The New Economy in 20 Enterprises

inspiring examples of just doing stuff* in the UK

*the subject of Rob Hopkins’ latest book about Transition

The Bristol Bike Project
The Big Lemon

Totnes Sustainable Construction Company
The Restart Project

Bath & West Community Energy

Transition Network.org

REconomy Project
A ‘Transition oriented’ social enterprise is a financially viable trading entity that fulfils a real community need, delivers social benefits and has beneficial, or at least neutral, environmental impacts.
Welcome to the UK’s top twenty ‘Transition oriented’ social enterprises. Combined these enterprises have a turnover of £3.5 million and provide paid employment for more than 100 people. We think they’re rather brilliant examples of people just doing stuff...

Each of these enterprises demonstrates a different way of working from business as usual – they are sustainable, offer some social benefits and have shared ownership, while providing essential goods and services for the community in which they make their home. They provide jobs for local people, as well as volunteering opportunities, and they buy from other local independent businesses. Most have emerged from a local Transition group or have links to Transition in some way.

Individually they are great examples, but the transformative potential is really clear when we picture them all operating together in one place… and we suggest that all of these enterprises are needed everywhere, given they meet our basic needs including food, energy, transport and housing. They illustrate what a new kind of community-led, place-based economy might look like, and show that the building blocks – the viable business models – are already in place and highly replicable.

We know there’s a large market opportunity for a re-localised economy based around local, independent businesses and supply chains. This has been quantified in 3 sectors so far – food, renewable energy and retrofitting homes – in REconomy’s Local Economic Blueprint work earlier this year. This top 20 provides working models for the kinds of enterprises that can turn this opportunity into reality. We offer this report as a stimulus for government, funders, the Transition movement and other community groups and entrepreneurs to see the enormous potential in the community enterprise sector.
The story behind the list

Our top twenty co-ops, charities, community interest companies and social enterprises are about people – people who have the vision, passion and creativity to identify a new, more sustainable way of doing business and, in the process, are changing their communities, local economies and the world one step at a time.

In the case studies that follow, each enterprise tells us, to one degree or another, how they are guided by a different approach to doing business and sharing profits and how they impact and interact with their community, society and the environment. In other words, we think they meet the definition of a “Transition oriented social enterprise”: a financially viable trading entity that fulfils a real community need, delivers social benefits and has beneficial, or at least neutral, environmental impacts.

Choosing the top twenty

The top twenty were selected based on this fundamental premise: every community will need one. For example, in Brixton, Repowering London delivered the UK’s first inner-city community-owned solar power station on the Loughborough Estate. In Wales, locals saved their local – the beautiful Raven Inn – and now employ and source from their community. In Derby, DE4 Food offers an alternative to the supermarket, sourcing local sustainable food from nearby producers and selling/delivering it via their online marketplace.

We have focused on what’s emerging from Transition or is, in our judgment, aligned with Transition, i.e. serving a community need while offering an alternative to the status quo. Not only do the top 20 provide unique and, in some cases, much needed services; they are creating jobs while providing direct benefit to their local communities. While not all have paid employees (at least at the moment), the majority do. Interestingly, many rely on volunteer labour, especially in their early stages, to survive and thrive. We like to think of this as the sharing economy at work and it would seem we’re not alone, as all but one in our list operates as a cooperative or in shared ownership. Impressively, the amount of investment required to start up the top 20 was less than they are now collectively turning over per year, and the majority are in profit. That’s quite a track record in this economy.

Each of the top 20 enterprises brings something different to the party. For example, in the world of the Big Lemon, bus travel is fun, friendly, affordable and sustainable.

