



An update

We're underway! A £28,244 grant has been made available to the parish council to commission a comprehensive **feasibility study**, considering the present and future energy needs of the community, what viable options there are for us to generate our own energy and where such capability could be located.

The Grant Funding Agreement is with The Greater South East Net Zero Hub, the UK government's primary funding mechanism for community energy projects

All this is at no cost to the village or the Parish Council. It just gives us, the community, some reliable data to help us consider our options.

What are we trying to do?

Charsfield Community Energy — a residents group working with the parish council — is exploring, with **Deben Climate Centre**, whether the village can generate its own renewable electricity through a mix of solar and wind power. The aim is to create a local, community-owned energy asset that could reduce energy costs, cut carbon emissions, and generate income that stays within Charsfield for the long term.

This is an ambitious project, but one well within the reach of a community like ours — provided we take the right steps and base our decisions on solid evidence. That is exactly what the next phase of the project is designed to do.

The Feasibility Study: what is it and why does it matter?

Before any turbine turns or solar panels are installed, we need to understand whether renewable generation is technically, financially, and practically viable for Charsfield. A feasibility study gives us that foundation.

This initial phase is about due diligence and discovery. If the feasibility report returns a favourable outcome, Charsfield Community Energy will be positioned to move toward implementation.

This project represents a proactive step by the community to contribute to the UK's net-zero goals while exploring localised power generation.

Our community benefit project is village currently scaled at only 2% the size of the proposed commercial Deben Solar project at Letheringham/Easton and yet it is expected to supply all the electricity that the village needs.

The feasibility study is being carried out by **Locogen Consulting Ltd**, a specialist independent company with over 15 years' experience in renewable energy and a track record of more than 200 community energy projects across England and Scotland. Local co-ordination throughout the study is being provided by **Deben Climate Centre**, again, at no cost to Charsfield. The study started at the end of March 2026.

What will the study tell us?

At the end of the study we will have a clear, evidence-based picture of:

- Whether the land parcels identified are genuinely suitable for solar or wind generation
- The realistic scale and type of any installation
- How well local generation could match Charsfield's energy needs
- What the project would cost to build, run, and maintain over 25 years
- What income or savings it could generate for the community
- Any planning, grid connection, or technical hurdles — and how to address them

It is important to be clear: the feasibility study is not a commitment to build anything. It gives us is the information we need to make a well-informed decision about whether to proceed — and if so, how.



What Will the Study Cover?

The study is structured across five work packages, each building on the previous one.

Stage	Proposed start date / duration	What Happens
WP1: Project Inception	Mid to end March 2026	Locogen meets with Charsfield Community Energy, gathers information about village buildings and land, and agrees key dates and decision points for the study.
WP2: Energy Demand	April-May 2026	An energy profile is built for Charsfield — mapping current electricity demand across homes and community buildings, and modelling likely future demand as more residents adopt heat pumps and electric vehicles.
WP3: Generation Opportunities	June-July 2026	Identified land parcels around Charsfield are assessed for their suitability for solar panels and wind generation, taking into account visual, ecological, planning, and technical constraints.
WP4: Energy & Financial Modelling	June - July 2026	The best-fit generation options are modelled against Charsfield's energy demand, and a full 25-year financial model is produced — covering capital costs, running costs, and projected income or savings.
WP5: Report & Recommendations	August 2026	Locogen produces a full CEF-compliant feasibility report and presents the findings to Charsfield Community Energy and the wider community.



Our energy needs today and in the future

Before we can consider possible energy generation for the community we need to know our current energy needs and to anticipate a few years ahead, as electric vehicles become more common and people take opportunities to step away from oil-based heating.

The community energy project is at an early, exploratory stage and is focused on small-scale, community-led energy solutions that are appropriate for our village. This is not about large, commercial developments or extensive solar farms. Any future proposals would be shaped by us, the local community and designed to reflect the character, preferences and needs of our community.

As part of the feasibility study, a survey is being conducted, on behalf of the community, by our consultants locogen.com

A short questionnaire from Locogen about your house and energy use will be arriving soon. It would be very helpful if you would complete this. Your input at this early stage will help ensure that any ideas taken forward are proportionate, sensitive to the local environment, and genuinely beneficial to residents. No individual household will be identified in any reports or shared beyond Locogan. The purpose is simply to build a broad picture of local energy use and views, so we, as a community, can make informed, community-led decisions.

There will be **many** more opportunities to get involved in the project and help shape our energy future.

How can you get involved?

Thank you to everyone who came along to our public meeting on 10 March 2025. The enthusiasm and constructive questions from residents were hugely encouraging, and they confirmed that this project reflects something Charsfield really cares about: taking meaningful local action on energy and the environment, while keeping the benefits within our community.

Community energy projects work best when the community is genuinely involved throughout. As the study progresses, there will be opportunities to:

- **Join** with others in considering feasible options to develop our own energy supplies
- **Participate** in progress updates and community presentations
- **Ask questions**, make suggestions and give feedback at key decision points

We will keep the village informed as the study progresses and there will be a full community presentation of the findings when the report is complete in the autumn.

For now, completing the questionnaire would be a brilliant first step!



<https://tinyurl.com/mmsvwmpr>

www.charsfieldenergy.org.uk

The initial stage is being led in Charsfield by a core team comprising John Collins, Steve Aylward, Peter Clitheroe, Martin Lyne and Chris Nice.

In addition we have expert support from both Eddie Bryant and from Josh Masters at **Deben Climate Centre** who is managing the project for us. debenclimate.org

Lots of information about Community Energy at communityenergyengland.org

This team will grow as the process continues. Already over 30 people have actively engaged.

For the latest information on the project's progress or to get involved yourself, please get in touch.

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Charsfield Parish Council and Charsfield Community Energy

