

Broughton Community Energy

May 2025 Update

It has been one year since Andrew Illingworth presented his vision for a cleaner, lower-cost electricity infrastructure for our village to the Parish Council. A lot has happened since then, most recently establishing Broughton Community Energy Limited as a Community Benefit Society (CBS).

This first anniversary is a good time to give you a brief update on the programme's status.

Our objectives

Here's a reminder of Broughton Community Energy's key objectives:

- Reduce CO2 emissions from our village
- Increase our energy security and resilience
- Reduce our energy costs
- Reduce fuel poverty in our community

Broughton Community Energy Limited (9540)

As a limited company, we can apply for a broader range of grants and secure commercial loans at the appropriate time.

Our application to incorporate as a Community Benefit Society (CBS) was approved by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) on 6 May 2025. A CBS is specifically designed for organisations that benefit the community rather than prioritising profit for individual members. All profits must be reinvested in the company to further its objectives or invested in other community initiatives. There is a range of regulatory protections to ensure this remains the case.

The next step is establishing an initial Board of Directors that will remain in post until the first Annual General Meeting. We will soon invite you to become a member of the society, to ensure you have an equal say in what the organisation prioritises and how it is governed.

Broughton Community Energy Limited (9540) can be found on the Mutuels Public Register <https://mutuals.fca.org.uk>.

Grant funding

The good news is that the government has recently topped up the Great British Energy Community Fund with an additional £5 million. As you know, we've been awarded £40,000 from this fund to undertake a complete feasibility study of generating renewable, clean electricity. We were told to expect this funding in the spring, but the latest advice indicates it will arrive in June or July. The wheels of government turn slowly, which is frustrating!

Electricity generation feasibility study

In our last update, we informed you that we were finalising the Statement of Work with Prospus Group Limited, who will provide expert guidance throughout the feasibility study. We have signed the agreement and await the grant funding to commence the work.

One of the most significant risks to the viability of any generation project is the ability to connect to the electricity grid. Broughton Parish Council has generously agreed to fund a connection feasibility study (to be refunded upon receipt of the grant) to expedite this aspect of the feasibility study. We've met with

SSEN to initiate this analysis, and the work has commenced. It is expected to take up to 65 days, after which we should know whether connection to the substation at Houghton is feasible. This connection is critical to provide a lower-cost community electricity tariff.

Trusted energy advice

In addition to the generation project, we're progressing our ambition to provide trusted energy advice on household energy efficiency, heat pumps, available grants, and more. We will partner with the My Home Made Better scheme run by The Environment Centre (TEC), based in Southampton, and supported by the Winchester Action on the Climate Crisis group (Winacc). More information will be available soon.

<https://myhomemadebetter.org/>

We would like to hear from anyone who has explored these areas, whether they proceeded with them or not, and about their experiences.

We're committed to this being a community-led initiative, so if you'd like to learn more and contribute your thoughts, a member of the Steering Group would be delighted to speak with you.

If you have feedback, questions, or other thoughts, please email: broughton.ce@outlook.com

We also have a BCE WhatsApp Group with approximately 80 members and growing. You can register your interest in the programme and receive regular updates by joining it:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CjfCzCFLF2HD3FZrpfF9zA>

Thank you for your continued interest and support. We know that trust must be earned, not given automatically.

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