

Addendum to Plan LoCaL Rooftop Solar PV Exercise

Introduction

A building-mounted solar PV workshop was held on behalf of the South West Devon Community Energy Partnership (SWDCEP) at Tavistock Enterprise Hub on 27 June 2014. A total of 10 people attended, representing Sustainable South Brent, Transition Tavistock, PL21, South Devon Coastal AONB renewable energy network, 361 Energy and the North Devon Biosphere Community Energy Group.

The main aim of the workshop was to run through the Plan LoCaL exercise "[Estimating the potential deployment, costs and income for a community-wide solar PV scheme](#)" to provide a common level of understanding of solar PV within the group, review the usefulness of the tool and determine what else might be needed for a community energy group considering the potential for local projects.

The result is this addendum to the Plan LoCaL exercise which the Partnership recommends for use alongside the existing tool.

Materials Needed

1. When deciding upon the geographical coverage of the satellite photographs to use at the workshop be sure to include any retail or industrial sites that are located outside of the neighbourhood boundary as these can provide important roof resources.
2. Provide a printed copy of Tables 2 and 3 for each group, as well as a copy of Table 1. Tables 2 and 3 show examples of how to complete Table 1.

Running the Exercise

3. At Stage 1, when people divide into groups, make sure each group has a member with good local knowledge of the specific part of the neighbourhood being considered.
4. At Stage 4, once you've completed the large version of Table 1, make clear that this is a very simplistic calculation and allowance for insurance, maintenance, rent and other factors need to be taken into account for the complete picture. The SWDCEP has provided a [spreadsheet model of finances](#) for a PV project, based on the model used by the South Brent Renewable Energy Society, which allows the various factors to be adjusted to suit the true situation and this should be used if seriously investigating a site.
5. Following Stage 4 the Plan LoCaL tool brings the event to a close. However, if you have time, the SWDCEP recommends now spending a further 30 – 40 minutes to get the group to start considering how to refine this very basic appraisal into a more realistic assessment of local opportunities for installing PV – Stage 5. Stage 5 is a more open ended process so it should not usually be expected to complete during the current session but rather act as the basis for further group sessions after local research has been completed.

Remind everyone of the key issues in the “[Factors for selection of roof tops](#)” and make a flip chart sized version of [Table 4](#) – you may wish to do this before the workshop starts. They should now return to their satellite maps and review each of the coloured dots, crossing off any that they believe already have PV installed or are otherwise definitely known to be appreciably more expensive or difficult as a Community Group venture. Those that remain should be given an identification number and entered onto Table 4 with as many of the potential constraints issues that are already known entered as a short summary and any unknowns marked with a question mark. There is space on a flip chart sized version of this table to consider about 30 or so buildings so some selection of the best prospects may be required or otherwise use continuation sheets.

Invite the different groups to start the review process. It’s a good idea for you to circulate amongst the participants to ensure they understand the process. Allow the groups to populate Table 4 on the flip chart with a number of potential rooftops to research further before ending this exercise.