

Energise South Downs

Community owned renewables

Catriona Cockburn

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Vision

- The vision of Energise South Downs is to cut carbon emissions within the South Downs and surrounding areas by replacing carbon intensive energy with renewable energy. The renewable energy is generated locally and benefits the local community.

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What is Community Energy?

- There are over 400 organisations
- £30 million in community shares
- Business and funding support with local authorities decarbonising
- Potential for large scale renewable projects when working as a community, renewables now more affordable
- Community Energy England/Community Energy South

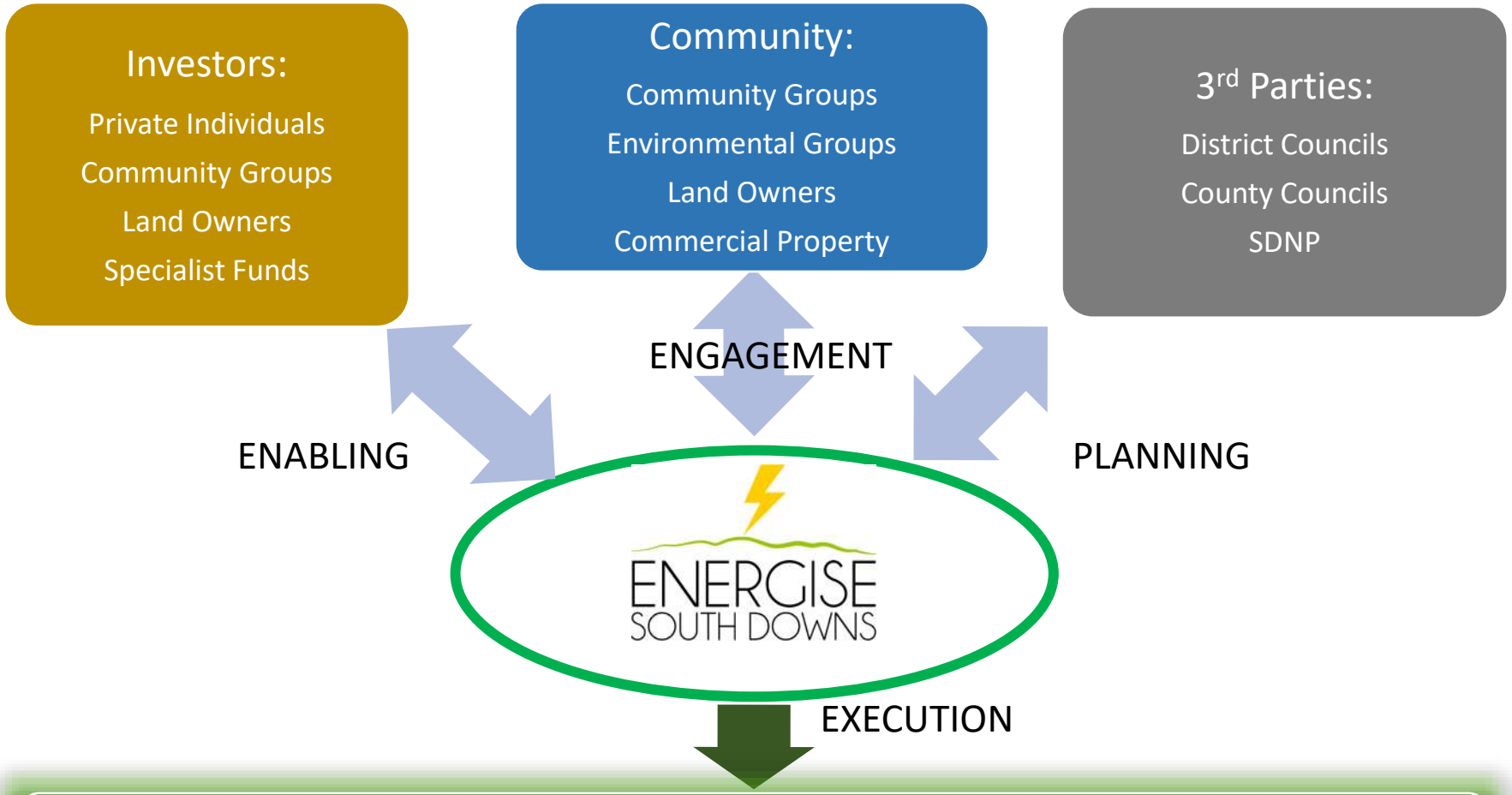
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Energise South Downs - Community Energy

