

Charter to guide the administration of the South Brent Community Energy Fund (SBCEF)

We shall use the SBCEF in ways that are consistent with, and help to progress, the objects of the Society which are *“to promote the social, economic and environmental benefit of the community of South Brent and environs by the generation, storage and distribution of renewable energy and the promotion of energy efficiency.”*

1. The general purpose of the fund is: ‘to reduce the carbon footprint and environmental impact of the village.’
2. The fund may be used for:
 - a. **enhancing community buildings:** Investing to improve the energy efficiency and clean energy generating potential of the community buildings around the village (including the Village Hall, Old School Centre, Pavilion, Primary School and Parish Church);
 - b. **investing in further schemes that generate more clean energy:** making further investments in schemes which generate clean energy where these result in further income for the society;
 - c. **enhancing domestic properties** through energy efficiency and generating measures at individual households through local charities or other organisations working for the benefit of the community;
 - d. **raising community awareness** of the need for clean, renewable energy and best practice to minimise carbon emissions and environmental impact;
 - e. **other innovative proposals** that progress the Society’s objects in ways that we cannot yet imagine!
3. In consultation with the Society’s members and community stakeholders the Society’s board shall develop proposals for the use of funds and present an annual report on the SBCEF for the AGM.
4. The General Meeting of the Society shall decide the principles and policy within which the fund operates (including this document) and in the event of contention on which scheme(s) to pursue shall vote on priorities for investment.
5. Investment will be prioritised based on the social, economic and environmental benefits accruing to the community of South Brent and environs.
6. In general, we will seek to prioritise fewer, larger schemes.
7. We will seek to minimise the burden of work and costs falling to the Society and its volunteers in the administration and operation of the fund.
8. We will seek to make the most effective and tax-efficient use of SBCEF funds. The fund may be used for the making grants and/or investments (i.e. taking a financial stake).
9. Planning for the longer term: the Society will consider the longer term and the possibility of further schemes extending beyond the life of the wind turbine at Marley Thatch. In addition to using the funds in the SBCEF, such schemes may involve a further round of fundraising and opportunity for subscribers to invest in the Society.
10. Engaging volunteers: progressing any new schemes is dependent upon the energy, skill and commitment of volunteers. We will prioritise schemes which have the active support of members and the wider community and individuals prepared to take the leadership roles needed to see them through.
11. We will put the fund’s resources to work as soon as reasonably possible.