

GMCR

CONTEXT

2024 was a landmark year for Greater Manchester Community Renewables (GMCR). The volunteer-led co-op more than doubled its solar capacity from 346 kW to 734 kW, making it the region's leading community solar organisation.

The highlight was the completion of Greater Manchester's largest community-owned solar array at Wellington School in Altrincham, made possible through a record-breaking £350,000 community share offer.

The site officially opened in April 2024 with a celebration event that brought together students, the Altrincham Interfaith Network, and local residents - a true reflection of GMCR's community spirit.

REAL RESULTS FOR THE CLIMATE AND COMMUNITY

Within its first year of operation, the Wellington School array had already:

- Generated over 275 MWh of clean electricity
- Saved the school around £10,000 on energy bills
- Avoided 102 tonnes of CO₂ emissions

These achievements helped GMCR pay interest and capital repayments to its members as planned, while also donating £20,000 to the GMCR Community Fund, bringing total donations to £60,000 since launch. This fund supports local projects that cut carbon, improve energy efficiency, and educate people about sustainability.

POWERED BY VOLUNTEERS

GMCR remains 100% volunteer-run, with members giving their time, skills and energy to deliver every project.

IMPACT



102

tonnes of CO₂ saved per year



734 KW

total installed capacity



£350,000

Funds raised
(2024 share offer)



Volunteering with GMCR is a rewarding experience - I receive so much more than I give.

Yvonne, Social Media Volunteer

A 2025 case study from



Community
Energy
England