

What if Ovingdean powered itself?

Let's work together to drive down the cost of solar PV and energy storage—cutting electricity costs, improving energy security, and keeping the benefits where they belong: in our community.



Ovingdean Community Solar Programme

A unique opportunity exclusive to
Ovingdean residents

*Delivered by BHESCo in partnership
with the Ovingdean Community*

Funded by GB Energy's Community Energy Fund, administered by the Greater South East Net Zero Hub





The Ovingdean Decarbonisation Plan

In 2024, BHESCo with the support of Ovingdean Community Energy, a group of resident activists, developed a **90-page Decarbonisation Plan** for all 545 homes and businesses in the village, funded by Great British Energy's Community Energy Fund.

The plan outlines a practical pathway to carbon neutrality by 2050, requiring £14.5 million in investment, while identifying how local energy systems can deliver real benefits to Ovingdean residents.

The Plan is not only a way to cut carbon emissions, it presents an opportunity for everyone in the village to benefit economically from the energy transition.



Ovingdean currently emits around 4,000 tonnes of CO₂ each year, with transport (40%), home heating (33%), and domestic electricity (12%) as the largest sources.

To tackle these emissions, the plan focuses on three priorities:

- **Rooftop solar PV across village homes**
- **A community-owned wind turbine to meet the village's electricity needs**
- **A transition to electric vehicles and air source heat pumps**

Together, these measures could address 73% of the village's carbon emissions and generate around £2 million in community benefit.

The **Ovingdean Community Solar programme** is how we begin turning that plan into reality — **starting with your rooftop**. This is your opportunity to cut energy bills, turn Ovingdean into a power station and share in the rewards of power generated by the sun.

Ovingdean Community Solar Programme

Your home. Your energy. Your village.

The Ovingdean Solar Programme gives residents the chance to generate clean electricity from their own rooftops, minimise risk by working with BHESCo as independent expert and by joining together as a community, to access a group discount that no individual household could negotiate alone. This is energy independence, brought to your doorstep.

What's in it for your household?

Save about 25% on electricity bills for the next 25 years



Flexible finance — including a zero upfront cost option



Long-term protection from energy price hikes



Raise your EPC rating and property value



Zero hassle install from trusted MCS accredited installers



Earn from surplus energy exported to the grid



How it works



Register interest



Free survey



System design & quote



Contract signed



System installed



Start saving

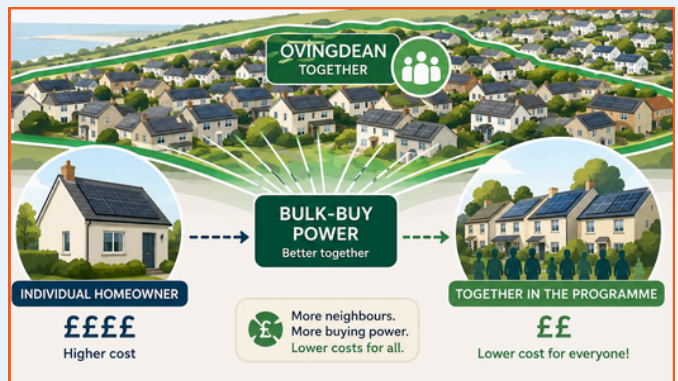
What this means for Ovingdean as a community

There is power in numbers.

