



***Local community energy organisation contributes benefit fund to both local and international causes***

Sheffield Renewables recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) was a milestone for both the organisation and the city. It was the first time that members had the opportunity to vote on how to spend the organisation's Community Benefit Fund, an annual pot of money raised through the income secured from their solar photovoltaic schemes electricity generation.

Members voted to use the Community Benefit Fund to benefit 2 organisations, one local and one international. At the local level £3,000 has been donated to [South Yorkshire Energy Centre](#) (SYEC) to further support their efforts to tackle fuel poverty by enabling them to work with an additional 100 households in Sheffield. Shelly Davis, from SYEC thanked Sheffield Renewables for the kind donation from Sheffield Renewables, saying the donation "will help some of the most vulnerable consumers to save energy, save money on energy bills, keep the house warm and families well".

£252 was also given to [Solar Aid](#) who provide access to solar lights in some of the most remote regions of the world. The donation will buy 84 solar lights to communities in Africa, allowing families to save £12,191, avert 89.1 tonnes of CO2 emissions, provide 84,494 extra study hours for children, allow 179 people to experience better health, and create safer homes with reduced risk of fires and burns.

Sheffield Renewables is a community led social enterprise whose aims are to develop, own and operate renewable energy schemes across the region in a way which brings benefits to both the city and its people. The community benefit fund is an important element of the not-for-profit organisations aims - an annual fund which can be used to support further local good causes which benefits the city and its communities.

The AGM followed the recent closure of the organisations second community share offer which successfully raised £70,000 from local social investors. This has allowed Sheffield Renewables to the immediately commence and complete the installation of the organisation's fourth solar project at Lembas Wholefood Wholesales Co-operative based in Heeley, Sheffield. Their fifth solar project, the second funded through this most recent share offer, is currently being finalised and will be installed on Sheffield social housing site later in 2017.

Sheffield Renewables are always on the lookout for new organisations to work with to develop potential new community owned renewable energy projects. If you know of any organisation that might be keen to be involved with such a project please get in touch via [info@sheffieldrenewables.org.uk](mailto:info@sheffieldrenewables.org.uk)

Notes to the editor

- For further information please contact Sheffield Renewables via
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- Sheffield Renewables Limited is a Community Benefit Society registered under The Co-operative & Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, registered with the Financial Conduct Authority. Registration No: 30736R. VAT Registration No. 102929725. Registered Address: 25 Alexandra Road, Sheffield, S2 3EE.
- Sheffield Renewables is a community and a social enterprise that develops, funds, builds, owns and operates renewable energy schemes. This means that we are run by and for local people and also that we are not-for-profit. Any surplus money generated is reinvested to support local sustainability. Most of our work is carried out by volunteers, which helps to reduce our costs.
- Our schemes will contribute to city-wide efforts to meet targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and for increasing local renewable energy provision. We reinforce these direct carbon savings through local outreach, communications and education. Our work also helps to strengthen social cohesion and community resilience by encouraging people to work together and to share a common purpose, as well as by developing community owned assets. In pursuing our aims we work across the city for the benefit of everyone, while giving an additional focus to those areas close to our project sites.
- Sheffield Renewables now have four solar photovoltaic schemes in operation. Our first 50 kW scheme is at Paces Campus, which is home to a school for children with disabilities, a day care nursery, after school club, indoor play centre, art studio and gallery, sports hall and a community café. It also hosts social enterprises and charities and offers office space for business support. Our second 50 kW scheme is at Swinton Fitzwilliam Primary School. Our third community owned renewable energy scheme completed in early 2016 was a 50kW solar array panel at Attercliffe Police Station. We delivered our fourth solar scheme of 30kW at Lembas Wholefood Wholesales Co-operative based in Heeley, Sheffield in December 2016.