

Portworthy Community Benefit Fund Guidelines

What is the fund?

The Portworthy Solar Array covers 8 hectares of brownfield land associated with old china clay works, near the villages of Lee Moor and Wotter in the South Hams. In the last year it generated almost 4GWh of clean renewable electricity, enough to supply about 1300 average homes.



The array is currently owned by [Bath and West Community Energy \(BWCE\)](#), a community benefit society established in 2010 to develop community owned renewable energy projects. The array started generating electricity in December 2015 and as a community owned installation, any surplus profits produced by the array are to be used for the benefit of the local community. The Portworthy Community Benefit Fund is the mechanism for distributing this money.

BWCE has chosen South Dartmoor Community Energy (SDCE) to administer and distribute the community benefit fund on their behalf. SDCE is a new local community benefit society, set up in 2016 to help local communities (primarily in the PL7 and PL21 postcode areas) reduce their fuel bills and to get involved in renewable energy projects. SDCE has a board of seven voluntary Directors from across the local area and in 2017, the SDCE Board will manage the Portworthy Community Benefit Fund.

How much is available?

The amount available through the fund each year is dependent on the productivity of the solar array. The array generates income through selling the electricity that it generates. The income has to cover the cost of loan repayments, interest payments to investors, operations and maintenance costs and whatever is left over will go into the community benefit fund.

During 2017, £5000 is available through the fund for grant applications.

What can you apply for?

The fund can be used to cover costs associated with initiatives and projects that support the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the communities closest to the array i.e. in the parishes of Sparkwell, Cornwood and Shaugh Prior (the local community).

There must be a clear community need and support for the project and priority will be given to projects that reduce carbon emissions and/or fuel poverty in the local area.

The fund can cover capital costs such as equipment and promotional materials or revenue costs such as help towards staffing, insurance, volunteer expenses, where these are directly associated with the project.

How much do we award?

In 2017 the maximum grant level is £1500 and minimum is £500.

What we don't fund

- Grant or loan schemes run by third parties.
- Individuals.
- Commercial companies.
- Statutory organisations or the direct replacement of statutory funding.
- Political groups or activities promoting political beliefs.
- Religious groups promoting religious beliefs.
- Arts projects with no community or charitable element.
- Sports projects with no community or charitable element.

- Medical research, equipment or treatment.
- Animal welfare.
- Activities that are intended to raise funds for other organisations.

Please note we cannot fund applications retrospectively and funds cannot be used to meet the capital costs of energy efficiency improvements where the activity is eligible for government grant or subsidy.

Who can apply?

Applications can be made by;

- Town and Parish Councils.
- Registered charities operating within the local community.
- CIC's, Community Benefit Societies and other not for profit social enterprises operating in the local community.
- Schools.
- Constituted voluntary groups.

Organisations can apply for one grant per year.

When can you apply?

The 2017 fund is open for applications from 18th April 2017 to 31st May 2017. Decisions will be announced by the end of June.

The application process

Download the Portworthy Community Fund application form at www.southdartmoorcommunityenergy.org and return it to katie@southdartmoorcommunityenergy.org or post to Portworthy Community Fund, South Dartmoor Community Energy, 8 Speakers Road, Ivybridge, PL21 0JP.

For a paper copy please contact Katie Reville on 0800 112 3044, or email katie@southdartmoorcommunityenergy.org

As well as the completed application form you will also need to provide the following:

- Evidence of a bank account in the name of the organisation. The bank account must have at least two signatories. Alternatively, if you belong to a small organisation that does not have a bank account another charitable organisation can look after the funds for you, but you must provide written authorisation from the organisation that will do this.
- A copy of your most recent annual accounts or financial records that show your organisation's balance of funds, income and expenditure. If you do not have financial records that cover a full year then you will need to provide the records you currently have.

What will happen next?

Once we have received your application there will be an initial assessment by a member of the SDCE Team. We may contact you for further information or to arrange to meet to discuss the application in more detail. The Board of SDCE will discuss all the applications received at the start of June and will inform all applicants of the result of their application by the end of June. Please note their decision is final and there is no appeal process.

Grant conditions

Successful applicants are required to;

- Spend the grant within 12 months of receiving it.
- Acknowledge the grant in press releases and other promotional activities.
- Provide photos and a statement for use on SDCE's website to publicise the grant awarded and raise the profile of the Fund.

- Complete a grant monitoring report form six months after the grant has been paid and at the end of the project. This form asks for details of how the grant was spent and what was achieved. The Information provided in the grant monitoring report and photos may be used by SDCE on their website. *

*In providing photos and statements on the project, the successful applicant agrees to SDCE using these materials and data; grants SDCE copyright of the photos and warrants & indemnifies SDCE that the successful applicant has the permission of anyone in the photos (and statement) for these materials to be used for the purposes of publicising and promoting the Fund.

Further information and support

For advice on completing the grant application form please call 0800 112 3044 or e-mail

katie@southdartmoorcommunityenergy.org

SDCE is registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 as a Community Benefit Society. Registration number 7353. VAT 248 8969 32.

www.southdartmoorcommunityenergy.org