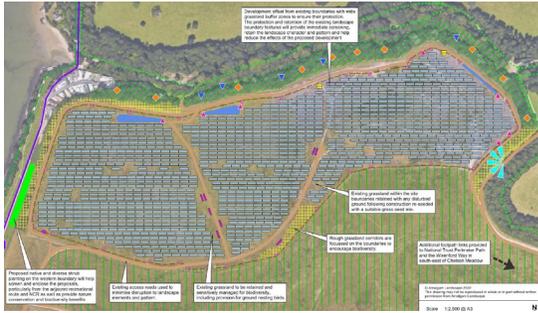


Plymouth Community Energy - Chelson Meadow

RCEF Stage: 1+2



| Key Facts | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| | 3,800 homes powered each year |
| | Over 13MW renewable energy produced each year |
| | 3,330 tonnes of carbon saved each year |
| | 9 full time jobs created 25% improvement in biodiversity |

The Story

A community owned solar farm in Plymouth on an ex-landfill site owned by Plymouth City Council. A joint venture will be established between Plymouth Energy Community and Plymouth City Council with part of the funding raised through a community share offer. Multiple challenges for the site (see below) managed through close partnership working with stakeholders. Additionally, an evidence led approach has been taken to satisfying complex planning criteria for the site. PEC are looking to establish a long-term synthetic PPA with the council for the sale of the power.

Key Figures

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Energy Generation | Over 13MW annually |
| CO2 savings | 3,300 tonnes annually |
| RCEF grant | Stage 1: £30,000 Stage 2: £99,889 |

Challenges & Risks

There are key challenges building on an ex-landfill site with active landfill gas recovery. Furthermore, the site is adjacent to a National Trust owned registered park and gardens in the strategic green space for Plymouth, and has interesting wildlife on site. Information was shared on potential wildlife impact early in the process, and a negative campaign persists from that preliminary information, despite a commitment to 25% biodiversity net gain.

Further notes

LEP area: Heart of the South West

Link for further info: [Plymouth Energy Community | Chelson Meadow Community Solar](#) and [Plymouth Energy Community | Plymouth's old landfill site is set for a...](#)

Lessons Learned

Running a process where formal pre-application planning advice has been paid for and requested has been really useful when tackling complex challenges. Although, this can make the planning process more expensive, it is easier to identify requirements. Significant project management time is required to drive the project forward and submit a good quality planning application.