Is smooth Community Café, set up by a group of parents and carers, provides training and purpose for young people with learning difficulties and is so successful they quickly outgrew their original home. And, at the Bristol Bike Project, you can learn how to repair a bike, and, then own one; they are helping people from all walks of life, including those with mental health problems, set out on two wheels and for it to be an inclusive and empowering experience.
Scalable ideas across a number of sectors

This list highlights real-life examples of financially viable, highly replicable and scalable businesses. We dare to hope this might help spawn many more Transition oriented social enterprises. And, to our mind, the potential is so great it might even extend to these types of enterprises, in turn, helping fund their local core Transition Initiative services.

You’ll notice we’ve covered a relatively broad cross section of sectors here – from community services, food & finance through to energy, housing, transport and waste. Interestingly, both the health care and retrofit markets seem to be rather thinly served by community level enterprise. One of the few companies that do retrofitting is Totnes Sustainable Construction, a not for profit building company that specialises in construction & refurbishment projects, using sustainable methods and materials. Yet, the market opportunity associated with making our homes more energy efficient, in Totnes for example, is currently worth between £26m-£75m (depending on whether it’s a basic or full retrofit). This market need exists everywhere... so, we ask the entrepreneurs among you – can you spot the market opportunity?

Small and large

In our top 20, you’ll find relatively big players like Bath & West Community Energy whose plan is to raise £10 million over the next 3 years to fund more local renewable energy projects.

There’s innovation in addressing our housing crisis as shown by DotDotDot Property, who place ‘property guardians’ in London’s empty buildings to provide a service to the owner, while the guardians get an affordable place to live and volunteer in exchange, so making a meaningful and measurable contribution to the communities where they live.

And at the very practical Uig Community Shop, in Scotland, you’ll not only find your weekly shop but a launderette, a post office, a meeting room and a spot to have a coffee and a chat.
Start-ups

At an earlier stage, you’ll find The Restart Project, which aims to reduce electronic waste while teaching people how to fix electrical appliances and all sorts of electronic gadgets at their Restart Parties. In the health sector, Hestia Care at Home is offering in-home care to local residents and in transport, SpareWheels, provides pay per use car services to people in and around the town. Look at their case study in more detail and see what’s different – their business model needs no employees at the moment.

Stronger together

Our list shows that just about anything can be jointly owned. Imagine these top 20 models operating in your community and the potential of each of us owning a share, the enterprises working together, sharing expertise and skills while also buying from each other. Imagine a local economy that keeps more and more of its buying power in local hands. Imagine, if you will, a time when your own version of a London Creative Labs helps long-term unemployed people create local jobs for themselves and others, a community bakery and a FarmShare supply your community-owned market, cafe and pub, and you buy from them using a local currency like the Bristol £. A time when a co-operative like R-ECO installs PV panels on roofs of local businesses and new homes, which were built by a Transition Homes type enterprise, using the expertise of your local Sustainable Construction Company, and where a Robert Owen Community Banking type enterprise finance the building (and other local enterprises too) using local people’s savings…

Why re-localise?

We think these types of enterprises could be the building blocks of a new local economy, and they help demonstrate the potential value of re-localising our economies, i.e. where as many goods and services as possible are bought from local, independent businesses. We know that money spent with these kinds of enterprises has greater local impact than the same amount of money spent with chain stores and corporations. Why? This is due to the ‘local multiplier’ effect. Most money spent with local businesses typically gets re-spent in the local economy, not just on wages and local suppliers, but also on services like accountants, marketing, printing, insurance, distribution, cleaning and so on. However, large chains tend to only re-spend locally on wages, as they generally have central contracts with national suppliers and service providers. Recent tax avoidance cases have also highlighted the additional societal costs of some corporate models!
Re-localising economies – the market opportunity

This ‘re-localise’ opportunity was explored in the Local Economic Blueprints (LEB) published earlier this year, where REconomy estimated the potential value of the food, renewable energy and domestic retrofit sectors, if products and services were re-localised. For example, in the market town of Totnes, of the £30m spent on food for home consumption every year, £22m goes on food imported from outside the area, most through just 1 large supermarket; and this is in a town with a relatively vibrant local food economy, surrounded by productive farmland. The LEB approach shows the size of opportunity that’s waiting to be grabbed by the kind of food, energy and retrofit enterprises illustrated in our top 20 in three specific places - a market town, a rural county and an inner city area.

