Impact Report 2025



avalon community energy

Produced by Avalon Community Energy Limited
A Community Benefit Society
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Impact Report 2025



As Chair of Avalon Community Energy, I am pleased to present this report reflecting on our progress, achievements, and challenges over the 2025–2026 financial year. This has been a pivotal period for our organisation, marked by continued growth, strengthened partnerships, and a renewed commitment to delivering community-led solutions to the climate crisis.

A Year of Progress and Purpose

Over the past year, Avalon Community Energy has continued to build on its core mission: to empower our community to generate, manage, and benefit from local, renewable energy. In doing so, we have made meaningful strides towards reducing carbon emissions, addressing fuel poverty, and fostering resilience within our local area.

Despite an evolving and sometimes uncertain policy and economic landscape, the organisation has remained focused, adaptive, and grounded in its community values.

Key Achievements

During 2025–2026, we have successfully:

- **Expanded Renewable Energy Generation:**
  We have progressed the development of community-owned renewable energy projects, installing PV on several new rooftop solar installations across local buildings with the Glastonbury Town Deal Funding. These projects not only increase local generation capacity, provide more affordable electricity to the occupants but also provide a sustainable revenue streams to reinvest in future community initiatives.
- **Supported Energy Efficiency Initiatives:**
  Recognising the continued pressures of rising energy costs, Avalon Community Energy's Community Benefit Fund has delivered support to improving energy efficiency in people's homes. These efforts are helping to reduce energy bills and tackle fuel poverty.
- **Built Strategic Partnerships:**
  We have strengthened our collaboration with local authorities, other community energy organisations, and regional energy networks.
- **Enhanced Governance and Capacity:**
  Internally, the organisation has continued to mature. We have strengthened our governance processes. But we have also faced having had to say goodbye to

numerous directors and our administrator during this year. We actively look for more directors with complimentary skills to support Avalon Community Energy's board. If you are interested please get in touch.

Financial Overview

While financial pressures remain a reality for many community organisations, Avalon Community Energy has overall managed to maintain a stable position over the reporting year. The Glastonbury Town Deal funding has enabled the delivery of some new roof top PV installations to which we are delighted to have achieved but the main Clean Energy Project's community solar farm was refused at planning which was extremely disappointing. This means that unfortunately the income from this project to support the future development of Avalon Community Energy can't be fulfilled. Careful financial management, combined with future diversified income streams—through grants, project revenues, and partnerships will be explored to enabled us to sustain operations and invest in future development.

We remain committed to transparency, accountability, and ensuring that all financial decisions align with our social and environmental objectives.

Challenges and Learning

This year has not been without its challenges. The complexity of energy markets, regulatory changes, planning refusal impacting on the ability to deliver a funded project to give stability to future income for reinvestment along with rising project costs have required resilience and adaptability.

However, these challenges have provided valuable learning. We have strengthened our strategic planning processes, improved risk management, and reaffirmed the importance of collaboration and innovation.

Looking Ahead

As we look forward to 2026–2027, Avalon Community Energy is well positioned to build on the progress achieved this year. Our priorities include:

- Increasing engagement with other community energy entities and councils
- Strengthening partnerships across the region
- Expanding community-owned renewable energy projects
- Scaling up energy efficiency and retrofit programmes
- Continuing to advocate for policy that supports community energy

We will also place a strong emphasis on inclusivity, ensuring that the benefits of the energy transition are shared fairly across our community.

Acknowledgements

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated and committed board members Keith, Sonya, Jon, who have kept supporting Avalon Community Energy despite the turbulence that has affected the delivery of the project we have been working so hard to deliver over the past 5 years. Thank you also to our volunteers, partners, and funders. Most importantly, I thank our project delivery lead Sam for all his patience and hard work delivering the Clean Energy Project despite the challenges faced beyond our control that made it difficult to fully deliver. And I give thanks to all of the community members who support and believe in our work.