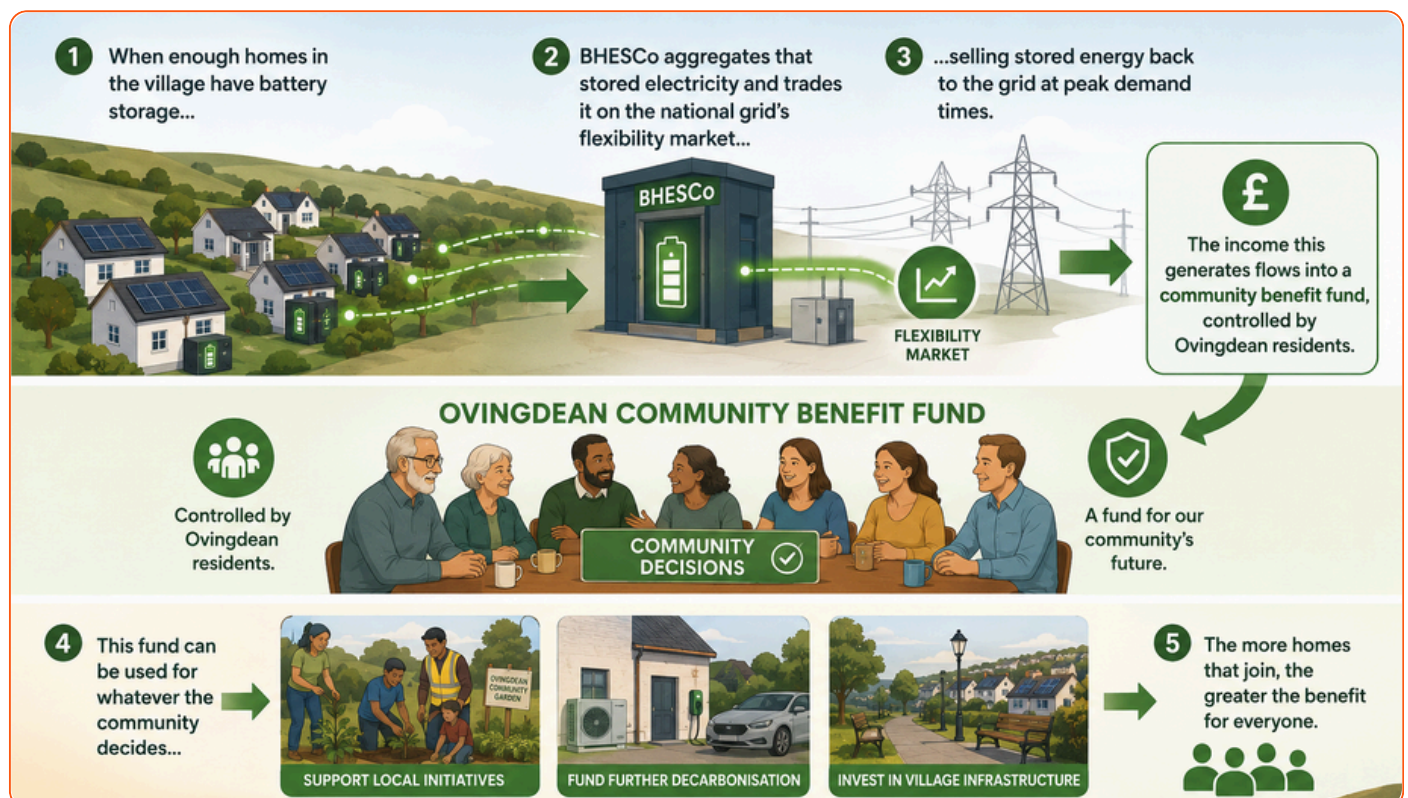
The Ovingdean Solar Programme is not just about your rooftop. When the whole village participates, something far more valuable happens — and it benefits every resident, not just those with solar panels.

The bulk buy discount - everyone pays less

By bringing hundreds of Ovingdean homes into a single programme, BHESCo negotiates bulk-buy installation rates that no individual homeowner could get alone. **The more neighbours who join, the lower the cost for everyone.** Working with BHESCo as independent oversight lowers the risk associated with installation and ongoing maintenance.



The village starts earning together - through trading excess electricity



Still not clear? Read more or watch a short video explainer

"We are applying our expertise to maximise the benefits of solar power for residents by removing the risk and maximising the financial benefits of building a local power station through the collective efforts households in Ovingdean" - Kayla Ente MBE, CEO/Founder, BHESCo

Your questions answered

- **Is there any obligation when I register?**

None at all. Registering simply books a free home survey. You decide whether to proceed — no pressure, no commitment.

- **Who is eligible?**

Open to homeowners in Ovingdean. Tenants may also be eligible with their landlord's agreement.

- **How does the finance work?**

You can either pay upfront to own your solar panels and battery from day one, or choose the BHESCo-funded option with no upfront cost, where BHESCo covers the installation, monitoring and maintenance, and you repay the investment gradually through the energy savings your system generates.

- **Do I need a smart meter?**

Yes — a smart meter is required. If you don't have one, your energy supplier can install one free of charge.

- **What if I already have solar panels?**

You may still be eligible to add battery storage. Mention this when you register.

- **Do I need planning permission?**

Usually no. Most homes fall under Permitted Development. However, if your home is in the Ovingdean Conservation Area, a planning application will be required (£639 inc. VAT, paid by resident). BHESCo will guide you through the process. Check the map at bhesco.co.uk/ovingdean.

