

Oldham Community Power

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COALESCCE- Community Owned And Led Energy for Security, Climate Change and Employment (Economy)

Community energy can secure benefits over and above simple carbon emissions reduction:

- Keeps the financial benefits of renewable energy generation local, using a **circular economic model**
- Residents gain **knowledge, experience and confidence** in running a renewable energy business
- The value of **volunteer time** can be realised
- **Local contractors** can be selected for installation and maintenance works





Schools and other Community buildings

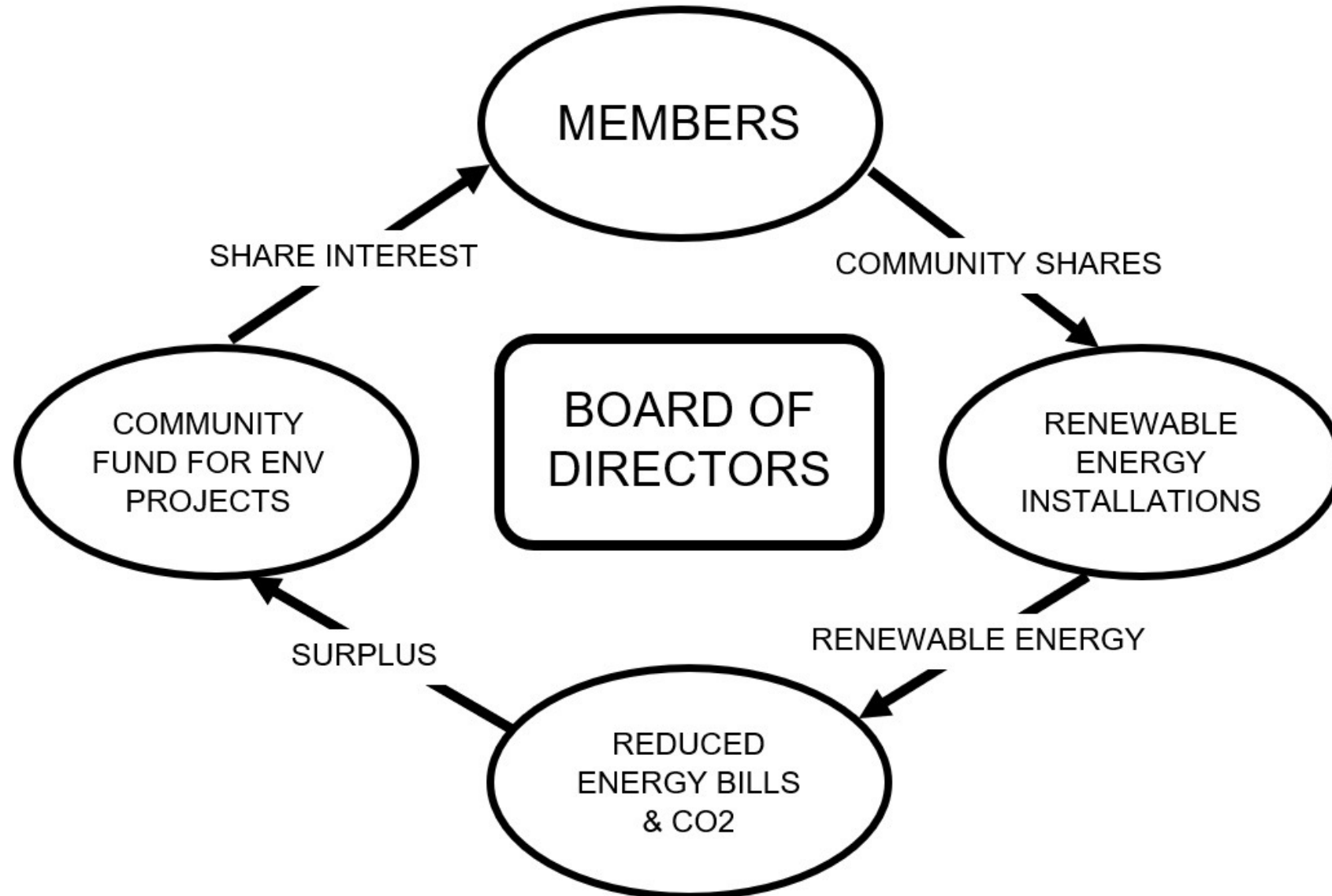
Schools and other Community buildings where the Local Authority owns the buildings as part of the public estate have a **specific challenge** when it comes to funding the installation of renewable energy generation.

Because the school or community group occupying the building receives the benefit of any reduction in energy bills, there is no 'business case' for the Local Authority to invest in renewable energy generation at these sites as there is no 'return on investment' - **the Local Authority does not pay the energy bills at the site and so cannot benefit from any savings made.**

Therefore a different financing solution must be found for these sites – and the Community Energy model fits perfectly here.



Community energy business model





Oldham Community Power



- A Community Benefit Society (a type of co-operative) - owns 220kW of solar PV across 5 schools and one community centre
- Four volunteer Directors plus an Elected Member Council representative
- The Council made an initial loan of £250K to OCP to enable the Society to meet Feed In Tariff installation deadlines in 2016
- £250K in community shares were issued to refinance the loan - £150K were purchased by Oldham residents, £100K by the Council
- By 2019 over £7,500 saved by the 6 sites on their electricity bills
- Over 180 tonnes of CO2 saved in that period



Critical success factors

- **Political support** at Cabinet / leadership level
- Local Authority **officer time and expertise, buildings / sites** for renewable energy installations, **early investment / loans 'at risk'** for feasibility & installation and **communications and engagement**
- **Understanding** of community energy in key Local Authority services
- **Confidence** of the local community to invest in shares





Thank you!

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