- Name/Geographical Area /Resources
- A CBS/Bencom's business must be entirely for the benefit of the community.
- Any profit made by a community benefit society must be used for the benefit of the community.

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Site Identification

- Feasibility Study
- Site Identification – large scale 300KWp
- Energy Consumption/ Design
- Likely to be there in 20 years
- Financially viable model that works for their owner

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Projects

- Four schools (roof top solar PV)
- Brewery (ground mounted solar PV)
- Farms Dairy/Crop (roof top solar PV)
- Private land owner (ground mounted solar PV)
- Tennis Club (roof top solar PV)
- Flats – 39 households
- Community Centre (Ground mounted solar PV)

- EV charging installation
- District Heating

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Benefits for solar host sites



- Solar at zero capital costs
- Reduction in electricity costs
- A trustworthy non-profits partner
- A beacon for future sites
- Free electricity after 20 years

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Working with third parties

- Local authorities, PC, town, district, county
- District Network Operators
- South Downs National Park
- Community-led Renewables Technical Advice Note (southdowns.gov.uk)
- New guidance on renewables in South Down National Park - South Downs National Park Authority
- https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents/technical-advice-notes-tans/small-scale-renewable-energy-technical-advice-note-tan/

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Community Benefits

- Contributes to tackling the climate crisis
- Generates renewable energy locally, reducing transmission losses
- Provides local control over renewable energy projects/energy security.
- Provides cheaper energy to local residents and organisations/reducing fuel poverty
- Provides local jobs, uses local installers. 58,000 skilled jobs both directly and indirectly through the renewable energy sector
- Provides cheaper energy to local residents and organisations/reducing fuel poverty
- Profits will go towards new projects and other community benefits. In 2020 community energy groups spent £895,000 on energy efficiency upgrades resulting in 45,795 people in warmer homes with reduced energy bills
- Given the right support community energy could increase by 12-20 times by 2030. This would allow the sector to provide power to 2.2 million homes. Reducing emissions by 2.5 million tonnes of Co2 emissions every year
- Provides a financial return to local investors in 2021 the community energy sector raised £21.5 m investment for new projects across the UK

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Financially viable models for community energy projects

- Key factors
- Install cost Capex for PV system/Install/DNO costs
- Opex Renting a site roof, field/PV maintenance/repair.
- Yield How much electricity is expected to be generated year on year over its lifetime
- Revenue site PPA export
- External variables current energy price on site/Investor 4% PA over 20 years

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Investors

- Share platforms
- i) Shareenergy
- ii) Ethex
- In house or partnership with another Community Energy Group.

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Challenges

- The government has declared a climate emergency with a carbon net zero by 2050.
- Planning i)Grade 3B land for solar farms. Protect land/increase biodiversity. Dual use of land eg Agrivoltaics
- Local opposition – community owned
- DNO - Infrastructure/Local area energy plan
- Local Electricity Bill

Other models Ripple/Energy Local – owned by the consumer

Empowering, engages people to become active members of society 2000 1% renewables now 45%.Less than 1% owned by the community. Helping people buy into their community energy, get a return and have profits go into the community

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Where do we go from here?

- Discuss the plans/ambitions of an organisation
- Feasibility Study
- Financially viable model
- Design/Install renewables
- Reduce Energy Costs/ Carbon Emissions
- Costing the earth
- hello@energisesouthdowns.org.uk

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