

## **The Rural Community Energy Fund**

### **An Opportunity for Community-Owned Renewables**

#### **1. What is the opportunity?**

The Rural Community Energy Fund will pay for a feasibility study to see what renewable energy could be generated in a community, and prepare a plan to finance, build and run it. The maximum grant is £20,000. There is detailed information at [www.tinyurl.com/psfqy3q](http://www.tinyurl.com/psfqy3q).

For example, the plan could propose a set of 100 kW solar PV installations on several community and business roofs, funded through a community share issue. This would provide:

- low cost electricity for the occupiers,
- reduced carbon emissions,
- a community fund for grants to local good causes
- a good return to local investors,
- reduced profits for the Big Six energy suppliers.
- capital to re-invest in future energy projects

#### **2. What is needed for an application?**

Any community which would like to apply needs:

1. An applicant – usually a community-owned company, or a parish council. Charities, faith groups housing associations are also fine. A community group can put the application together, as long as there is a company in place by the time it is submitted.
2. Evidence of community support – usually from a public meeting.
3. Details about what technical work will be done – such as a resource map of possible projects, energy surveys of roofs suitable for solar PV, and financial forecasts for the project and any community share issue.
4. Three quotes for any consultancy work which will be needed.

#### **3. What should interested communities do next?**

If a community is interested, it should hold a public meeting to assess the level of interest, and recruit a group of enthusiastic people to take the idea forward. DARE staff are happy to speak at the meeting. After that, it will need to prepare an application, and ask for quotes for the technical work.

#### **4. What is DARE?**

DARE ([www.devondare.org](http://www.devondare.org)) is a social enterprise which exists to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy generation, primarily in Devon. It has been operating for 15 years, and provides impartial advice and consultancy. Its work includes completing energy surveys, creating community owned energy companies, and preparing financial forecasts and share issues. DARE has recently been involved in Plymouth Energy Community's work to issue shares to pay for £500,000 of solar PV on schools.

For more information, please email [info@devondare.org](mailto:info@devondare.org), or phone 01837 52600.