

# Plans and strategy for the coming year

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## Where we are



Raised £15million (roughly half from the community)



Built 16 renewable energy projects, generating over 9,436 MWh (Megawatt Hours) a year of electricity



Channelled over £350,000 into community initiatives



An estimated 1911 tonnes of carbon dioxide saved each year



£40,000 bill savings a year for our host sites

## **Last year's plan:**

“Do more of the same, but faster, at more scale”



## **This year's plan:**

“Do more of the same, but faster, at more scale”



“Do more of the same, but faster, at more scale”

- More staff
- More projects
- More connections with the business sector
- Expand our collaborations and engagement
- Increase our policy and comms work
- Crack the institutional investment nut



# Current activity:

## Netham Weir hydro

Currently at procurement stage.

## Rooftop PV

- 1MW array at the second Bottle Yard film studios. Over 2000 panels. Believed to be the UK's largest community-owned solar rooftop. Complete by the end of 2022.
- Bristol Beacon Spring 2023 install.
- Many more in the pipeline.
- Sept 2022 – BEC awarded a £560,000 grant from the West of England Combined Authority's Green Recovery Fund. To be used to develop additional rooftop PV schemes.



# Current activity:

## Community microgrids

- The 2 microgrids BEC funded in Bristol and Bridport are now well advanced. Over half the residents have now moved into the Water Lilies site and the first few residents are in at Hazelmead. It will take a year before the microgrids are fine-tuned and fully operational.

## Microgrid Foundry

- BEC has a 49% stake in the Microgrid Foundry, which led to the development of the above microgrids. In September 2022 the Microgrid Foundry won a £50,000 grant from Innovate UK's FastStart scheme.
- Also in Sept MF was announced as part of a winning bid to the international Climate Smart Cities Challenge (CSCC). Launched by the UN and Sweden, CSCC aims to innovate on a number of climate and sustainability challenges which cities face, and combine the results to achieve multiple, large-scale, transformative outcomes.



# Current activity - microgrids

- There are 4 cities acting as “system demonstrator” sites in the Challenge: Bogotá in Colombia, Curitiba in Brazil, Makindye Ssabagabo in Uganda, and Bristol in the UK. CSCC’s ultimate aim is to mobilize over \$300 million to implement those demonstrators that are successful.
- Each city has a different challenge theme. Bristol’s is to provide a financing and development model to build out affordable, zero carbon homes. The Foundry is part of the winning consortium Thriving Places. It will work with Bristol City Council, who is providing suitable demonstrator sites.
- More information: [climatesmart.citieschallenge.org](https://climatesmart.citieschallenge.org)



# Current activity

## Standalone battery storage project

BEC has entered into exclusivity with a project developer to invest in a Battery Energy Storage System.



# Current activity

## Energy efficiency

BEC is working with other organisations to establish a framework for whole-house, whole street retrofit at a West of England scale. These include the West of England Combined Authority, Bankers without Boundaries, and the UK Infrastructure Bank.



## Collaborations



- A Bristol City Council procurement competition to find a joint venture partner who will provide up to £1 billion to help support the delivery of the UK's first carbon neutral city by 2030.
- Winning bidder: Ameresco Ltd, with Vattenfall Heat UK Ltd as an essential sub-contractor.
- Contract on track to be signed by end of 2022.

A **Bristol Community Energy** sector proposition to the City Leap bidders

**BRISTOL**  
city leap

BUILDING A CARBON NEUTRAL BRISTOL



# Bristol community energy sector proposition to City Leap

## What are we looking for – at high level?

Delivery of a democratic and decentralised zero carbon energy system in Bristol.



Catalyse and support the funding of community-led renewable energy project development across the city and wider area.



Enable the community to invest in and own Bristol City Leap projects from small scale local generation projects led by community energy groups to city-wide infrastructure projects led by the strategic JV partner



Enable the community to participate in the delivery of City Leap through democratic representation within City Leap governance structure.



An annual minimum payment from Bristol City Leap into a Participatory Budget Fund for projects contributing to climate emergency and wider community support. Could be split into neighbourhood budgets.

# Collaborations



Accelerating the zero-carbon transition  
in the West of England



Lead by Bristol Green Capital Partnership  
Additional £2.5m grant funding received in 2022

# Energy policy

- Tackling energy efficiency has to be a national priority, particularly for homes that are experiencing or are at risk of fuel poverty. It is therefore astonishing that in addressing the energy crisis the government largely ignores energy efficiency and focuses instead on offering new licences for oil and gas exploration in the North Sea.
- Renewable energy is currently multiple times cheaper than fossil fuels. We have plenty of it available around the UK, and it can be built out quicker than fossil fuel projects. This means renewables can simultaneously bring down energy prices and increase energy security.
- BEC, through its membership of Community Energy England, continues to lobby government to adopt a credible strategy in both financial and environmental terms.



Thanks for your support!

