



■ Bristol Community Energy Fund

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KEYWORDS: COMMUNITY ENERGY

DURATION: Since 2015

WHO: Bristol City Council, local associations, NGOs and citizens groups, businesses

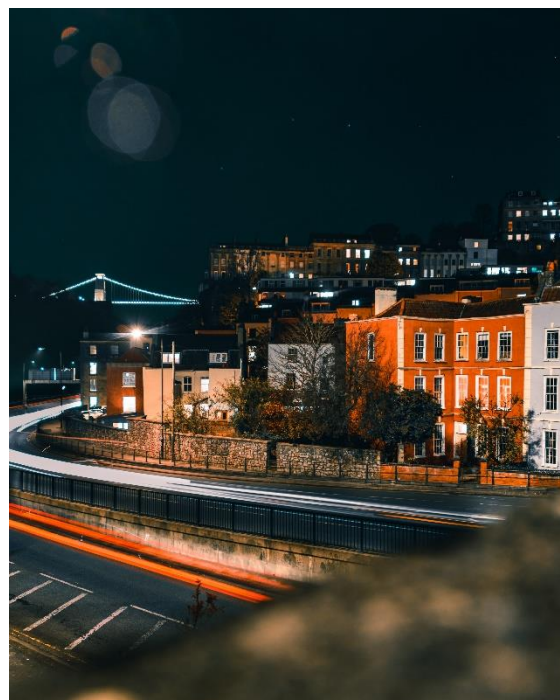
BUDGET: Total amount of grants: £ 223,869; total amount of funds: £128,000

SUMMARY

Bristol Community Energy Fund is an **energy scheme** created by Bristol City Council in 2015 with the aim of supporting and enhancing local energy production and consumption. More specifically, the initiative supports local groups through grant and loan offers and enable them to develop projects on sustainability, renewable energy and energy efficiency in the Greater Bristol area. The Bristol Community Energy Fund collaborates also with local businesses to support them to contribute to and address environmental and social issues in the city.

GOALS

- Promote **local energy production** and consumption;
- Support the development of projects on **sustainability, renewable energy and energy efficiency** by providing grants and loans to local groups and associations;
- **Foster active participation** of citizens and their collaboration with the local authorities and businesses contributing to the energy transition.



HOW IT WORKS

The administration of the loan is run by the Community Energy Fund in collaboration with the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE). The organisations wishing to receive a loan need to send an application for a project. The applications are then analysed and selected by a decision panel formed by officers from Bristol City Council and the CSE.

“Bristol City Council has demonstrated that local authorities joining forces with their community can achieve big things. We already have links with our local groups and will now be exploring the possibility of what we can do working together

→ Jane Altouyan, Southampton City Council

The organisations can use the loan for the following activities:

- Planning application costs;
- Solicitors fees for a landowner lease agreement;
- Solicitors fees for a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA);
- Financial modelling;
- Accountants fees for financial due diligence;
- Preparation and launch of share offer;
- Community engagement and consultation;
- Project management costs;
- Costs of arranging a grid connection.

So far, **39 different projects** have been funded through the Bristol Community Energy Fund. The overview of the projects can be found [online](#).

To date, the total amount of grants that have been issued through the grants programme of Bristol Community Energy Fund is £ 223,869. In November 2017, the Bristol Community Energy Fund has distributed £128,000 to local organisations and groups in order to support them to develop innovative projects on sustainability and renewable energy in the Greater Bristol area.

According to a monitoring and evaluation study of the Bristol Energy Network (BEN):

- The Bristol Community Energy Fund developed successful collaborations between new (non-energy) groups and other BEN members;
- The fund managed to reach more vulnerable and deprived areas;
- The participants of the fund found the application process clear and received support valuable;
- Reporting and data collection could be improved;



- The fund would benefit from the organisation of events to share experiences among the different member's organisations.

TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL

Bristol Community Energy Fund represents an innovative initiative contributing to **improving the urban governance** of the Greater Bristol area and to promoting the sustainability and energy transition in the city. The loans and grants offered to local groups for developing sustainability-related projects **empower citizens to become more active** to transform their city and connect them to other organisations and businesses. The Bristol Community Energy Fund model could be adapted and applied in other cities through the collaboration of local authorities with other local stakeholders.

MORE INFORMATION

[Bristol Community Energy Fund's website](#)

