

Broughton Community Energy

October 2025 Update

Dear neighbours,

We're pleased to share the latest on our community energy project.

A reminder of our objectives

Broughton Community Energy exists to:

- Reduce CO₂ emissions from our village
- Improve our energy security and resilience
- Lower our energy costs
- Help tackle fuel poverty in our community

We've finally received our grant funding!

After a long wait, we've received our £40,000 grant from GB Energy to undertake a full Feasibility Study of our clean electricity generation ambitions.

Based on the findings from the community workshop in November last year that many of you attended, we'll be focusing our study on solar panels, wind power, and battery storage, while noting your preference to prioritise possible locations towards the north east of our parish.

What will we get from the Feasibility Study?

We're working with Prospus Group (www.prospus.co.uk), the specialist consultancy we selected some time ago through a competitive tender process. The study is planned to be completed by February 2026.

It will give us:

- The **Conceptual Design** for the generation site: the preferred location, the capacities of the solar panels, wind generation and storage technologies, site access, landscaping, and the preferred cabling route to the substation at Houghton.
- A good understanding of **how our community feels** about the proposed scheme, any concerns you have, and the changes that might be needed.
- A full understanding of the **planning consent risks**, and the actions needed to mitigate them.
- Confirmation that **the scheme is financially viable**, that it will achieve our objectives and attract investment, and can **enable a low-cost community electricity tariff**.
- **Reserved grid capacity** so that other schemes can't use the capacity we need.
- **Pre-Planning Application** submitted to TVBC.
- A **Delivery Plan and Budget** for the next stage of the project - the **Consenting Stage**.
- **Application** submitted to GB Energy for the **Stage 2 grant of £100k**.

We understand the importance of fully involving our community in these decisions. Once we have drafted the Conceptual Design in the coming weeks, look out for our Community Energy Questionnaire and another workshop at the village hall. We are eager to hear your views and welcome any feedback you may have.

Home energy efficiency advice

The evenings are drawing in and the days are getting colder. Regardless of how you heat your home, effective insulation is vital to keep the energy in and reduce your fuel bills.

We'll be hosting a home energy efficiency advice drop-in session at the village hall on **Saturday, 8 November, 10 am – 2 pm**. This will be in partnership with My Home Made Better (www.myhomemadebetter.org).

You might be surprised by what you can do to enhance the energy efficiency of your home and the grants available to support you.

Lower-cost electric vehicle chargers

We've recently been awarded a £20k grant from SSEN to install additional EV chargers in our village. Our Parish Council has given permission in principle for these to be installed in the car park on School Lane.

The existing EV chargers outside the village hall have very low usage, but this may be due to the high cost. We expect not-for-profit low-cost EV chargers to be used more. Once we're generating our own electricity, it may be possible to reduce the charging costs even further!

Get involved

This is your project, and we want it to reflect the priorities of the whole village. If you'd like to contribute ideas or learn more, please get in touch.

Email us: info@broughtoncommunityenergy.org

Join our WhatsApp group that already has over 80 members and continues to grow:
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CjfCzCFLF2HD3FZrpfF9zA>

Website: www.broughtoncommunityenergy.org

Thank you for your continued interest and support. Together, we're building something that will benefit our village for years to come.

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