

Soay Solar & Greener Grid Park

Statement of Community Benefit

Solar and Greener Grid Parks are helping to secure the UK's green energy future by reducing our reliance on imported fossil fuels.

Statkraft would like our renewable projects to be considered a local asset and are keen to work with communities to ensure that they bring value over their project lifetime. Below are some of the benefits a local renewables project can offer to the local community:

Local Investment

A range of goods and services are required in the development, construction, and operations of this renewable energy project.

- An estimated £350,000 invested in pre-development works, including a range of Yorkshire-based companies;
- Total expected investment is expected to be over £125 million. Potential opportunities for local businesses exist in terms of groundwork, landscaping, hospitality, civil engineering, and construction contracts. Local businesses are encouraged to register as a supplier to the project, using the link "Local Supplier" at the top of the project website;
- Business rates payable to the Local Authority are estimated at £134,000 per annum;

Community Funding

Statkraft is committed to delivering funding for communities where it operates. This project fund will benefit local projects and initiatives and could include education, energy efficiency, environmental improvements, and improved community facilities.

For the Soay Solar project community funding of £65,000 will be made available once the project is operational.

Local residents have already proposed several worthwhile projects during our community engagement, such as assisting with the maintenance and recreational access for Allerthorpe Woods and Pocklington canal. We welcome feedback on how the project can support local community and environmental projects.

Environmental Benefits

Our aim is to promote biodiversity and ecological land management practices at Soay

Solar Farm and Greener Grid Park.

As members of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, we are working closely with personnel to ensure our habitat management practices provide opportunities for enhancement, creation and restoration of bumblebee habitats which are currently very limited on-site due to intensive agriculture.

The Proposed Development will actively enhance the quality and quantity of biodiverse habitats. This includes new planting to improve habitats for reptiles, mammals, ground nesting birds, and invertebrates including pollinators. It is estimated that the project will deliver a 114.73 % net gain in on-site biodiversity, with 66.18% gain in hedgerow units.

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust has provided feedback on habitat, plant species and ground preparation techniques that are beneficial for bumblebees.

Our corporate support of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust recognises the importance of farming traditions, demonstrating how old and new can work together for the benefit of a healthier, more diverse natural environment.