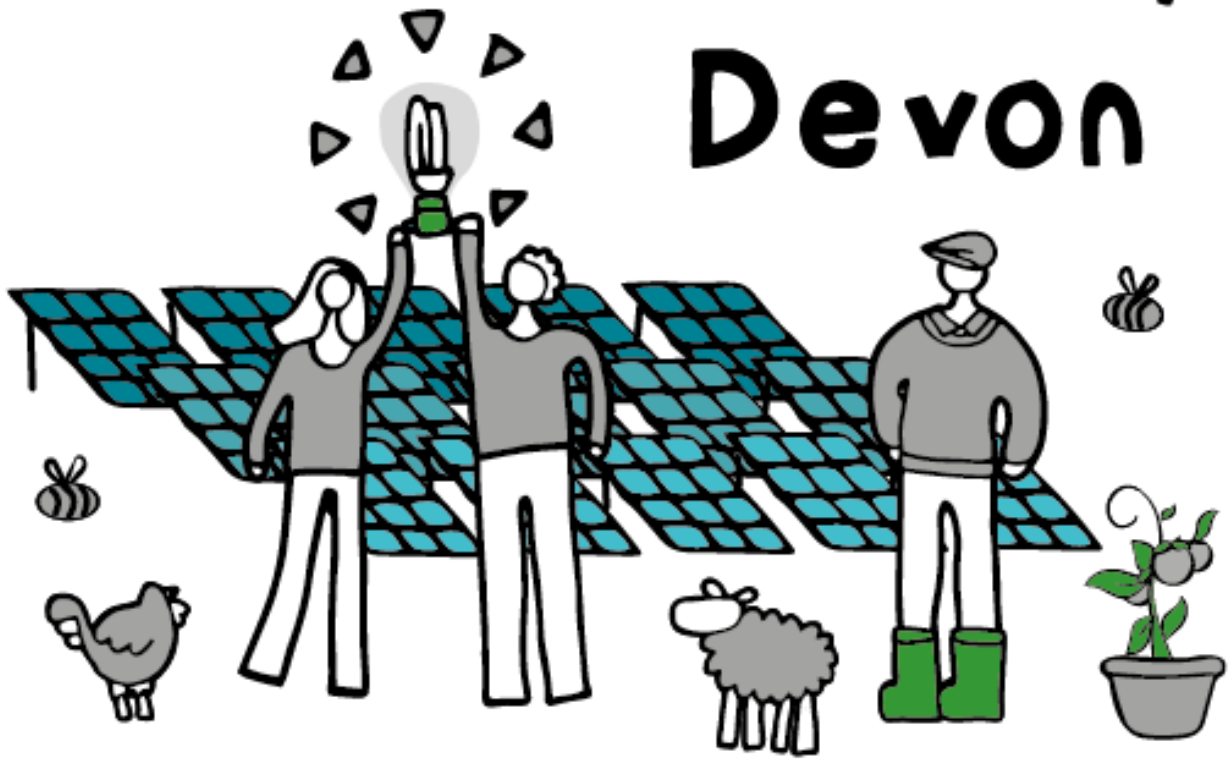
Power Allotments, Devon



regen
transforming energy

DEVON
Switch on to Green Energy

Devon
County Council

Today's Agenda

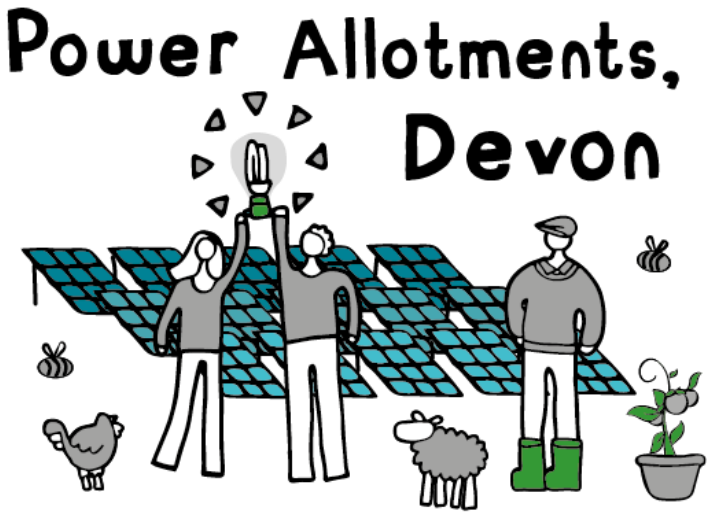
Agenda

14:00 Welcome and aims of the session

14:05 The Power Allotments process, and background

14:15 The site finding process

14:30 Q&A Session, 15-30 minutes




Guy Parker, Wychwood Biodiversity

- Devon ‘Climate Emergency’ and a UK Energy Crisis
  - Invest in long-term, enduring solutions.
  - Seize the opportunity of cheap, clean, homegrown renewables.

