

## CASE STUDY - Good Energy actively support community benefit



### Good Energy's Dorset solar farms: Community benefits

Founded in 1999 on a mission to help tackle climate change and build energy security in the UK, Good Energy is both a supplier and generator of 100% renewable electricity. To help meet growing demand from homes and businesses, the Wiltshire-based company is continuing to develop its own renewable electricity projects across the UK.

Good Energy is a responsible developer and is committed to ensuring that for all its projects, agriculture, wildlife and renewable energy can flourish side by side, and that the benefits of each development are shared with the local communities that host them.

Dorset enjoys some of the highest levels of sunshine in the country, making it ideal for generating electricity efficiently from solar PV technology. This is among the many good reasons that Good Energy has chosen to develop a number of solar projects in Dorset. In doing so, the company has established strong connections with the region. We continue to be keen to play a part in helping the county to meet its target of generating 7.5% of its energy consumption from renewables by 2050. Our first solar farm, at Woolbridge, near Wool in East Dorset, began generating renewable electricity in June 2014. Since then, the company has begun work on two additional solar farms in Dorset - at Oaklands near Wareham and Crossroads Farm near Alderholt. A third, in Mapperton, near Almer in East Dorset, was recently submitted to the planning authority for consideration.

### Here are some examples of how Good Energy's solar farm projects in Dorset can provide benefits to local communities, to agriculture and to wildlife:

- Good Energy has committed to delivering an annual community benefit fund worth £1,000 per MW of installed capacity, rising with inflation for the lifetime of all of its solar projects. The first instalment of Woolbridge solar farm's community fund has already been delivered to East Stoke and Wool Community Chest (ESWCC). The ESWCC will decide how the money will be distributed by, and for the benefit of, the local community (see picture).
- Solar panels have been installed on the roofs of three primary schools local to Woolridge solar farm – Bovington, Wool Church of England and St Mary & St Joseph. Panels have also been installed at the D'Urberville village hall. In addition to this a £10,000 donation has been given to the East Stoke Village Hall rebuild project.
- Keen for its solar projects to deliver educational benefits, in December 2014, pupils from the three local primary schools visited Woolbridge solar farm, taking a tour of the solar arrays, planting new trees and exploring the wildlife on site. For the latter activity, they were accompanied by a member of the Butterfly Conservation charity which is based nearby in Wareham. Good Energy hopes to invite the pupils back later in the spring to see the wildflower meadow in full bloom.
- A wildflower meadow and rough grassland pasture have been created at Woolbridge solar farm, to encourage pollinating insects and allow sheep to graze the land.
- At Oaklands solar farm some areas will be adapted to recreate heathland and a wetland area providing habitat for wetland and heathland species.
- Good Energy's proposals for Mapperton Solar Farm Good Energy include plans to create wildlife corridors on site connecting existing wildlife in the nearby Great Coll Wood. This will be achieved by planting new native hedgerow. We will also install roosting bird and bat boxes and refuges for small mammals such as hedgehogs.

