

# A Beginner's Guide To Investing In Community Energy



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# Why Invest In Community Energy?

We stand at a critical juncture in world history.

In October 2018, the United Nations' 'International Panel on Climate Change' (IPCC) issued a stark warning that the world has until 2030 to radically curb climate-damaging emissions or face catastrophic consequences.

This wake up call has inspired a tidal wave of activism across the globe: Young people in 2,000 cities have engaged in monthly strike action; grassroots action groups have been staging headline grabbing stunts; and the UK government passed a motion declaring a state of climate emergency.

The public are demanding greater government action, but government action takes time - and in the fight against climate change, time is something we don't have.



Kayla Ente (centre in stripes), CEO and Founder of BHESCo, celebrating the install of a 12kW solar power array at the Hollingdean Community Centre, alongside, project partners, community centre Trustees, and the Mayor of Brighton and Hove. June 2017

This is why communities all over the UK are taking matters into their own hands by investing in local energy projects that deliver immediate and significant results.

There are now over 58,000 members of 495 community energy groups across the UK, individuals like you who have invested in projects that collectively reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by an incredible 71,000 tonnes per year – the equivalent of taking 15,074 cars off the road!

With support from visionary investors like you, our sector can only get stronger. We hope that you will join our community energy revolution, using the power of communities to create this essential transition away from fossil fuels.





# COMMUNITY ENERGY IN THE UK

**495** organisations

**58,000** members

**506** GWh of electricity generation

**174,000** UK households powered



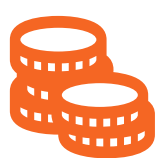
## How Do We Use Your Investment?

We know that most property owners in the UK want to make their buildings more environmentally friendly, but often cannot afford the upfront costs.

To overcome this obstacle, BHESCo finance all of our energy projects on behalf of our customers, using our 'Pay As You Save' initiative.

Your investment is used to finance the upfront project costs on behalf of our customers. These costs are then paid back (plus interest that we pass on to you) through savings achieved on our customers' monthly energy bills.

In this way, everyone can take action to reduce their carbon footprint, while also saving money and without the worry of high initial expenses.



Community investors buy shares



Your investment is used to build clean energy projects



Project costs + interest are repaid with savings on energy bills



Interest is passed on to investors

## Your Say In How We Are Run

BHESCo is a consumer co-operative, which means all of our shareholders have an equal say in how our business is run.

As a shareholder you can vote at Annual General Meetings. As a co-operative, each shareholder is entitled to one vote, no matter how many shares they own. This ensures that everyone has an equal say.

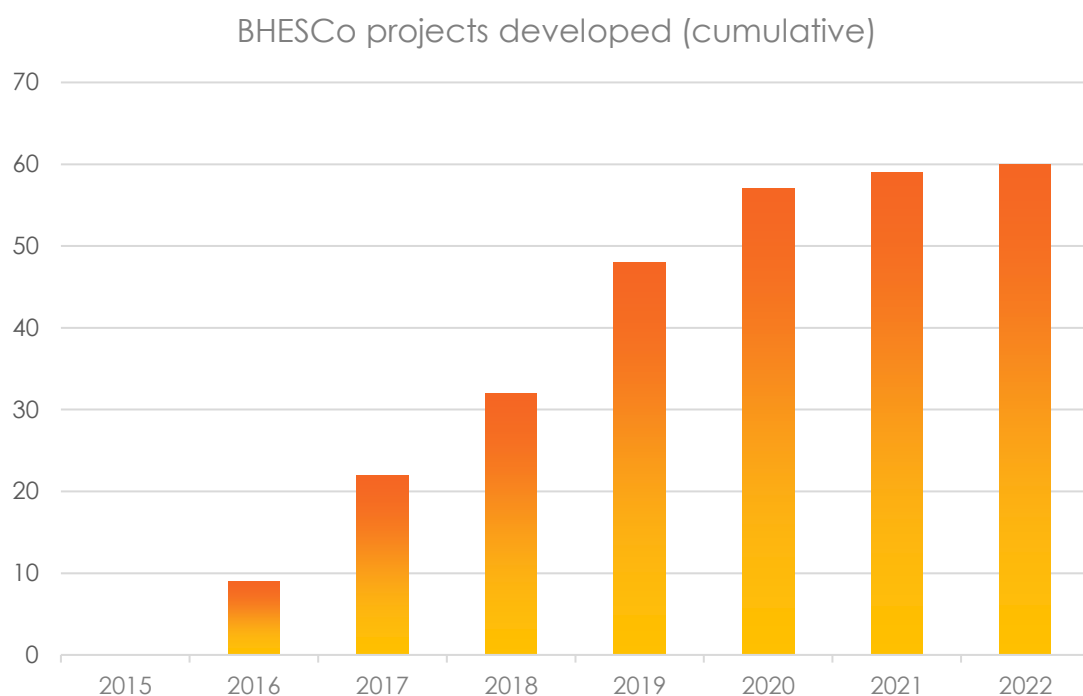
We also invite shareholders to social events and meetups throughout the year to hear your thoughts on how we can maximise our impact.