- Devon’s communities are best placed to choose renewable energy sites for the benefit of local people.

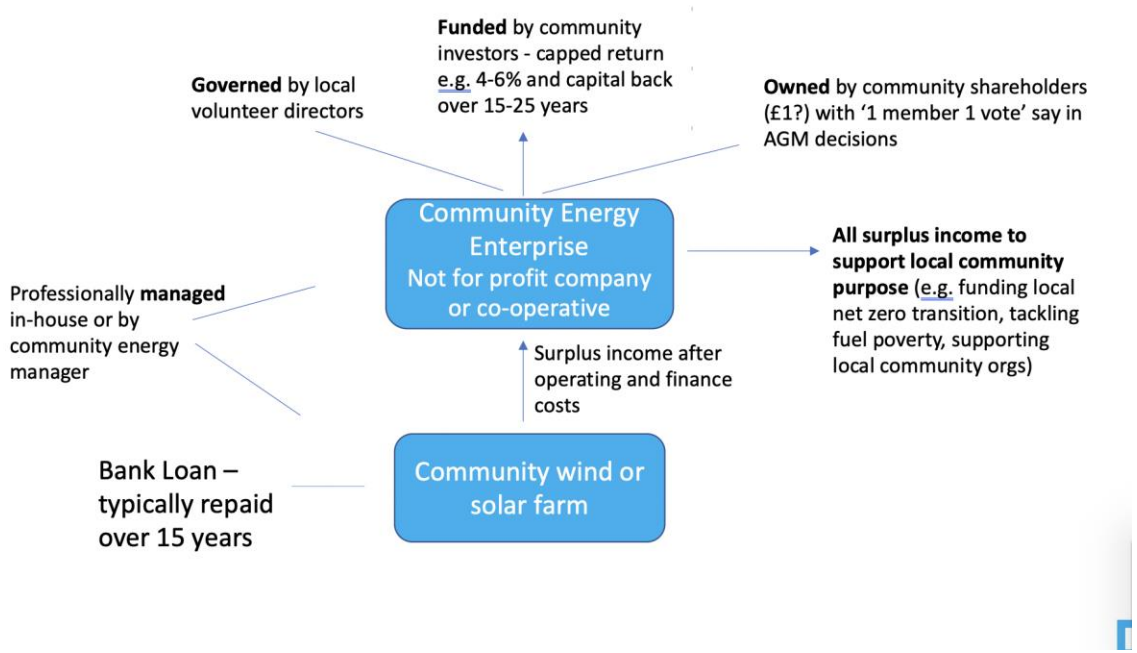
- Tasking Devon’s citizens to identify a ‘Power Allotment’ in their villages and towns.
  - Each viable locality can have its own clean power station.

- Local income for local energy solutions.

Community Energy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YwOYU6qireY

https://southillcommunityenergy.coop



The Assignment

- Asking every parish in Devon to identify 5 acres of land for a community owned solar plant.
- Tucked away, away from homes and footpaths, unshaded and south facing and shielded behind hedges or in a lower amenity value area.
- An opportunity for small community owned solar fields and a local income.

Wildlife habitats


Guy Parker, Wychwood Biodiversity


Guy Parker, Wychwood Biodiversity


Guy Parker, Wychwood Biodiversity


Guy Parker, Wychwood Biodiversity

Wychwood BIODIVERSITY

The Benefits

- 1,200,000 kWh per year (equivalent to annual consumption of 400 homes based on 2,900kWh per year average consumption).
- Community fund, circa £5,000 per year.
- Landowner rental payment.
- Investor return, 5% with capital repaid over 20 years.
- Cheap electricity? Blocked by regulation. Power for People – Draft Local Electricity Bill https://powerforpeople.org.uk/the-local-electricity-bill

Next Steps

A pipeline of projects backed by the local community

- **Landowner:** Approach landowner to agree Heads of Terms
- **Grid:** Apply for a grid offer
- **Planning:** Scope the project with LPA and engage key stakeholders

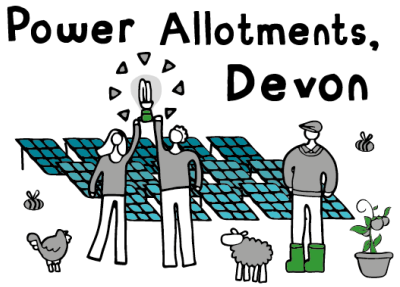
Prioritise best projects to progress into development by local community energy group or Devon Energy CIC.

