



Heolddu Solar Farm

Gweithdy Budd
Cymunedol

Community Benefit Fund
Workshop



Agenda

- **Heolddu Solar Farm – Rachel Ness, Director of Planning, Qualitas Energy**
 - About Qualitas Energy
 - Project Overview
 - Planning
 - Timeline
 - Key Benefits
- **Community Benefit Fund**
 - Examples
 - CBF V.s. Shared Ownership
 - Amount and Availability
 - Administration
 - Suggestions
- **Community Foundation Wales – Katy Hales and Andrea Powell**
 - Introduction to Community Foundation Wales
- **Group Discussions (breakout)**
- **Comfort Break**
- **Feedback of key thoughts/themes/ideas/concerns**
- **Close and next steps**



Scope of this workshop | Cwmpas y gweithdy

This workshop is focused on discussing the Community Benefit Fund and associated opportunities.

We appreciate many attendees will have comments and queries about the proposals and project itself, however we are not seeking feedback on this at this meeting.

We would be pleased to discuss any broader project related feedback or questions with you separately – and look forward to inviting your engagement in the statutory consultation later this autumn.



About Qualitas Energy | Pwy yw Qualitas Energy

- Qualitas Energy has been leading the drive of renewable energy, energy transition, and sustainable infrastructure development in Europe for over 18 years. We consist of a team of professionals who work together, sharing objectives and a commitment to sustainability.
- In total, 1.1 million homes have been supplied with clean energy through Qualitas Energy electricity generation.
- We have 585 MW of Solar production in operation and 5.8 GW in development worldwide.
- Qualitas Energy is committed to accelerating the energy transition in the UK. Everything that we do, we do it believing in our purpose which is to enable a more sustainable and greener future for the generations to come.

