



NEWS RELEASE

“Keeping the lights on” Bristol-fashion

Recent energy news has been dominated by details of price rises from the ‘Big 6’ and anticipated energy shortages in 2015. So it’s good to hear of a local alternative - Bristol Energy Cooperative has just launched its second solar share offer, with a target of £200,000.

The share offer follows hot-on-the-heels of the co-op’s first share offer in 2012. This was over-subscribed, and raised over £125,000 from 160 member-investors. The money was used to install solar panels on three community buildings: Hamilton House in Stokes Croft, Knowle West Media Centre, and Easton Community Centre. The communities using these buildings benefit from subsidised green energy whilst investors earned a 4% return on their investment in the first year of operation.

And now the co-op is doing it all again. Peter Thompson of the co-op said: “We and similar groups across the country are providing a welcome alternative to the big providers. We’re putting power back into the hands of local people.

“Our share offer gives everyone the chance to be a part of the renewable revolution, whether they own a roof or not. You can invest anything from £250 to £20,000. This is an ethical investment, with clear financial, environmental and social returns. The Co-op receives a guaranteed 20-year income from the government for the electricity generated, investors receive a projected 4% annual return on their investment, and community buildings benefit from green energy at reduced prices.

“As we’re a co-op, everyone receives one vote no matter how much they invest. We believe this is an equitable way to benefit individuals, communities and the environment while furthering Bristol’s green credentials.”

Bristol mayor George Ferguson said: “I’m delighted to see Bristol Energy Coop building on the success of its first share offer. This project helps stimulate the local economy, increases the city’s energy-resilience, and puts people in touch with the sources of energy. It’s the sort of project that helped us win European Green Capital 2015.”

The new installations will generate enough electricity to power 46 houses and save more than 1700 tonnes of CO2 over their 20-year lifetime.

The share offer runs until the end of February 2014, and full details are available at www.bristolenergy.coop

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Bristol Energy Co-op – building Bristol’s local green energy economy.
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Notes for editors:

- Bristol Energy Cooperative is a community-owned social enterprise, supporting and financing renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in Bristol and the surrounding areas.
- Community-owned renewable energy is thriving across the UK. One of the best-known examples is the 100% community-owned Westmill Wind Farm Coop in Oxfordshire (www.westmill.coop), where nearly £4 million was raised by over 2000 member-investors.
- This press release is not an investment document. If you are unsure about the suitability of an investment you should seek advice from a suitably qualified financial adviser. Bristol Energy Cooperative is the trading name of Bristol Community Energy Limited, a Community Benefit Society registered in England, Registration Number 31313R.
- Photo: BEC supporters at the share launch party.

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