Use portfolio-led purchase power to build out pipeline of small sites using local contractors

Timescales – **approx. 2 years** for planning/ legal work and build.

Guy Parker, Wychwood Biodiversity

If every parish in Devon hosted a **5-acre (1MW) solar farm**, we could generate **450 MW** of solar electricity which is enough to power approximately **1/5th of all homes** in the County.



Shona Reid

Graduate Community Project Developer

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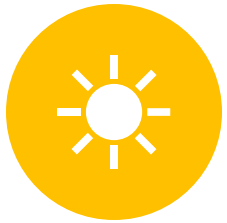
What makes a good site?

SPACE

(MINIMUM 5 ACRES - PANELS AND EQUIPMENT. MORE FOR BIODIVERSITY).

PROXIMITY TO THE GRID

(OR A LARGE PRIVATE USER).



SUNNY

(NO SHADING AND PREFERABLY SOUTH FACING).

LAND NOT USED FOR OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES

(E.G., HIGH GRADE AGRICULTURE).

ROAD ACCESS

(EXISTING OR POTENTIAL).

A GOOD CONTENDER FOR **PLANNING PERMISSION**.

OUT OF SIGHT

(HIDDEN FROM MAIN ROADS, HOUSING AND RECREATIONAL AREAS).

Example site

- Space
- Proximity to grid
- Sunny
- Land use + owner
- Road access
- Planning permission
- Out of sight

Creating a renewable energy future for Devon

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Search...

SUBMIT A SITE NOW

Power Allotments, Devon

Power Allotments Webinar for Communities: 27th September 2022

This webinar is open to anyone across Devon interested to hear more about the project and ask initial questions.

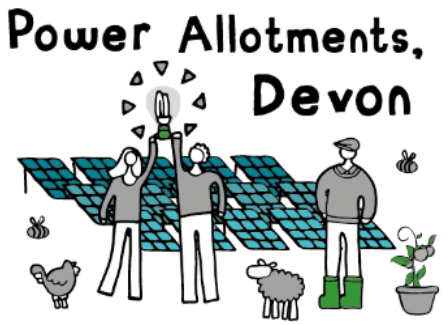
SIGN UP HERE

Devon Energy Collective and Regen are supporting local councils, climate action groups, and community energy organisations to identify new sites for local renewable energy generation – and help to get the very best of these projects up and running.

If you have an interest in renewable energy or local development, we want to hear from you!

To help communities share their local knowledge we have created an online toolkit that enables people to identify parts of their neighbourhood that could be suitable for an energy project. We will then collect and analyse these sites and prioritise those with the most potential for further studies.

We believe that successful renewable energy projects are identified by communities for the benefit of communities.



Our aim is that community-owned 'Power Allotments' can be built across Devon, generating clean, sustainable, and local energy. As well as, providing a local income for communities. This also gives communities the opportunity to enhance the biodiversity of these sites making them even more valuable habitats for native wildlife.

NEWS

Read about the project in Issue 79 of Reconnect Magazine.

Find us in Issue 10 of Wicked Leeks!

Catch up on the pre-launch meeting here.

POWER ALLOTMENTS TOOLKIT

The Power Allotments Toolkit contains all the information you might need to submit a site in your community for this project.

HANDBOOK **POWER ALLOTMENTS MAP** **SUBMISSION FORM**

FAQs

- What is in the excluded areas?
- There are no suitable sites in my local area, what should I do/can I still submit a site?
- What if I have a site but it's in an excluded area?
- Why do sites have to be at least 5 acres?
- Is there a flyer I can distribute in my community?
- Can I get a copy of the Power Allotments Map for GIS?

https://devonenergycic.co.uk/our-projects/power-allotments-devon/

The Handbook

The approach

Power Allotments, Devon

A few things to consider:

The site should be **at least 5-acres**.
At this scale, a solar farm could generate enough profits to provide a surplus income for the local community.