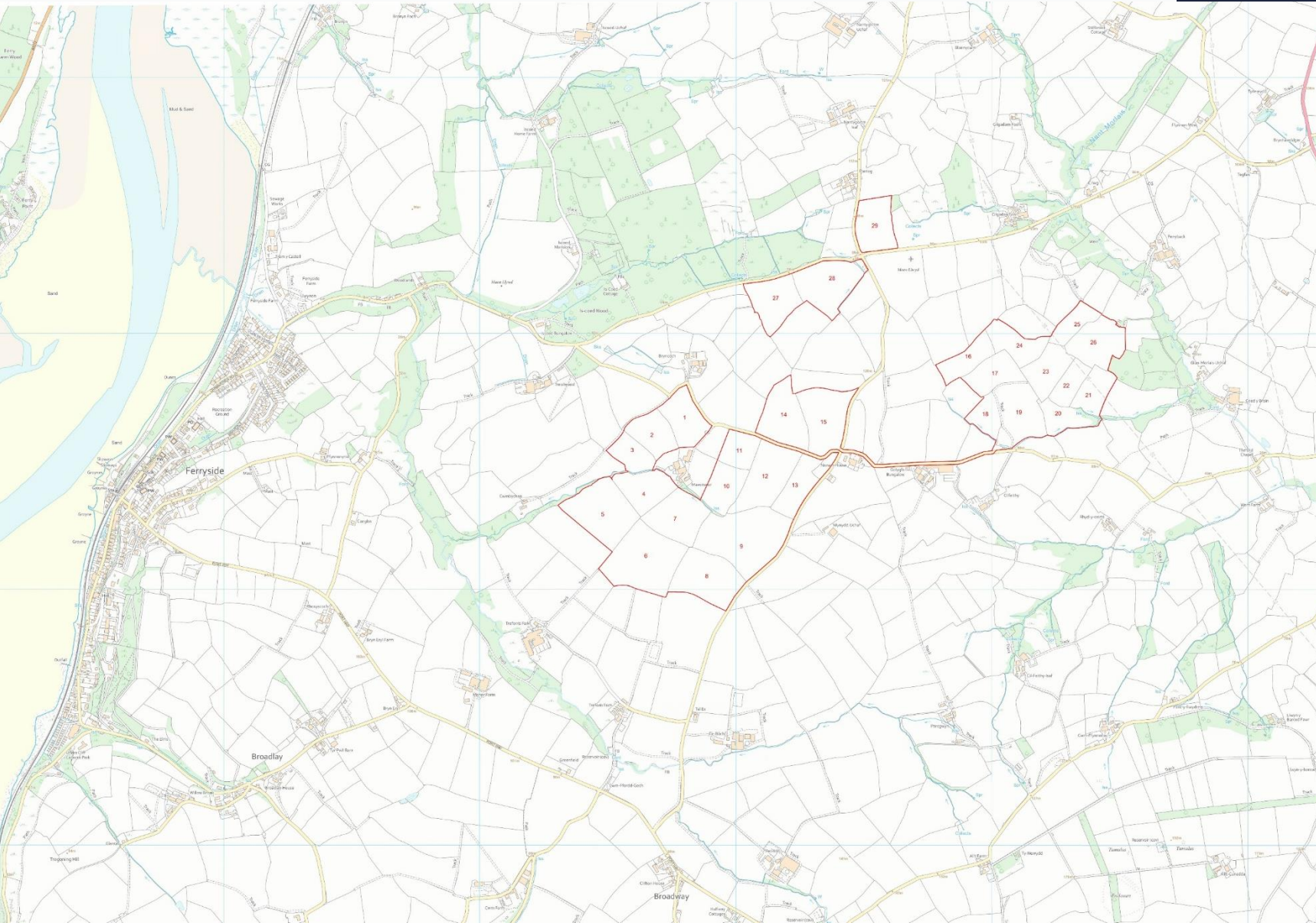


Project overview | Trosolwg o'r prosiect

Qualitas Energy is developing proposals for Heolddu Solar Farm, a 40MW fixed panel solar farm on land between Ferryside and Llandyfaelog, in Carmarthenshire.

- A solar farm producing up to c.40MW of renewable electricity (enough to power approximately 10,770 homes, almost all the homes in Kidwelly and St Ishmael, Trimsaran, St Clears and Carmarthen put together)
- Onsite grid connection into an existing overhead pylon
- Associated ancillary infrastructure
- Landscape and environmental enhancements including significant benefits for wildlife

Project overview | Trosolwg o'r prosiect



The project is a Development of National Significance (DNS), meaning we will submit a planning application to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW), who will assess and determine whether our application is approved.

We are also engaging with Carmarthenshire County Council

Project Timeline | Llinell Amser y Prosiect





Key Benefits | Buddion Allweddol

Heolddu Solar Farm

Key Benefits | Buddion Allweddol

Benefiting the rural economy – The project will generate renewable solar power locally in Wales, reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels and supporting energy security and affordability.

Supporting the Rural Economy – Through a Community Benefit Fund and collaboration with local businesses

Enhanced Public Access – Public Rights of Way will be restored and maintained, with a landscape plan ensuring the site remains accessible and visually in harmony with its surroundings

Net Benefit for Biodiversity – The project includes measures to protect and enhance local wildlife habitats, including tree planting, habitat restoration, and consultation with environmental authorities.



**Community
Benefit Fund**

**Cronfa Budd
Cymunedol**

Heolddu Solar Farm



Community Benefit Fund | Cronfa Budd Cymunedol

- Qualitas is committed to working collaboratively with local communities, ensuring residents and stakeholders can help shape project proposals.
- A Community Benefit Fund will support local projects that align with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, focussing on economic, social, and environmental sustainability.
- The fund's structure will be developed through consultation with the Heolddu Solar Farm host communities.

Community Benefit Fund / Shared Ownership | Cronfa Budd Cymunedol / Rhanberchnogaeth

- Qualitas Energy favours delivering community benefits via a Community Benefit Fund over a Community Ownership model.
- The benefits of distributing community benefits in a community benefit fund include:
 - **Funding** – a Community Benefit Fund ensures timely community funding without development delays, unlike Community Ownership models that often face funding challenges.
 - **Complexity** – a Community Benefit Fund shields local communities from the complex risks of clean energy development, offering a safer and more rewarding alternative to community ownership.
 - **Support teams** – a Community Benefit Fund is flexible and easier to administer than Community Ownership and can be managed by local councils or third-party groups, even covering its own administration costs.
 - **Liabilities and financial requirements** – a Community Benefit Fund protects communities from financial risks and liabilities often associated with part ownership, such as high costs and extended development periods.
 - **Guidance and targets** – With limited guidance for part-owned solar projects, a Community Benefit Fund offers a clear, community-led approach tailored to local needs and accountability.

Community Benefit Fund – Amount & Availability | Cronfa Budd Cymunedol – Faint sydd ar gael a phwy sy'n gymwys?

- It is proposed that the annual amount provided into a Community Benefit Fund is £20,000 (index linked). This would provide a total overall fund of £800,000 (index linked) to be used to benefit the community.
- It is suggested that the community benefit fund would be made available to:
 - Villages within the vicinity of Heolddu Solar Farm, including Ferryside, Kidwelly, and Llandyfaelog.
 - Immediate neighbours (within 500m and in direct line of sight or operational impact) who would be eligible to receive an annual amount of £800, which could be used in payment towards energy bills or for other uses.
- This fund would become available over the 40-year operational life of the project, with funds available from the date on which Heolddu Solar Farm exports electricity to the grid. At present, energisation is anticipated to start in early 2029.

Community Benefit Fund – Administration | Gweinyddu'r Gronfa Budd Cymunedol

- The Community Benefit Fund will be administered in a way that best suits the preferences of the local community.
- Possible approaches include:
 - Establishing a Working Group of local stakeholders to consider funding applications from the local community.
 - Partnering with an organisation such as Community Foundation Wales whose purpose is to bring positive change to local communities and/or supporting a particular community project.
 - Other?
- Typically, the Fund will be available on the first anniversary of the solar farm generating and exporting green energy and, thereafter, every year for the lifetime of the solar farm (e.g. 40 years).



