

SDCE's Objection Comment to the Proposed Gas Peaker Power Station in Ivybridge

South Dartmoor Community Energy Limited (SDCE) is a community owned, not-for-profit, energy advice and development company. We are based in the postcode areas PL21 and PL7 but our energy advice and fuel poverty work covers an extensive area of the South Hams.

At a meeting of the board of SDCE on 20 November the directors agreed unanimously to object to this planning application and to commence work on an alternative proposal.

Our reasons for objecting are:

1. Devon County Council, South Hams District Council and Ivybridge Town Council have all declared a climate emergency. In the new year DCC will be publishing an action plan and a date by which the county will achieve net zero carbon emissions. This application will increase Devon's carbon footprint and, as such, is unhelpful and unwelcome.
2. The supporting information submitted with the application does not seem to include data on the CO₂ and NO_x gaseous emissions from the proposed generators.
3. There is no mention of any community benefit arising from this project. Will there be a community fund?
4. We do not accept the justification for developing this plant. The need for peaking plant is acknowledged but installing energy inefficient, open cycle gas turbines is we believe irresponsible in the current climate emergency. OCGT's produce 0.46kg CO₂ per unit of electricity whereas CCGT's like Langage produce 0.35kg per kWh. In other words they produce 30% more CO₂ per unit of electricity. As such we believe they are an unacceptable risk to future generations.
5. The application is silent on the issue of alternative solutions. It makes no attempt to identify or compare alternative ways of addressing the need for peak power.

SDCE is currently in the process of scoping an alternative solution to the one proposed in this application. The alternative will be a 2050 ready, net zero carbon solution to address the need for peak energy. It will be community owned and not-for-profit and it will contribute annually to a community fund.

SDCE will announce its plans to develop this alternative project in the very near future.

28th November 2019