Consider whether the site could incorporate some extra land that could be managed for biodiversity such as introducing a pond, orchard or a beehive.

The site must be reasonably accessible by road and have road/over field access that would be suitable for construction vehicles.

It is simpler if the access route from the main road to the site is under the same ownership as the field that has been identified.

A south facing site, or as close as possible (southeast, southwest) is better.

The best sites tend to be tucked away and shielded from homes, either by trees, hedgerows or hills.

The site could be spread over more than one field, but it's simpler if the fields are owned by the same person.

Any boundary features e.g., Devon hedges should be retained.

Sites adjacent to footpaths and bridleways or other important amenity land may be less popular with others in the community.

Submitting your site

Power Allotments, Devon

How to check and submit a site:

The following pages will guide you through how to find, check and submit the site that you have in mind.

If you don't need the step-by-step instructions, see the quick guide

Quick guide

1. Open the Power Allotments Mapping Tool here.
2. Find the site that you have in mind.
3. Check to see that the site is not in a shaded area.
4. Open the site on Google Maps.
5. Copy the coordinates.
6. Paste the coordinates into the Google Form here.

What happens next

Power Allotments, Devon

Submit your site!

You should receive an email confirming receipt of your submission.

We will now review the sites drawing on the other answers you provided in the Google Form and several other potential constraints.

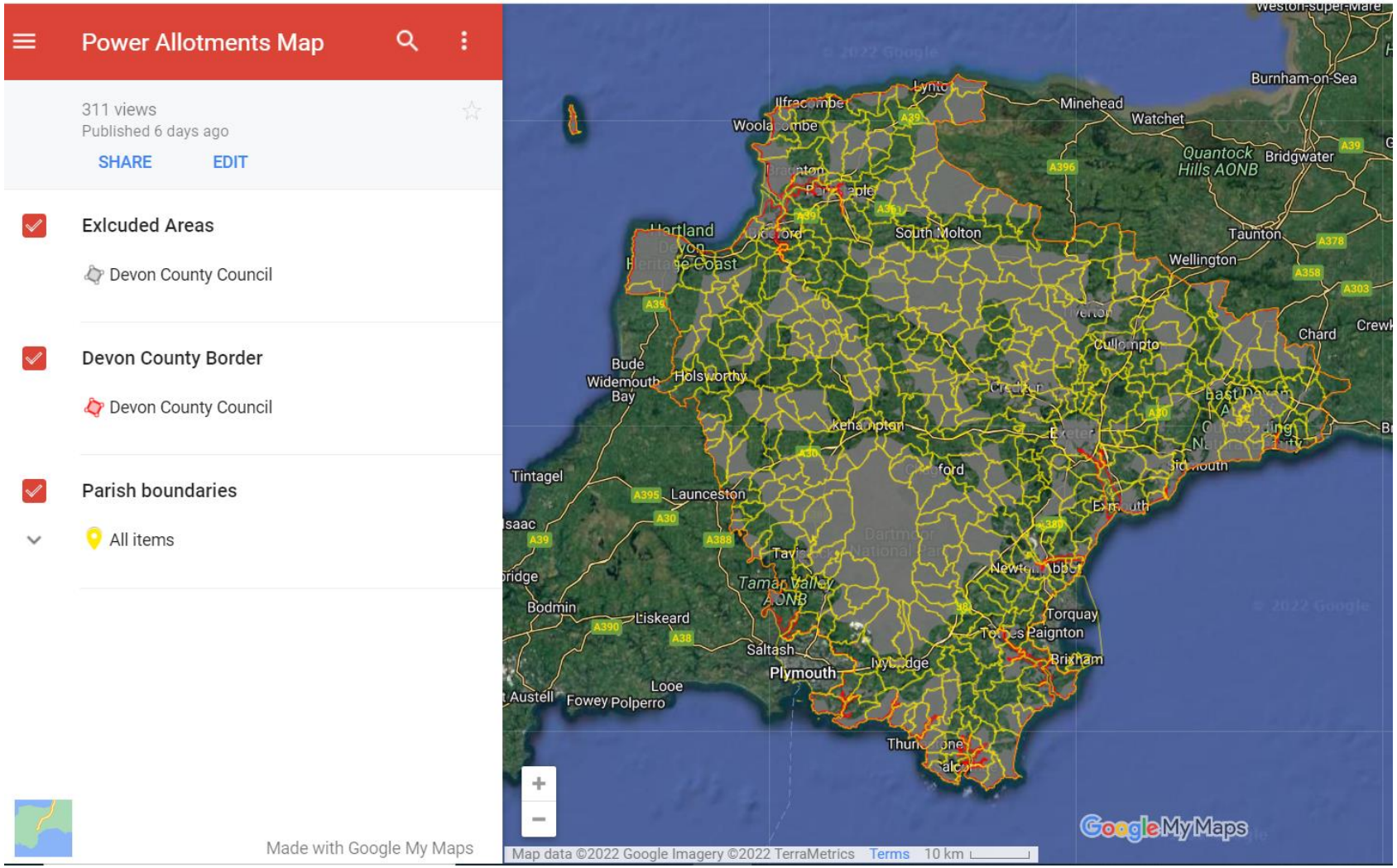
We will be in touch within 6 weeks to inform you of the results of our analysis.

