nominate a community building to receive a free energy assessment, giving buildings a bespoke report with tailored advice to help reduce their energy bills and carbon footprint.

## Got a question? Please get in touch.

If your group isn't yet a Low Carbon Hub member, contact Cathy Ryan, our Community Engagement Manager, [catherine.ryan@lowcarbonhub.org](mailto:catherine.ryan@lowcarbonhub.org)

Even if you're not a member, we're always happy to answer questions on saving energy or developing community-owned renewable projects.



01865 246099



info@lowcarbonhub.org

Holywell House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES



low  
carbon  
hub



01865 246099



info@lowcarbonhub.org

Holywell House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES

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