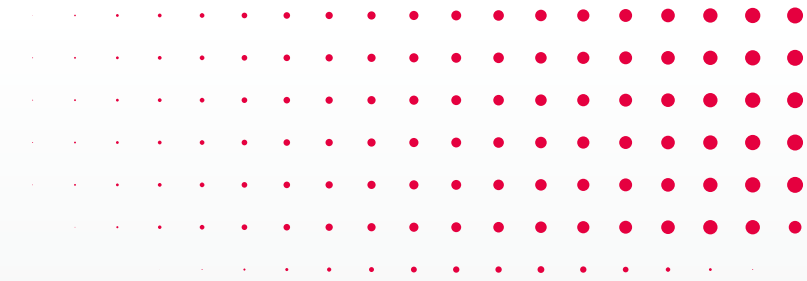
Community Benefit Fund Themes | Themâu'r Gronfa Budd Cymunedol

- We are keen to support the following themes:
 - Additional support for **training and employment**
 - **Education and Culture** including support for local facilities and organisations
 - **Social Assistance** to support projects involved with care and health
 - **Local Sports**, including improvements to facilities and sponsorship for local teams
 - Promotion of **Renewable Energy Locally** including promoting the use of renewable energy in local community buildings through initiatives like establishing renewable energy classrooms.
 - Improvements to **local infrastructure** such as playgrounds and the local environment.



Community Benefit Fund – Suggestions | Cronfa Budd Cymunedol - Awgrymiadau

- As part of the initial round of consultation that was held in March, local feedback was gathered around suggestions for Community Benefit, including local initiatives deserving support.
- The following initiatives were specifically mentioned:
 - Ferryside Lifeboat
 - Calon y Fferi Community Centre
 - Local food initiatives
 - Keeping the public toilets in Ferryside running which are at risk of closure
 - The development of local energy projects
 - Other suggestions included using the fund to support environmental initiatives, such as tree-planting along footpaths, reductions on solar panel costs and providing free or low-cost EV charging points in the villages.

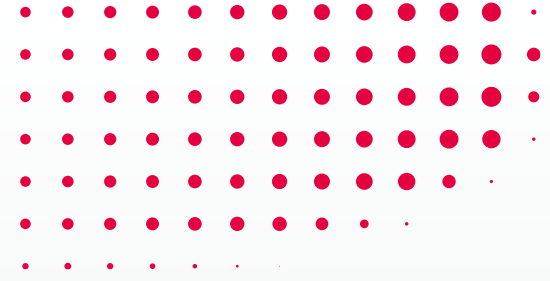


COMMUNITY BENEFITS WORKSHOP

Heolddu Solar Farm

GWEITHDY
BUDDION CYMUNEDOL





ABOUT US AMDANOM NI



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP


GWEITHIO MEWN PARTNERIAETH





OUR GRANT MAKING | EIN GRANTIAU

- Small, grassroots, community led organisations.
- Local knowledge and expertise.
- Provide a range of support and guidance to applicants.
- Responsive, flexible, approachable.

- Sefydliadau cymunedol bach, ar lawr gwlad.
 - Gwybodaeth ac arbenigedd lleol.
 - Darparu amrywiaeth o gefnogaeth a chyngor i ymgeiswyr.
 - Ymatebol, hyblyg, hygyrch.
- 



DIOLCH

Breakout | Trafodaeth grŵp

- Split into equal groups
- Review the materials and 'points to consider' on the tables to help inform discussion
- A facilitator will sit on each table to guide and record feedback
- Appoint a person to feed back to the rest of the group at the end



Points to consider | Pwyntiau i'w hystyried

1. Is the approach set out in the **Community Benefit Fund Position Paper** appropriate?
2. Are there key themes the funds should be focused on?
3. Community Foundation Wales is one potential option to administer the Community Benefit Fund. Are there other organisations that should be considered for this role? How should the fund be set up, and what should the process be for distributing the fund?
4. What should the eligibility criteria for the fund include, particularly in relation to local needs and priorities?
5. Are there existing schemes, groups or organisations that the fund could support?
6. Are there any other benefits you would like to see Qualitas Energy deliver/take into consideration as part of the Community Benefit offering?

Feedback | Adborth

We are seeking feedback on the Community Benefit Fund and topics covered in this workshop. Please submit any additional feedback or get in touch with any questions by using any of the methods below:

- **Project website:** www.heolddusolar.co.uk
- **Email:** info@heolddusolar.co.uk
- **Freepost:** FREEPOST TC CONSULTATION (no further address or stamp required)
- **Freephone:** 0800 699 0081 during normal office hours (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm excluding public holidays)