- **Does my roof need to face a certain direction?**

South, east or west-facing roofs are generally suitable. BHESCo will assess the economics of your specific roof when you register.

The Technology

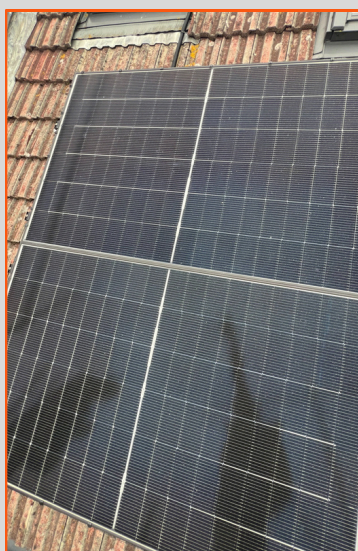
- **What do I receive exactly?**

You receive an independently assessed solar design including:

Tier 1 solar PV panels — the highest quality grade of panel, with 10-year product warranty, 25-year performance warranty

Battery storage (typically 5–6 kWh) — stores surplus electricity for use at night, on cloudy days, or during a grid outage

Inverter — converts the DC electricity your panels generate into AC electricity for use in your home



- **What happens on cloudy days or at night?**

Your panels generate electricity from daylight, not just direct sunshine. Ovingdean's high sunshine levels help maximise generation, while your battery stores surplus energy for later use.

- **Will it keep working in a power cut?**

Your solar system will switch off during a power cut, unless you have an optional backup device installed that will allow the battery to power key appliances for several hours.

- **What about surplus energy?**

Any surplus electricity generated when your battery is full is automatically exported to the grid. You earn money for this via the Ofgem-regulated Smart Export Guarantee (SEG).

- **Will I stay connected to the grid?**

Yes — you remain fully connected as a backup at all times.

- **What about my EV charger or heat pump?**

In most cases solar and battery storage works seamlessly alongside an EV charger or heat pump — and combining them significantly increases your savings. Mention this when you register.

- **What if I sell my house?**

The agreement either transfers to the new owner on the same terms as part of your conveyancing, or you can pay off the remaining balance from the sale proceeds at any time. Solar PV adds proven value to your home by improving your EPC rating.

Installation

All installations are carried out by local MCS-accredited engineers — fully qualified, insured, and experienced.

Most installations just take one day, depending on scaffolding and weather.

We use roof fixings designed specifically for each roofing material, with any damage repaired.



Post installation

A BHESCo surveyor carries out a post-installation assessment and formally signs off the system before final payment is made to the installer.

BHESCo then monitors and maintains all funded systems, providing full aftercare support throughout the life of the agreement.



About BHESCo

Brighton & Hove Energy Services Co-operative (BHESCo) is an innovative, award-winning community energy co-operative, driven by our mission to accelerate the transition to clean, affordable energy, owned by the people living in the communities we serve.

Since 2014, BHESCo has delivered and advised hundreds of customers about low-carbon energy projects across Sussex, raised £2.5 million of community investment from over 465 investors, and conducted more than 3,000 energy-saving surveys. In 2025, BHESCo delivered Brighton's first-ever community-scale solar programme in Preston Park.

To build in accountability, our customers become members, our costs are kept as low as possible, and every project is driven by a genuine desire to reduce energy bills and carbon emissions for the people living in the communities we serve. We are bringing our proven community solar and battery storage model to Ovingdean as part of Stage 2 of the village's Decarbonisation Plan.

Why BHESCo — not just any solar company?

FACTORS	BHESCO PROGRAMME	GOING IT ALONE
Price	Group bulk-buy discount	Standard market rate
Installation	MCS-accredited engineers, overseen by BHESCo	Varies by installer
Post-installation	BHESCo monitors and maintains your system	Your responsibility
Warranty support	BHESCo takes responsibility for faulty equipment	Manufacturer only
Community benefit	Income from grid flexibility returned to Ovingdean	None
Long-term relationship	Co-operative committed to Sussex communities	No ongoing relationship

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Simply visit bhesco.co.uk/ovingdean or scan the QR code to register for free. A member of the BHESCo team will then be in touch shortly after.

For any further questions, get in touch with the BHESCo team at ashqua@bhesco.co.uk or **01273 284471**

