



Bittern Countryside Community Interest Company

Registered Number: 6363720

Funding Projects in the Community

The Bittern Countryside CIC supports the work of the Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership, and the Landscape Trust by:

- * Funding installation of renewable energy systems in the community.
- * Helping households and organisations to lower their carbon footprint.
- * Providing detailed information on energy saving in a series of booklets.
- * Publishing guides and atlases to the flora and fauna of the AONB, drawing on local knowledge and expertise of wildlife conservation.
- * Planning new initiatives to cut the waste of materials and promote re-use and recycling with a focus on Sustainability and Education.



Our achievements to date

Low Carbon Factsheets

We have produced a series of factsheets showing how everyone can: “Save Energy, Cut their Carbon Footprint, Save the Environment”.

They are available free on our [web site](#).

1: *Electricity From Sunshine*

2: *Heat from Trees*

3: *Woodfuel Wisdom*

4: *Avoiding energy waste*

5: *Heat from Ground and Air*

The Community Renewables Initiative

The Initiative was based on the Company raising funds which then allowed a school or village hall to install and own solar PV panels removing any element of risk for the schools.

Panels have been installed on Storth School, Silverdale School, the AONB office at Arnside, the Leeds Childrens Holiday Centre (these were moved to Wildlife Oasis when the LCHC closed) as well as a couple of panels on the Landscape Trust barn.

Storth School was the first building to benefit from the initiative. Their panels were installed in February 2012 and benefitted from the higher tariff available then. They generate around 3,500 kwh of electricity a year. The annual feed-in tariff received amounts to over £1600 and the school's electricity bill too has been reduced. They have since bought back all their tariff. While the tariff on later projects



was much reduced and has now been discontinued, Solar PV is still worth considering. See our [Fact Sheet 1](#). It bought carbon reduction technology into schools for pupils to see and encouraged many more householders in the area to install PV panels themselves.

Climate Change/Plastic Waste Initiative

We have offered grants for changing lighting to LED in community buildings. We encourage recycling, avoiding waste, etc. We publicise what is available and what needs doing.

Look at our information on plastic waste “The Problem of Plastic” on our website: <http://bitterncountrysiddecic.org.uk>

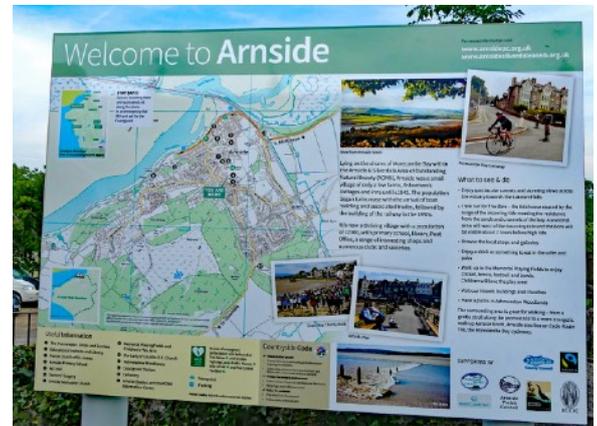
Wood fuel and other Low Carbon ideas

As well as the energy-saving booklets we have produced a wood directory, available free on our web site. We have also given grants to those in fuel poverty to install woodburning stoves that they can use wood gained while volunteering or from the woodbank.

Education:

Information Boards

Informing our visitors to the AONB is an important part of conservation. We are helping to fund Information Boards for each of the villages.



Conserving Wildlife Knowledge

We have published a series of 14 guides and atlases to the flora and fauna of our AONB on our website. The Guides are available in booklet form (£2.50 each, £2.00 each for 3 or more) from the shop at Leighton Moss RSPB, the LT website or the AONB office.

The 14 titles are Butterflies, Dayflying Moths, Dragonflies, Ferns, Fungi, Lilies, Small Mammals, Orchids, Rocks, Roses, Sedges, Snails, Trees and Vetches,

Where Next?

There is much that needs doing so we must prioritise. We are looking at starting our own “Earthshot initiative”- finding projects where a small seedcorn grant can be the start of something much bigger. However we must make sure that we do not miss out something important.

If you think we could help you in a community or conservation project please contact us. Is there something that needs doing that would fit in with our aims? We may not know unless you tell us. Please help us to make the AONB truly sustainable to preserve it from the ravages caused by climate change.

Our Charter

The Bittern Countryside Community Interest Company was formally incorporated in September 2007 as a social enterprise. The company's principal objective is to assist the AONB partnership in its work with conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of Arnside and Silverdale AONB. With our present understanding of climate change we feel this is best done by our working on ways to reduce the carbon footprint of the AONB community.

The Bittern Countryside CIC is a private company owned by its shareholders. There are ordinary shares and management shares (available to Directors) As a private company its shares cannot be traded and are not listed on any stock market or exchange. Unlike shares in a public limited company, the CIC's shares have a fixed value with each ordinary share valued at £10 and management shares £1. **Share capital is used to further our aims and investors should not expect to get their investment back.**

If the BCCIC ceased to operate for whatever reason, then all its assets pass to the AONB Landscape Trust. This ensures that any profits made still benefit the AONB and its communities.

For more information look at our [Memorandum and Articles of Association](#) on our website.

Join the Bittern Countryside CIC

Anyone who subscribes to our aims can become a shareholder and there is no limit to how few or how many shares can be held. All shareholders may vote at each AGM. All our work depends on the generosity of shareholders and their commitment to keeping the AONB protected and enhanced for people, plants and wildlife.

If you are interested, please contact our Chair; Ann Kitchen, 01524762512 or one of our other Directors:

Ray Anslow, Fiona Allan, Dave Askew, Robin Horner,
Mike Smith, Malcolm Stevens, Val Stevens,

Website; www.bitterncountrysidecic.org.uk

Email: info@bitterncountrysidecic.org.uk