



Public Consultation Survey Lymm Community Solar Farm - Feasibility Stage

* Required

INSTRUCTIONS



Click Next to proceed OR if you have received this survey in paper form and now wish to complete the survey online, scan the QR code or visit lowcarbonlymm.org.uk/lymm-community-energy/ (<http://lowcarbonlymm.org.uk/lymm-community-energy/>).

INTRODUCTION

An exciting opportunity has arisen to pursue a project that could see Lymm develop a community solar farm.

Lymm Community Energy (LCE) has secured funding from the Rural Community Energy Fund to assess the feasibility of constructing and operating a solar farm on land owned by Wildersmoor Hall Farm on Whiteleggs Lane, Lymm. The project is being pursued in full partnership with the farm owner and is not a proposal to acquire or purchase the farmland for private or commercial development.

We would like to hear your views before we decide whether to go ahead and apply for planning permission. Before proceeding with the survey, we recommend reading the background information below or visiting our website <https://lowcarbonlymm.org.uk/lymm-community-energy/> (<https://lowcarbonlymm.org.uk/lymm-community-energy/>).

We appreciate your time in responding to the following questions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Lymm Community Energy (LCE) is a not-for-profit Community Benefit Society established in 2014 to enable local people and organisations to invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency installations. It raised £184K through two community share offers in the summers of 2015 and 2016. The money raised was used to install solar systems on all four primary schools in Lymm and to fund the installation of LED lighting in the schools. Since then, the four systems have performed according to plan and will reach a combined generation total of 500,000kWh this summer - enough clean electricity to power 135 homes for a year.

LCE recently engaged the services of local company Fichtner Consulting Engineers, who have extensive experience of solar farms in the UK. A technical feasibility study has been completed and concludes that the Lymm site is suitable for a solar farm development and that the land available is more than sufficient for the scale of project being considered.

The site at Wildersmoor Hall Farm extends across four fields and there are good access routes to this privately-owned land which means any impact to surrounding residents is minimised. The farm is also well screened by existing trees and hedgerows along its borders and these natural perimeters would remain in place to protect eco habitats and wildlife in the area, to maintain existing privacy for neighbours, and to obscure views of the panels at ground-level.

The proposal is for a 5MW solar farm, capable of providing enough electricity to meet the annual needs of around 1,460 average homes. The development will follow agricultural good practice guidelines for solar farms, including using the land for grazing and encouraging biodiversity. The potential to supply local residents, businesses and community facilities with electricity from the solar farm is also being investigated during the feasibility study together with the scope for battery storage.

Local support and consultation are an important component of the project feasibility report. The public consultation by LCE begins with an initial information event on Saturday 26th June, 10am-4pm, at Lymm Hub (Lymm Library, Sanctuary Hub and Business Centre). The public is invited to drop in to ask questions and make comments about the development. The solar farm public consultation will then continue beyond this date with further on and offline information events, via local media sources and direct communication with contacts in the areas that neighbour the proposed site, and by way of this survey.

AWARENESS OF LYMM COMMUNITY ENERGY

1

Are you aware of Lymm Community Energy and the work they do in Lymm and the local area? *

- Yes
- No
- Unsure (please add comment)

Other

2

Are you aware of the Community Benefit Fund run by LCE? *

- Yes
- No (please add comment)
- Unsure (please add comment)

Are you aware of the following local projects we have invested in or supported? *

- £184K through two community share offers in 2015-2016
- Installation of solar panels on four Lymm primary schools
- Installation of energy-efficient, LED lighting at three of the primary schools
- Energy efficiency improvements at Maple Lodge (LED lighting) and Lymm Youth & Community Association (timer switches, new door frames, controls on windows and LED lighting)
- Energy audits of Lymm Village Hall and Maple Lodge to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions
- Participation in LEAF (Lymm's new environmental body)

What do you think the environmental priorities should be for Lymm and for investing any surpluses back into the community? Please order these items in your chosen priority order. You may add further ideas in the next question *

Tackling fuel poverty

Energy-efficiency, e.g. LED lighting, insulation, timer controls

Renewable energy, e.g. solar, wind, heat pumps

Investing in community energy projects

Charging points for electric vehicles

Recycling & waste management

Encouraging cycling & walking facilities & schemes

Improving the natural environment eg tree planting, hedgerows

Promoting 'Buy Local' & growing local food / more allotments

Public & school education events and courses

5

Are there any further priorities you would like to add

6

Would you be interested in getting involved in the work of Lymm Community Energy? *

Yes

No

SUPPORT FOR THE LYMM SOLAR FARM PROJECT

7

In principle, do you support the use of ground-mounted solar panels for generating clean energy on appropriate sites in the UK? *

- Yes
- No (please add comment)
- Unsure (please add comment)

Other

8

Are you supportive of the plans by Lymm Community Energy to work with the land owner to use the land for solar energy generation ? *

- Yes
- No (please add comment)
- Unsure (please add comment)

9

Based on the information that we have provided, do you think that the land identified as being suitable would be a good location for a ground mounted solar array? *

- Yes
- No (please add comment)
- Unsure (please add comment)

10

Please indicate your level of support for the solar farm project (where 5 stars is the most support) *



11

Please use this space to make any comments that you have about the proposals to use this site for solar energy generation

FURTHER INFORMATION

12

Do you have any other questions you'd like to ask?

13

How would you like to obtain further information?

- I will look on the website
- I will get in touch by email
- I would like a call back
- I would like an information pack
- I would like to be updated about future consultation events
- I would like an email response to my comments/questions

CONTACT INFORMATION

14

Primary Contact
First Name & Surname *

15

Address (if do not wish to add an address, please add your postcode to assist with our analysis) *

16

Phone (please add if you have requested a call back)

17

Email (please add if you have requested an information pack)

18

How did you hear about this survey? *

- Lymm Community Energy/Low Carbon Lymm website
- LEAF event information stand
- Online information event
- Information display in Library
- Local press e.g Lymm Life, Lymm Pages
- Letter to my home
- Facebook
- Word of mouth
- Other (please add in 'other' field)
-

Other

19

Date of completion (i.e. today's date)



Format: M/d/yyyy

RETURNING YOUR RESPONSES

If you have completed this form online, please proceed to submit button to send your response.

If you have completed a paper copy, please send the completed form to:

c/o Meg Davies

Director

Lymm Community Energy Ltd

1, Dyers Close

Lymm

WA13 9QJ

Any personal information that you have supplied will be held by Lymm Community Energy Ltd in accordance with the Data Protection Act. This information will only be used as part of this exercise and will not be passed on to any other organisation.

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