

Plymouth Community Energy - Chelson Meadow

RCEF Stage:
1 & 2

Key Facts

3,800 homes powered each year

Over 13MW renewable energy produced each year

3,330 tonnes of carbon saved each year

9 full time jobs created

25% improvement in biodiversity

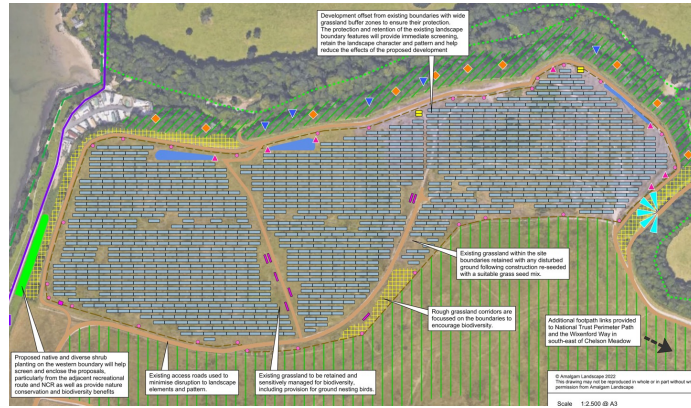
Key Figures

Energy Generation	Over 13mw annually
CO2 savings	3,300 tonnes annually
RCEF grant	Stage 1: £30,000 Stage 2: £99,889

Further notes

LEP area Heart of the South West

Link for further info: [Plymouth Energy Community | Chelson Meadow Community Solar](#) and [Plymouth Energy Community | Plymouth's old landfill site is set for a...](#)



The Story

A community owned solar farm in Plymouth on an ex-landfill site owned by Plymouth City Council. A joint venture will be established between Plymouth Energy Community and Plymouth City Council with part of the funding raised through a community share offer. Multiple challenges for the site (see below) managed through close partnership working with stakeholders. Additionally, an evidence led approach has been taken to satisfying complex planning criteria for the site. PEC are looking to establish a long-term synthetic PPA with the council for the sale of the power.

Challenges & Risks

Key challenges around building on an ex-landfill site with active landfill gas recovery. Additionally the site is adjacent to a National Trust owned Registered Park and Gardens, in the Strategic Green Space for Plymouth and has interesting wildlife on site. Information was shared on potential wildlife impact early in the process – a negative campaign was developed off that preliminary information that persists despite a commitment to 25% biodiversity net gain.

Lessons learned

Running a process where formal pre-application planning advice has been paid for and requested has been really useful in tackling the complexity of the challenges. This can make the planning process more expensive but makes it easier to identify what people's requirements are. Significant project management time is required to drive the project forward and put in a good quality planning application.