



We have great pleasure in reporting that Transition Belper has won the prestigious *Community Energy Champions Winners* title in a national competition launched by The Co-operative in conjunction with the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE). The following press release has been released today to the local media and a further press release will be published by The Co-operative nationally on Monday. We feel that you, as valued subscribers, should be given the opportunity to read it before it becomes available to the general public.

We would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend our next meeting at The Strutts Centre on Tuesday, 3rd July, where the award and the next steps in this exciting project will be discussed.

NEWS RELEASE

BELPER COMMUNITY GROUP WIN COULD SPARK

SURGE IN UK-WIDE RENEWABLE ENERGY

A Belper group has powered its way to the top of a major new national competition designed to energise the community-owned energy sector and bring about a clean energy revolution across the UK.

The "Community Energy Challenge" - launched by The Co-operative in conjunction with the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) - has confirmed Transition Belper as one of seven groups across the UK selected to share £200,000 of support including specialist mentoring, enterprise development and technical advice. The Co-operative wants to see a dramatic increase in community owned renewable energy generation and Transition Belper, dedicated to tackling climate change and reducing carbon emissions, beat-off competition from over 120 other hopefuls to win the innovative competition which will support and showcase the nation's community energy champions - demonstrating replicable technologies and the benefits of community ownership that can leave a lasting legacy for the next generation.

Ian Jackson of Transition Belper said: "We are absolutely delighted. The expertise and support will make a significant difference to our aims of exploring and developing community-owned and run hydro power projects in the Derwent Valley world heritage corridor between Cromford and Derby.

"We believe that renewable energy and carbon reduction programmes would be great news for communities - giving people a say in the generation of energy locally while delivering wider social and environmental benefits. We want to encourage the broadest possible community participation and are keen to hear from members of the public who want to become more involved or, who have ideas about potential sites for hydro power generation."

Paul Monaghan, The Co-operative's Head of Social Goals, said: "The Co-operative's investment can help to unlock the significant potential that community-owned renewable energy has to offer. Community energy can deliver local economic and social benefits in addition to helping the UK to meet its energy and climate change goals however, it can encounter many barriers. Through this competition we will share expertise and provide the tools needed to enable communities to overcome those obstacles and allow them to control, generate and benefit from their own renewable energy. Ambitious community-led projects can contribute to a step-change in people's thinking about energy and, inspire others to take action – we hope to provide a catalyst for a clean energy revolution across the UK."

The Community Energy Challenge will nurture community projects until they are ready for further investment and build. They will then be eligible for other assistance from The Co-operative including The Co-operative Enterprise Hub's revolving £400,000 fund to underwrite community share offers, and finance from The Co-operative Bank which has ear-marked £100 million for community renewables.

For further information about Transition Belper email info@transitionbelper.org visit www.transitionbelper.org or call 07773 667316.

Community groups interested in co-operative solutions to the running of business and services can contact The Co-operative Enterprise Hub by visiting www.co-operative.coop/enterprisehub

The Co-operative Group is the UK's largest mutual business, owned not by private shareholders but by over seven million consumers. It is the UK's fifth biggest food retailer and a major financial services provider, operating The Co-operative Bank and The Co-operative Insurance. Among its other businesses are the number one funeral services provider, the third largest pharmacy chain and one of Britain's largest farming operations. As well as having clear financial and operational objectives, the Group has also set out its social and sustainability goals in its ground-breaking Ethical Plan, which specifies over 50 commitments in these areas. The Group operates 4,800 retail trading outlets, employs more than 100,000 people and has an annual turnover of more than £13bn. Further information is available at www.co-operative.coop

The Community Energy Challenge winners will receive support from the Centre for Sustainable Energy funded by The Co-operative. This will include the assignment of an expert mentor, project planning, community facilitation, enterprise development, technical advice and targeted assistance for key costs at the project development phase (such as legal fees, planning fees, ecological monitoring and site analysis). Visit <http://www.cse.org.uk/projects/view/1178>

Transition Belper Facebook Group

Keep up-to-date with the latest developments and join any discussions on Facebook. [Join us here](#)

Belper's fruit and veg grower's forum

There is a Facebook Group locally for exchanging tips and ideas for your garden and anything to do with growing fruit and veg. [Join the Forum here](#)

Contact

The trustees of Transition Belper are:

Chair – [Ian Jackson](#)

Secretary – [Richard Keighley](#)

Treasurer - Alan Foord

Core Group - Craig Scott

Core Group - [David George](#)

Trustee - Mick Hepworth

Or you can contact us via the Transition Belper email address: info@transitionbelper.org