



DORSET COMMUNITY ENERGY

COMMUNITY FUND

INFORMATION BOOKLET 2026



ABOUT DCE



The purpose of Dorset Community Energy (DCE) is to fight climate change, increase generation of renewable energy across Dorset and benefit the local community. For over a decade, DCE has been delivering community-owned renewable energy infrastructure.

We have raised over £1 million in community share investment from local people to fund and manage more than 30 solar PV installations across schools, hospitals and community buildings.



ABOUT THE FUND



As we are a not-for-profit Community Benefit Society, any surpluses we realise, after paying back our member investors, are put back into local communities via our Community Fund. We have given out over £35,000 since DCE began. The Community Fund will grow over the 20-year project life, and in 2026 stands at £16,250.

The fund offers grants of up to £2000 to charities, organisations and community projects that aim to reduce carbon emissions, address fuel poverty, promote environmental resilience and reduce biodiversity loss across Dorset and BCP areas.

The fund is managed by the Wessex Reinvestment Trust. Applications are considered in April and October each year. **The deadline for the first round of applications is 15th April 2026.**

In the past we have supported: community energy projects; food and fuel poverty initiatives; energy efficiency measures; resilience projects; green weeks; recycling groups; upskilling projects and more.

ELIGIBILITY



- The location of the project must be in the geographical area of Dorset and BCP Councils.
- The application could be on behalf of a community or voluntary group, self-help group, charity, church or educational establishment.
- Your project must aim to reduce carbon emissions and/or could address some of the following issues:
 - Energy efficiency
 - Fuel poverty
 - Environmental resilience
 - Biodiversity loss
 - Local food
 - Sustainable transport
 - Waste reduction
- The project work may aim to deliver some of the following secondary objectives:
 - Addressing a specific community issue, concern or problem
 - Educating people of all ages
 - Providing vocational training and/or support for volunteers
 - Raising awareness or offering practical support to reduce carbon emissions or fuel poverty

Note: carbon reduction does not just relate to energy projects. This might also include local food, sustainable transport or waste reduction activities.

CASE STUDY



FUTURE PORTLAND: COMMUNITY ALLOTMENTS

The Future Portland Community Benefit Society is working to secure community ownership of two acres of France Quarry to protect the area from potential development and prioritise the use of green spaces for wildlife habitats and community health and wellbeing.

The DCE Community Fund recently supported Future Portland's community clean-up and launch event at France Quarry.



HOW TO APPLY



- To apply please submit your application via this [link](#)
- Or visit our website to download a printable version of the application form
- You will be asked these five main questions:

- What is the grant for?
- What is the amount you are applying for?
- How does your application meet the criteria?
- What areas you are addressing?
- What impact do you expect?

- Please refer to the eligibility criteria to help you with the application
- Typically applications are in the range of £500 to £2000
- DCE reserves the right to offer less than the funding applied for, in the event of a high number of eligible applications
- **Applications are reviewed twice a year in April and October.**

Deadline for the first round of applications is
Wednesday 15th April 2026.

CONTACT US



ANY QUESTIONS OR ISSUES WITH THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

Please contact our Communications & Engagement Coordinator, Huda Javed:
huda@dorsetcommunityenergy.org.uk

LEARN MORE ABOUT DORSET COMMUNITY ENERGY!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE:



www.dorsetcommunityenergy.org.uk