

# **Broughton Community Energy**

## **September 2025 Update**

Dear neighbours,

We're pleased to share the latest on our community energy project. A lot has been happening since our last update in May — with both challenges and exciting progress.

### **Our objectives**

Broughton Community Energy exists to:

- Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from our village
- Improve our energy security and resilience
- Lower our energy costs
- Help tackle fuel poverty in our community

### **We should soon receive our grant funding**

You may remember we were awarded a £40,000 GB Energy Community Grant. The issuing of the funds has been delayed several times this year, which has been very frustrating and has impacted many projects like ours across the country. We raised the issue with GB Energy and involved our MP, Caroline Nokes, who promised to press the Secretary of State for answers. We've just received the welcome news that our grant will be issued imminently following the completion of some final admin.

### **Good news about the grid connection**

A significant milestone has been achieved: SSEN has confirmed there is enough capacity at the Houghton substation to connect our project to the electricity grid. This connection is essential for us to supply a lower-cost community electricity tariff, so this is fantastic news for the village. Thanks to Broughton Parish Council for funding the feasibility study that made this possible. This 'loan' will be repaid on receipt of the grant.

### **Community energy advice**

While waiting for the grant, we've been building partnerships to help households with energy advice. We're now working with My Home Made Better, run by The Environment Centre in Southampton and supported by WinACC. This will give residents access to clear, trusted guidance on energy efficiency, heat pumps, and available grants. More details to follow soon.

### **The next steps towards generating our own electricity**

As soon as we receive the grant, we'll be able to begin working with Prospus, the specialist community energy consultancy we selected some time ago, to develop a conceptual design (including a shortlist of potential sites), consult further with our community, and gain a better understanding of the planning risks. We will complete this next stage by early spring 2026.

### **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](mailto: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](http://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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