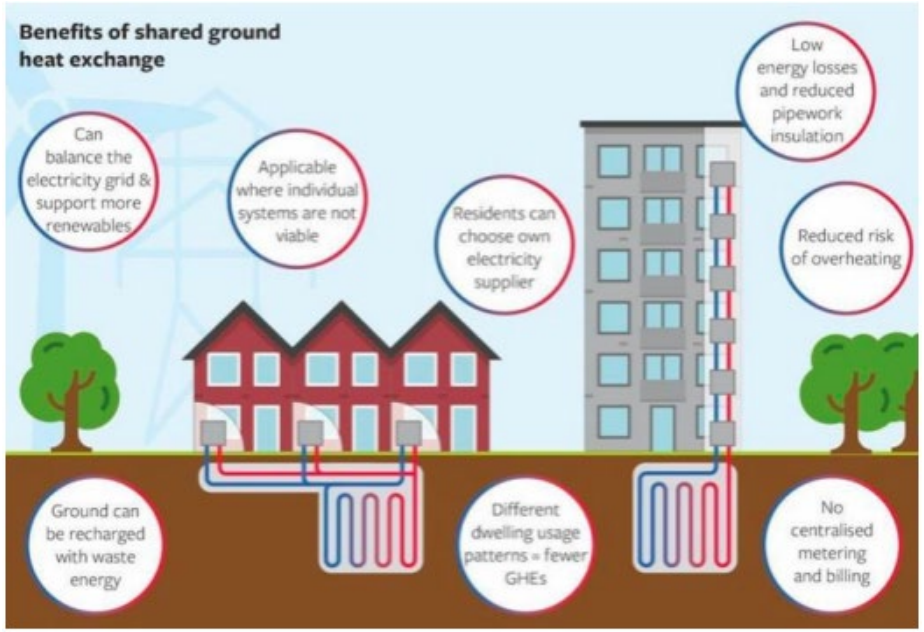
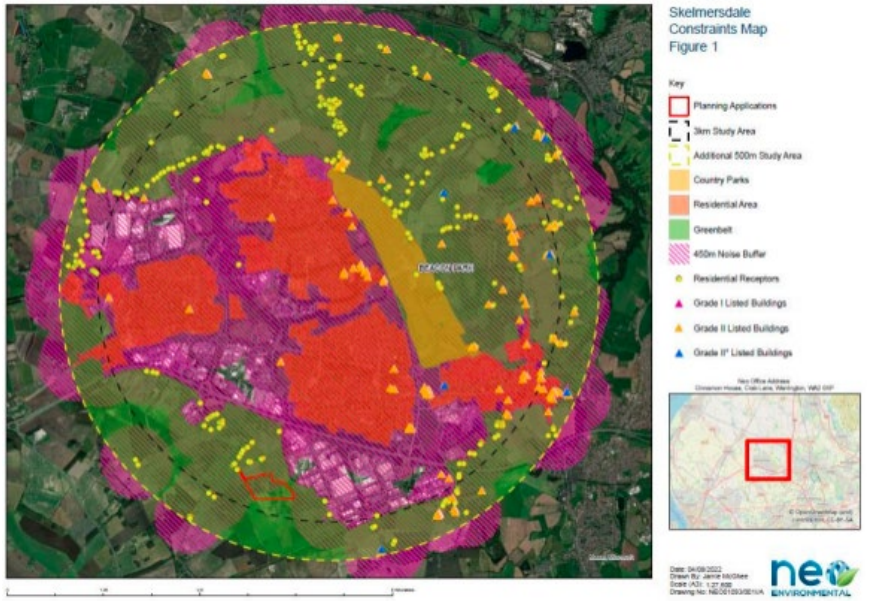
Skelmersdale Community Renewable Energy

RCEF Stage: 1





The Story

The community wanted to explore whether a wind turbine, ground-mounted solar and a low-carbon community-scale heat project could provide affordable energy to an area that has high fuel poverty rates within the context of this current energy crisis. The Local Council still own council houses, so are interested in understanding affordable energy options, and reducing carbon emissions. A holistic approach to long-term, affordable low carbon energy looking at community ownership and local supply will be key to an equitable, just net zero transition. Suitable sites have been found for both wind and solar on Local Authority land. Further work and funding are needed to progress the project which could have significant long-term benefits for the community.

Challenges & Risks

Wind is controversial but a community owned/for-benefit scheme has a better chance of consensus and planning (Lawrence Weston 4.2MW turbine) The LA gave a letter of support and is keen to look at Nez solutions that will also help to reduce fuel poverty. Creating local demand (heat) next to renewable electricity generation is a good solution to circumvent grid capacity issues. Looking at local supply models such as Energy local will be key to these local generation models.

Key Facts	
Land ownership	Potential sites identified inc Local Authority land.
Housing	Arms length from West Lancs council.
Planning	There are local wind turbines, Pimbo wind turbine – 2MW King's moss 2x 1MW.

Key Figures	
Project size: Tech type	PV 6MWs, wind 4.2MWs
Energy Generation	5,800 MWhs, 12,000 MWhs
Private finance leveraged	£8 million
CO2 savings	4,000 tonnes pa
RCEF grant	£40,000

Further notes

LEP area: Lancashire

Link for further info: Bristol's community wind turbine, an inspiration for this project [Ambition Community Energy (CIC) - Ambition Community Energy (CIC)]