



Green Investment Plan for Cumbria

Renewable Energy Roundtable
- Community Energy

28 September 2021, 2-4pm

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and licensed community shares practitioner

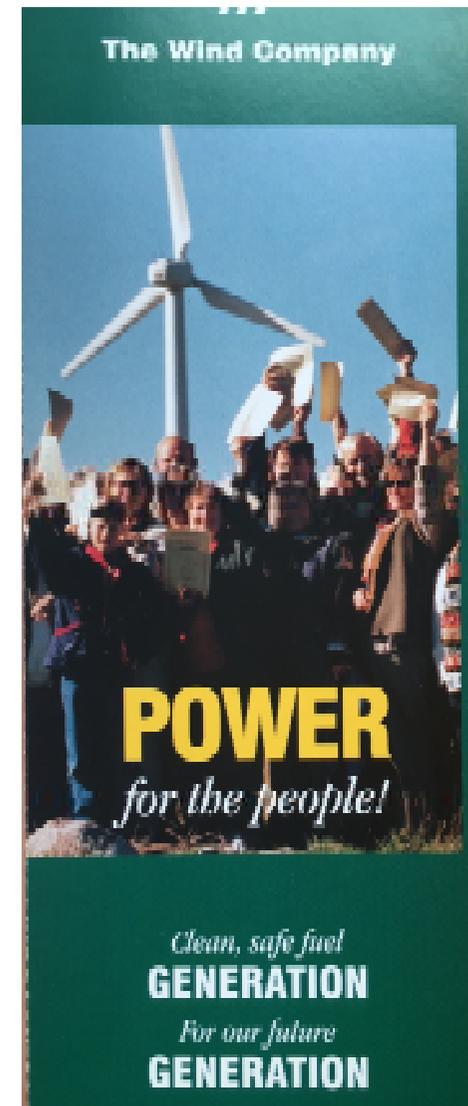
Baywind – 1996

First UK community owned wind farm
Harlock Hill near Ulverston

Set up by a Swedish Wind Farm developer.

- 2 turbines sold to the Baywind Co-operative, using £1.2 million from an offer of transferable shares in an IPS.

- 3 remaining turbines purchased by Baywind in 2001 using a loan from the Co-operative Bank when The Wind Company wound up.