Your commitment is what makes Avalon Community Energy not just an organisation, but a movement for positive change.

Cara Naden
Chair
Avalon Community Energy
2026

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Community Benefit Fund Committee Report 2025/26

1. Introduction

The Community Benefit Fund (CBF) Committee continued to support vulnerable households across the local area during 2025/26, focusing on practical interventions that improve warmth, comfort, safety, and quality of life for residents experiencing financial hardship.

The year has highlighted the continuing pressures faced by low-income households, particularly around rising living costs, energy affordability, and the condition of housing. Demand for support with flooring, insulation-related improvements, and basic household essentials remained consistently high.

Alongside direct grant support, the Committee also worked collaboratively with local organisations and community partners to raise awareness of energy efficiency measures and identify opportunities for future development.

2. Overview of Applications and Support

During the reporting period, the Committee considered a range of applications from households facing significant financial and social challenges.

The majority of applications related to:

- Replacement flooring and carpets
- Improving warmth and insulation within homes
- Supporting families moving into unfurnished or minimally furnished accommodation
- Assisting households with disabled family members
- Reducing fuel poverty and improving energy efficiency

The Committee continued to work closely with referral partners including housing providers, schools, family support advisers, and community organisations.

Several applications were received from households outside the Committee's operational area. In these cases, applicants were signposted to more appropriate local organisations for support.

Unfortunately, a small number of applications could not proceed due to safeguarding or property access concerns, including circumstances where contractors were unwilling to undertake work within the home environment.

3. Partnership Working and Community Engagement

The Committee strengthened its collaborative work during the year through engagement with local organisations and environmental initiatives.

Wells EcoWeek Partnership

The Community Benefit Fund worked alongside the Centre for Sustainable Energy during Wells EcoWeek to promote energy efficiency measures for local households.

A community information stall attracted approximately 30 visitors who received advice and guidance on:

- Improving home energy efficiency
- Reducing heating costs
- Managing fuel poverty
- Accessing available support services

The event provided an opportunity to raise awareness of practical measures that can help residents reduce energy consumption and improve warmth within their homes.

Referral Networks

The Committee maintained positive working relationships with:

- Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)
- Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE)
- Local schools and family support teams
- Housing associations and local agencies

While these partnerships remain valuable, referral numbers from some organisations have been lower than anticipated. Discussions are ongoing regarding how eligibility criteria and outreach could be broadened to ensure the fund reaches more households in need.

4. Emerging Themes and Future Opportunities

Several themes emerged during the year which may help shape future priorities for the Community Benefit Fund.

Expanding Eligibility

There has been discussion around potentially extending support to owner-occupiers experiencing fuel poverty and housing hardship, in addition to tenants.

Renewable Energy Initiatives

The Wells Environment Network has also begun exploring opportunities to support residents through:

- Plug-in solar panel schemes
- Community leasing models for solar panels
- Initiatives aimed at reducing long-term household electricity costs

These proposals could provide innovative ways to tackle energy affordability while supporting wider environmental objectives.

Grant Limits

As demand and installation costs have continued to rise, the Board reviewed the current grant threshold to ensure support remains meaningful and responsive to applicants' needs. It was therefore agreed that the maximum grant available per application should be increased to £500, better reflecting the current cost of flooring and associated installation works.

5. Case Study Summaries

The following anonymised case studies provide an overview of the types of support provided during the year.

Supporting a Resident Experiencing Fuel Poverty

One resident living alone in an older property had been without benefits support for an extended period and was experiencing severe financial hardship. The condition of the property made it difficult to heat effectively, forcing the resident to make ongoing choices between heating and food.

To manage energy costs, the resident had restricted daily living to a single room in the house. Essential flooring and curtains were missing from several rooms, contributing to heat loss and poor living conditions.

The application sought support for basic home improvements to improve insulation, retain heat more effectively, and create a safer and warmer living environment.