# BHESCo's Community Energy Projects

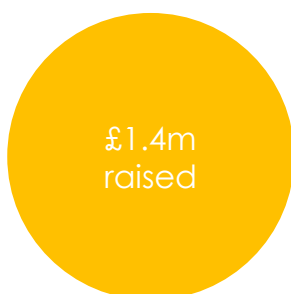
## 2015 to 2022

Almost all of BHESCo's community energy projects have been completed using our 'Pay As You Save' model, financed by shareholder members from the community.



Since launching our first share offer in 2015, BHESCo has attracted over a million pounds of investment.

Interest is paid to our shareholders on an annual basis.





# BHESCo ENERGY PROJECTS

59

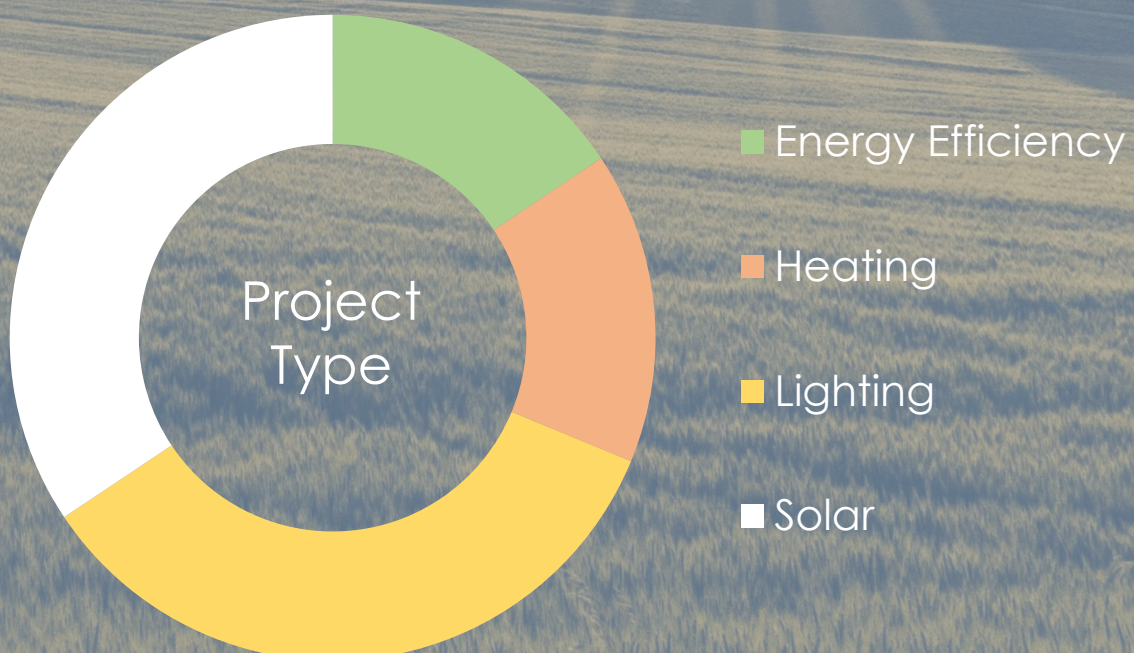
energy projects completed

451+

tonnes annual CO<sub>2</sub> savings

£80k

annual customer savings





# HOW TO BECOME A COMMUNITY ENERGY INVESTOR

Investing in community energy is no different to investing in any other type of company.

Simply complete our **Shareholder Application Form** and make a payment to BHESCo either by bank transfer or by cheque.

You can invest from as little as £500 up to a maximum of £100,000. Each share is worth £10.

As a not-for-profit organisation, BHESCo does not pay dividends. Instead, we pay interest. You will begin to earn interest from the first working day of the month following your investment date. Interest will be paid annually, or as determined by our members at our Annual General Meeting.



# THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE INVESTING

Your investment in BHESCo is registered with but not authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority and therefore the money you pay for your shares is not safeguarded by any depositor protection scheme or dispute resolution scheme.

With this in mind, you should not invest more than you are willing to lose.

The value of your shares cannot go up and may go down so that you may not get back the amount you invested.

Interest payments are not guaranteed – past performance is no indication of future performance.

For more information and for full details of the risk factors involved with making an investment in BHESCo please read the **Terms and Conditions** of our 2022 Investor Pack.

For further advice and guidance you should speak to a financial advisor.





# JOIN THE ENERGY REVOLUTION

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Imagine a world powered by clean,  
community owned energy run in the  
interests of people and planet