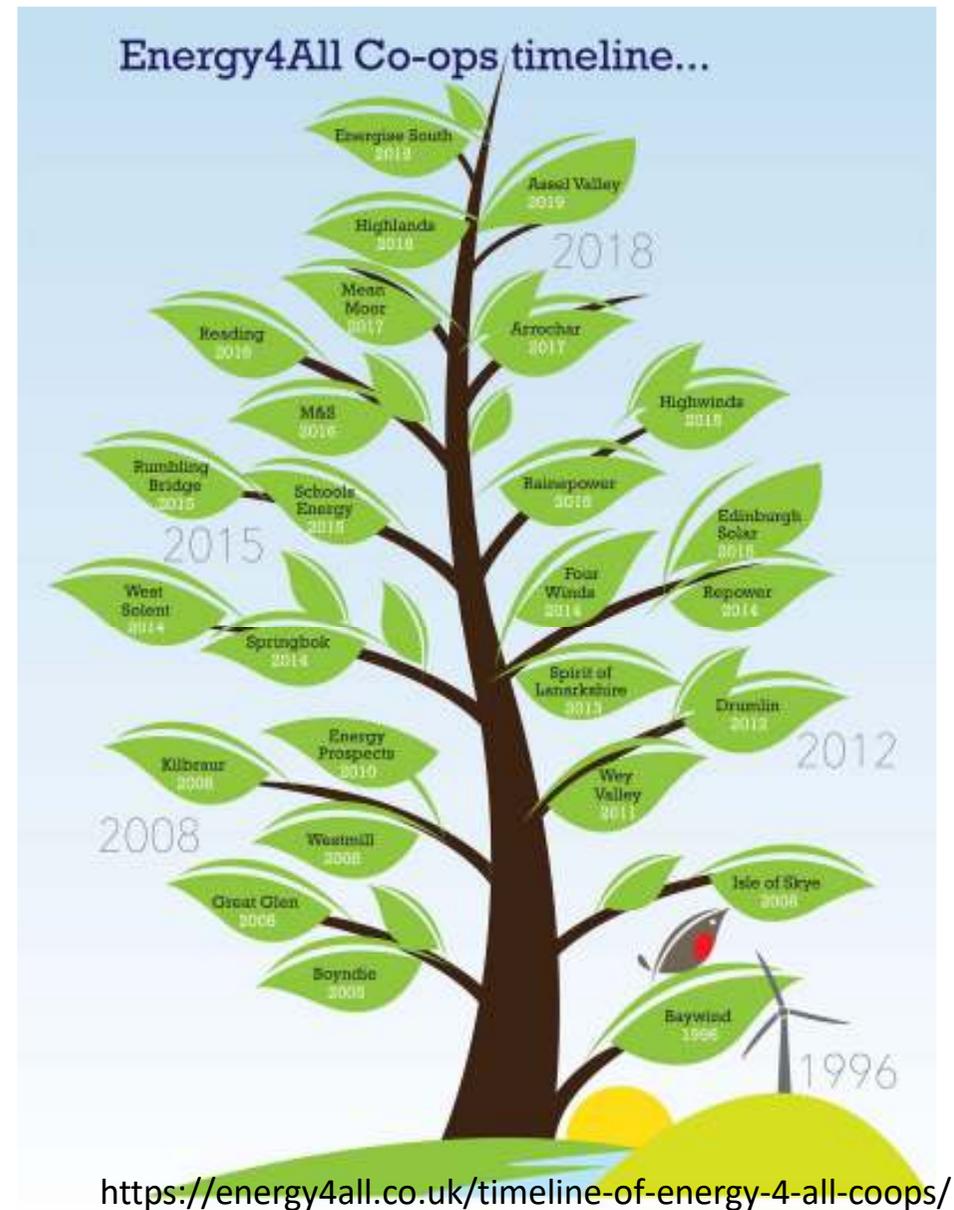


Leaflet provided by Keith Boxer



Founded by Baywind in 2002 to help other communities do what they had done. Money from Baywind plus some grant funding. **Based in Barrow.**

- A co-operative whose members are 30 renewable energy societies it has set up
- commercial scale renewable energy (initially wind)
- Shared ownership of wind farms with commercial wind developer where community buys share of revenue



Community Energy Cumbria

- A Community Benefit Society set up by Phil Davies/CAfS
- 2015:
 - 30 kW hydro on the outflow of Killington reservoir installed by Ellergreen Hydro (based in Burneside)
 - 30kWp solar PV system on the roof of the offices of the Lake District National Park Authority at Murley Moss, Kendal, installed by Sundog Energy
- Funded by £330,000 from a community share offer
- Projects rely on income from the Feed in Tariff - now withdrawn. .
The Smart Export Guarantee is no substitute for FITs.

Community Shares

- Withdrawable share capital issued by Societies (registered by FCA)
- No increase in capital value
- Share offers are unregulated. No recourse to Financial Services Compensation Scheme or ombudsman service. So cost of doing offer low.
- One member one vote
- Investors are paid share interest which must be no more than is needed to 'attract and retain the capital'
- Co-operative or Community benefit societies
- Community Benefit societies must have an asset lock
- Community Shares Unit at Co-operatives UK
<https://www.uk.coop/start-new-co-op/support/community-shares>

Burneside Community Energy

- Set up by Community Energy Cumbria in 2015
- Solar PV on roofs of Burneside Paper Mill, owned by James Cropper PLC works
- 3 share offers
- Raised a total of £780,000 to install just under 1MW of solar PV.
- Installer, Genfit, based in Chester.

Other community energy projects in Cumbria

- **Alston Moor Community Energy** – solar on roof of local schools in 2019 using grant and crowd funding (donations?)
- **Brampton and Beyond Energy** – working on an anaerobic digester project
- **Ambleside to Zero** – supported by CAFs. Mapping of roofs suitable for solar PV
- **Sustainable Staveley and Sustainable Keswick** local groups
- **Energy Local Club in Duddon Valley** – enabling local residents to purchase energy from local hydro generators.

Current outlook for community energy

- Main problem is finding projects with willing partners
- Once you have a project several £million can be raised from community shares
- Lack of FIT and non-domestic RHI makes smaller projects unviable.
- Contracts for Difference mechanisms too risky, only suitable for large projects
- Commercial developers have generally not been willing to offer communities an ownership share unless they have had to
- Big Solar Co-op (a project of Shareenergy)– trying to do community owned solar PV on a national scale, using volunteers to find projects backed up by professional staff able to evaluate them and make offer to host organisations.