Flooring Support for a Housing Association Tenant

A referral was received from a housing provider for a tenant requiring support to install carpeting in a hall and staircase area. The household was unable to meet the full cost of flooring following financial hardship.

The Committee contributed towards the overall cost, with additional funding secured from other sources to complete the work.

Support for a Young Family Moving into New Accommodation

The Committee considered an application from a young parent caring for a child with additional needs who had recently moved into social housing.

As part of the tenancy process, existing flooring had been removed, leaving the family without suitable carpeting in the main living area. Support was requested to help make the property safe, comfortable, and appropriate for family life.

The application was supported through partnership working with a local school-based family support adviser.

Assistance for a Low-Income Family with a Disabled Child

An application was received from a single parent household with two children, one of whom has a disability. The family was living on a low income in rented accommodation and required assistance with bedroom flooring.

The Committee recognised that suitable flooring would improve comfort, warmth, and living conditions for the family while helping maintain a safe environment for the children.

6. Committee Reflections

The Committee remains committed to providing practical, targeted support that directly improves the wellbeing of vulnerable residents.

The year has demonstrated the continued importance of small grants that can make an immediate difference to:

- Household warmth and comfort
- Safety within the home
- Energy efficiency
- Family wellbeing
- Dignity and quality of life

The Committee will continue exploring new partnerships, reviewing grant criteria, and developing innovative approaches to address fuel poverty and housing hardship within the community.

7. Conclusion

During 2025/26, the Community Benefit Fund Committee continued to provide valuable support to households facing significant hardship.

Through collaborative working, practical grant assistance, and community engagement, the Committee has helped residents improve living conditions, reduce the impact of fuel poverty, and create safer and warmer homes.

While the number of grants awarded during the year has been relatively small, the feedback received from applicants highlights the significant difference the support has made. In many cases, residents had nowhere else to turn for assistance and were extremely grateful for the help provided. Even modest interventions have had a substantial impact on improving living conditions, warmth, and overall wellbeing.

As financial pressures continue to affect vulnerable households, the role of the Community Benefit Fund remains an important part of local community support and resilience.

Madeleine Milnes, Chair of Community Benefit Fund Committee

May 2026

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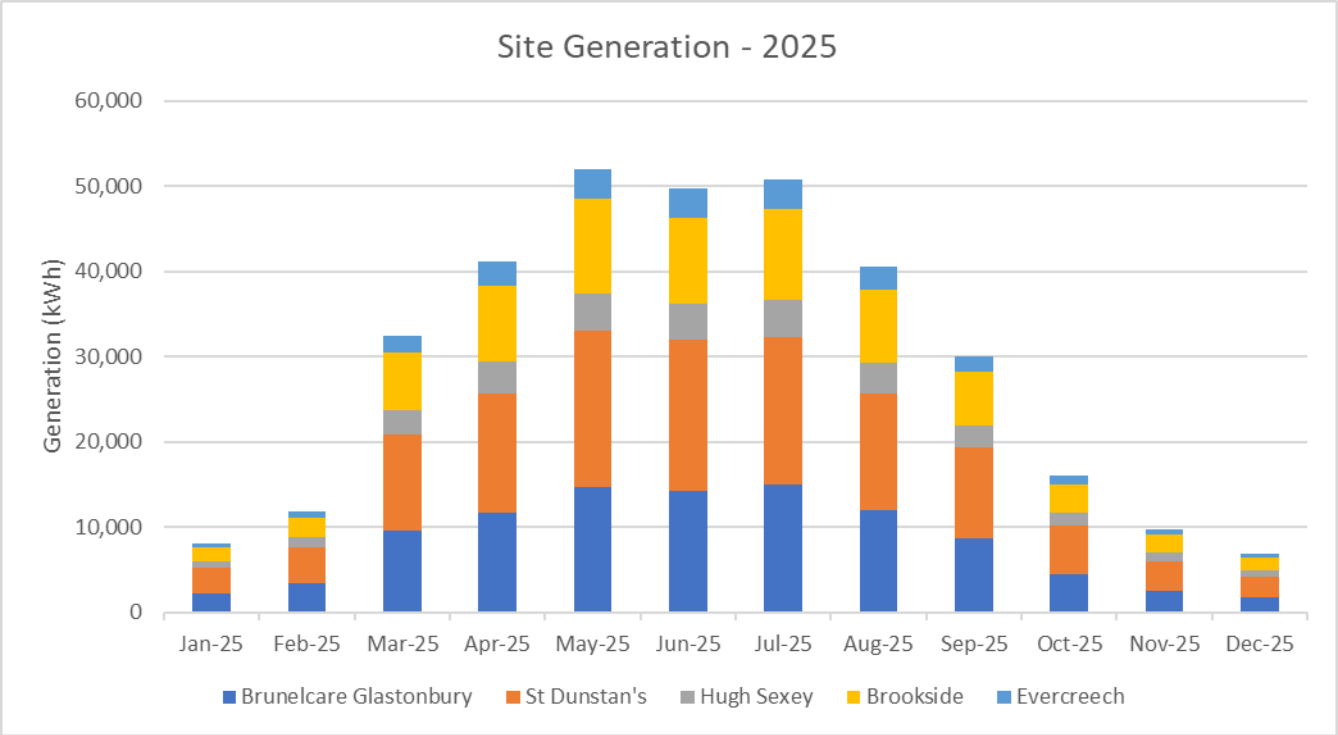
Performance review for 2025

