



Social Impact Report 2024



OUR IMPACT

We measure the impact we achieve against four key metrics:
Planet, Prosperity, People, and Perception.

Planet

We reduce Oxfordshire's carbon emissions by increasing renewable energy generation, reducing energy demand and supporting more efficient use of our local electricity network.

Our programmes support thousands of residents, organisations and communities across Oxfordshire to get started on their journey to net zero.

Our portfolio



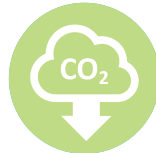
55
renewable energy installations



23.9
MW installed capacity



18.16
GWh generated in 2023-24



4,087
tonnes of CO₂ saved in 2023-24



122
kW of battery storage

Plans to net-zero



106
Whole House Plans carried out



79
Energy efficiency assessments carried out



1
CAPZero report delivered

Prosperity

Our portfolio of community-owned renewables provides the organisations that host them with discounted electricity and a cost-effective way to reduce their carbon footprint. Together they form the Low Carbon Hub's engine – producing green electricity to power Oxfordshire, and a sustainable income stream to help transform the way we generate, use and store energy in our communities to the benefit of people, and the planet.



£9,836,006
Total investment by our members



£473,262
Surpluses spent on community benefit in 2023-24



£456,820
Interest to investors in 2023-24



£153,837
Savings on bills for our hosts in 2023-24

People

Collaboration is at the heart of everything we do – from our community groups, host organisations, programme partners, and funders, to everyone who subscribes to our newsletters and helps spread the word on social media. Together they form an incredible ecosystem that supports the transformation towards a zero-carbon energy system.



1,773
Investor Members
who help finance the upfront costs of our projects and whose investments bring energy into community ownership



14,000+
Network of supporters



46
Low carbon community groups
in our network who share our aims



190
people from 61 organisations working in partnership with Low Carbon Hub



45
Hosts for rooftop solar

Perception

We are committed to developing sustainable energy for community benefit. We aim to be a transparent and trusted partner, sharing knowledge and expertise openly.

To ensure we meet this commitment, we survey our stakeholders – host partners, community members, investor members, project partners, and others – annually to see how we're doing and how we can improve.

This summary is based on 132 responses to the "How are we doing?" Low Carbon Hub stakeholder survey, Spring 2024.

93%

perceive Low Carbon Hub to be quite or highly committed to the creation of a zero-carbon energy system that's good for people and good for the planet.

92%

report quite high or high trust in Low Carbon Hub to deliver community centred solutions that support the creation of a zero-carbon energy system.

79%

report we had a moderate or substantial difference to their knowledge of the changes we can make about the way we use, store or generate energy in our homes, organisations and community to support the transition to a low carbon energy system.

74%

report we made them more positive about the potential of community-centred solutions to energy issues.

77%

report we have contributed to them taking some or substantial action on energy or environmental issues.

Delivering community benefit

The electricity we generate provides us with a sustainable income stream to support further carbon-cutting activity and leverage additional funding from grants and contracts.

Community benefit income

	2023/24		2022/23	
Income	CIC	IPS	CIC	IPS
Own surpluses	-	£473,262	£1,391	£35,117
Unrestricted grants and donations	£237	£50	£840	-
Restricted grants and donations	£66,557	£14,095	£3,558,353	-
Service contracts	£92,431	-	£99,695	-
Total community benefit income by organisation	£159,225	£487,407	£3,660,279	£35,117
Total community benefit income		£646,632		£3,695,397

Community benefit expenditure

	2023/24		2022/23	
Summary	CIC	IPS	CIC	IPS
Community grants programme	-	£18,450	£5,162	£35,117
Local energy programme	£96,592	£573,665	£4,175,001	-
Total community benefit spend by organisation	£96,592	£592,115	£4,180,163	£35,117
Total		£688,707		£4,215,280

Income

We use our surpluses to leverage significant additional donations, grants and contracts to further our mission. We are most grateful to all our funders for their support of our work. In particular, our members who have donated shares and interest, and Westmill Solar Co-operative for their ongoing support of our community buildings energy assessment work.

Did you know?

We've now reinvested over £1 million of our own income from our renewable energy projects back into the community and for every £1 of our own funds created, we've attracted an additional £13 in grants and contracts to support our communities, drive innovation and deliver carbon reduction programmes.

Expenditure

We use our community benefit income to deliver community benefit activities, either in the form of grants or by directly carrying out activities ourselves to support community action on climate change. This includes:

- Grants and support to community energy enterprises
- Funding, help, and advice to support community action
- Innovation initiatives to accelerate the transition to net-zero

You can read more about our community benefit programmes on page 14. In this year of transition, some of our community benefit activity has been delivered by Low Carbon Hub CIC.

With restricted grants and donations, where monies were spent on capital investments, these monies have been treated as deferred income in the Balance Sheet and will be released as income into the Profit and Loss Account over the useful life of the investments.



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