If we believe that your site has potential we will explain the next steps.

If you'd like to submit more than one site, please complete a separate form.

You can submit as many sites as you would like.

The Power Allotments Map



Designed to be open minded but the grey areas show exclusions based on;

- Anywhere more than 2km from an 11kV or 33kV grid connection point.
- Anywhere in a built-up area.
- Any higher value agricultural land (Grade 1 or 2).

Yellow lines show parish boundaries.

Your site doesn't have to be within a certain parish, and you can turn off this layer if it's confusing.

Submission Form

Fill out the details as best you can.

The more information we have about a site the better.

But don't worry if you don't know some of the details.

Power Allotments Site Submission Form

Devon Energy Collective and Regen are supporting local councils, climate action groups, and community energy organisations to identify new sites for local renewable energy generation – and help to get the very best of these projects up and running.
If you have an interest in renewable energy or local development, we want to hear from you.

We believe that successful renewable energy projects are identified by communities for the benefit of communities.

We have created a map (found here) that enables people to identify parts of their neighbourhood that could be suitable for an energy project.

We will then collect and analyse these sites and prioritise those with the most potential for further studies.

Our aim is that community-owned "Power Allotments" can be built across Devon, generating clean, sustainable, local energy and a local income for communities.

An opportunity to enhance the biodiversity of these sites could mean that they would also serve as a valuable habitat for native wildlife.

Please make sure you have first looked at our Handbook and the Power Allotments Map before you fill out this form as they give you important information!

These can be found on our website as well as clicking on the above links.

This form will only take about **five minutes** to fill out!

By filling out this form you agree to be contacted by the Power Allotments team regarding the project.

Reviewing your submissions

You

Submit your site!

You should receive a message confirming your submission has been recorded when you submit it.

We will aim to be in touch within 6 weeks to inform you of the results of our analysis.

If we believe that your site has potential we will explain the next steps.

We will try and give feedback to everyone regardless of if their site is chosen at this moment in time.

Us

Receive your site submission!

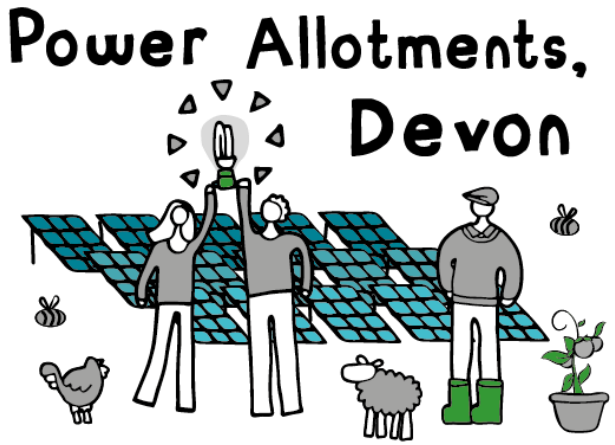
We will now review the sites drawing on the other answers you provided in the Google Form and several other potential constraints.

We will put all the sites in a pipeline from most feasible to least.

Start contacting people about the next steps or why their site hasn't been chosen.

Outcomes

- Power Allotments under development in parishes across Devon and or;
- A list of village scale solar farms chosen by Devon's communities – which will demonstrate the desire for community power.
- Further support for community energy action.



Help us spread the word:

Contact us:
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