Key Financial Headlines

- Total income: **£196,928**
  - Electricity sales: **£32,969**
  - Feed-in Tariffs: **£6,469**
  - Grant Income released in year: **£157,490**
- Operating Profit: **£25,855**
- Interest paid to shareholders (in-year 2025): **£3,942**
- Final reported profit: **£21,913**
- Cash at bank: **£601,991**
- Fixed assets: **£302,580** (down from £323,119 in 2024)

Operational Highlights

- The 5 sites generated a total of 349,431 kWh of electricity in 2025.
  - Brunelcare Glastonbury and St Dunstan's generated the bulk of the electricity for the year, at 100,134kWh and 121,948kWh respectively



- This breakdown corresponds approximately to the amount of income received in relation to each site:
  - Brookside: £4,651

  - Evercreech: £7,530
  - Hugh Sexey: £6,391
  - Brunelcare: £11,863
  - St Dunstan's School: £9,002
- It should be noted that FiT income for the period Jun-24 to Mar-26 for **Evercreech** was received in Mar-26, following engagement with the FiT Licensee (EDF). An accrual has been recorded to reflect this income in the correct financial year in the accounts.
- It should be noted that FiT income for the period Jun-24 to Mar-26 for **Hugh Sexey** has not yet been received, however following engagement with the FiT Licensee (Good Energy) invoices have been issued and funds have been promised in Jun-26. An accrual has been recorded to reflect this income in the correct financial year in the accounts.
- It should be noted that FiT income for the period Mar-25 to Mar-26 for **Brookside** has not yet been received, due to meter issues requiring a replacement in 2026 which prevented readings from being taken. This is the subject of ongoing liaison between the FiT Licensee (British Gas) and our Asset Manager, Bright Renewables.
- Interest and capital repayments to shareholders are funded entirely from unrestricted trading surplus.
- Cash reserves remain strong, although most are earmarked for project commitments.
- No loans or long-term debt – the organisation maintains a strong financial risk position.

Corporation Tax

- As Avalon Community Energy made a profit during 2025, it is anticipated that a payment for Corporation Tax will be due. We have carried forward trading losses; however, we are waiting on final confirmation of corporation tax amounts from the auditors.

Somerset Council

- Following financial year end, on 27th January 2026, £320,000 of grant funding was repaid to Somerset County Council.