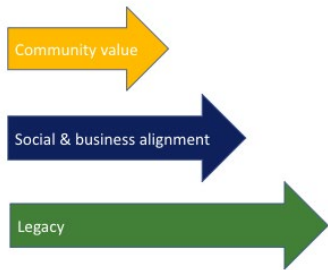
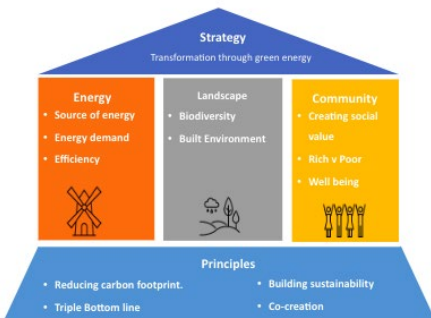


Hope Valley Renewables

RCEF Stage: 1

HVR STRATEGY

Making a difference in the Hope Valley



The Story

HVR is a CBS that was set up in 2021 to explore and implement green energy solutions in the Hope Valley and the nearby area. We operate within the Peak District National Park and so work within their strategic framework for zero emissions. We focus on opportunities for solar energy installations to generate low-cost energy, reduce emissions and provide revenue to facilitate other sustainable projects across the valley. An example of a circular system: creating local value from local resources to invest back into the community of people, businesses and the landscape. We identified two sites for substantial energy and revenue generation: one on poor quality land owned by the local authority that wanted to harvest solar energy for their use and the other on agricultural land where solar energy would enable greener operations for the farmer.

Challenges & Risks

The key challenge is the planning of the PDNPA and balancing the needs of the landscape and visual amenity with a net zero goal by 2050. The connection to the grid for exporting any excess energy was expected to be an issue. Although the Peak District has a legacy of industrialisation, the grid network is old and early signs suggested a lack of sufficient capacity.

Lessons Learned

The need to balance private financial returns, carbon reduction and community benefits beyond the cost or source of energy generation. The high cost and limited capacity for DNO grid connection costs is a prohibitively high barrier to the development of small local solar energy installations: such costs can include not just the required connection but also legacy maintenance and/or upgrade that is required upstream.

Key Facts	
Ground mounted solar PV	
Stakeholder benefits – commercial owner of land	Supply of lower cost energy, reduced CO2 emissions in support of net zero strategy and reputational benefit.
Stakeholder benefits - community	Lower cost electricity and the creation of a Community Investment Fund for local community projects.

Key Figures	
Project size:	Solar PV
Tech type	
Energy Generation	2MW & 200 kW
CO2 savings	Approx 750 tonnes p.a.
RCEF grant	£38,000

Further notes	
LEP area: SCR and D2N2	
Link for further info: https://hopevalleyrenewables.com/	