



## Transforming communities through social investment

sustainable energy – social investment – community – csr

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# Investing in community energy – the social investment perspective

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**Community Energy, Fuel Poverty and Social Investment**  
**A Learning event for Big Local Areas and Partnerships**  
**Friday March 7th 2014**

Pure Leapfrog registered Charity No. 111224, Company No. 05534395 registered in England & Wales



# Pure Leapfrog mission

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Pure Leapfrog is the leading provider of social investment and professional support to community energy projects in the UK.



We are a business led charity which works in partnership with Government, investors and communities.



We bring together affordable finance and accessible expertise.

Finance is secured through a credit facility from Big Society Capital. Expertise is provided by our professional partner network.

Our mission is to ensure that community energy becomes a significant part of the sustainable energy mix in the UK.



# Pure Leapfrog track record

90+ community energy projects supported to date

Triple bottom line benefits of our loans

Financial return:	4.62%
Carbon reductions:	20kg per £1 loaned out
Net community benefit:	>£5 per £1 loaned out



**Staffordshire Sunny Schools**  
 Loan Capital – Big Society Capital  
 Project Sponsor - Barclaycard



**Ham Hydro**  
 Professional Services – Norton Rose,  
 Grant Thornton



**Fenham Leisure Centre**  
 Loan Capital – Big Society Capital,  
 Project Sponsor – British Airways



# Why community energy?

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- Stakeholders for sustainability
  - Converting NIMBYs into YIMBYs
- Economic multipliers
  - For every £1 that Pure Leapfrog lends, over £5 of net benefit is created in local communities
- Creating a new, sustainable energy business model
  - Making power users responsible for power generation



# Staffordshire Sunny Schools

- We're supporting Generation Community to install solar panels on 25 schools in Staffordshire
- The project will save between £1.8 – 2.8 million in electricity bills for the schools
- 15,000 school children will immediately benefit from the projects, learning a valuable lesson about the importance of sustainability
- Surplus income from the solar panels will create a £170,000 - £350,000 community fund to support further community initiatives in Staffordshire



# Streets of solar

- We're supporting Bristol Power Co-op to extend their Streets of Solar project to another deprived area of Bristol
- 23 households currently have installations and a further 25 are planned
- Householders will use around half of the energy generated by the panels, resulting in smaller bills for the residents and a reduction of fuel poverty
- Surplus income from the solar panels will create between £60,000 - £100,000 for Bristol power to fund further projects



# Current state of play

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- 600 community groups with a strong interest in renewables
  - 150-300 developed or developing a project
- 66MW generating, >200MW in development
- £17 million raised through 40 share offers from 10,000 investors



# 2020 ambitions

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- 780 community energy companies
  - £1.5 billion raised from over 550,000 members
  - £2 billion raised in debt
- 3GW of wind, solar and hydro
  - 14% of total capacity for these technologies
  - 1.4% of total UK electricity consumption
- £1.3 billion to be re-invested back into communities by 2040
  - 12 times greater 100% commercial model





# Key sectors for scaling up

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- Community “buy-in” to commercial projects
  - Getting the business case right from a corporate structure and funding perspective
- Collaboration with local authorities
  - Partnerships with existing community energy groups
  - How to support the development of new groups
- Commercial finance
  - Increase funding capacity to £10 million
  - Building investor base & pipeline





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