In this time of austerity, community economic development represents a sizeable opportunity as illustrated by this 20 and the broader list of over 100, as well as by the place-based LEB work.

What next?

We encourage those responsible for economic strategy to ensure this fledging sector is given the nurturing it so obviously deserves. We suggest those of you looking for a new livelihood might explore these models further and see if they could work for you. And we invite Transition initiatives everywhere to think about how you might begin to stimulate a fundamental shift in your local economic system...

You’ll find the complete list of enterprises and more information on the LEB process at www.reconomy.org.

Authors: Michelle Denton & Fiona Ward
With input from Shane Hughes & Rob Hopkins
REconomy Project, June 2013

We hope you enjoy reading more about the 20 enterprises in the following pages – they are in alphabetical order with no ranking.
Mission

Our aim is to reconnect local people with local energy services by generating both individual and community returns and enabling local governance and ownership.

Our model is underpinned by a primary commitment to generating community benefit. We want to create a new market for community energy that will change the way we think about and value energy, as a response to the pressures of both climate change and energy security.

Is there a link with Transition?

BWCE came out of discussions within the energy group of Transition Bath and Transition Community Corsham. The two Transition groups were simultaneously discussing how to develop community energy projects and decided they would be better off working together. They joined forces with the aim of working at greater scale in order to develop a financially viable community enterprise as quickly as possible.

Your product or service – how much does it help improve resilience in your local community or elsewhere?

We aim to create a financially sustainable social enterprise that will deliver renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy supply via a strong community model that undermines grant dependency and builds community resilience. We need to develop scale by aggregating projects in order to build the necessary skill base and local capacity and to operate at a scale that makes drawing on capital finance more feasible.

In order to balance scale with retaining community links, we are also working with individual communities across the whole of Bath and surrounding area, supporting them to set up their own independent community enterprises. By working in this fashion, we hope to build a family of community enterprises able to aggregate their projects while sharing expertise and experience to everyone’s benefit. We are currently in discussion with four communities and have helped set up two additional community societies, with BWCE providing key services to each.

To establish a track record and demonstrate tangible progress quickly, we are initially focused on solar but are also developing wind, hydro, biomass projects. We are also working with the Council to develop energy efficiency projects, potentially via the Green Deal and/or targeting energy efficiency in schools with an innovative financial model. Our longer-term aspiration is to supply energy to consumers beyond our current site owners and become a community owned Energy Services Company or ESCo.

Employees

We have 7 part time employees who get paid to varying levels but all of whom put in significant amounts of voluntary time. We have four non-executive directors, elected from the membership, that are voluntary posts.

Are you in profit? If not, when do you anticipate being so?

Turnover last year (2012/13), was nearly £160,000 with a surplus of just over £7,000 after paying members interest of 7%. This is the second year of generating a surplus and paying members 7%. We also made the first payment into our community fund of just under £5,000. The size of these payments will go up in future years, with the projects currently built alone generating more than £500,000 over 20 years.
How long have you been trading?
The Community Society was set up in June 2010 and we have been trading since April 2011.

What is your company structure and why did you choose it?
We are an IPS Bencom or Community Society. We chose this form because we wanted a structure that would enable us to raise finance but that built in democratic governance, an asset lock and a primary commitment to community benefit. We believe this is the best approach to delivering the outcomes we are seeking.

What about financial sustainability? Are you trading or part-trading without money?
Our first investment came from the founding directors. Since then we have raised a further £750,000 via a local share offer and £1 million of debt finance from SSE, which includes £200,000 as a contingent loan (currently a SSE one-off trial) to invest in at risk pre-planning work associated with our renewable energy project development. The rest of the finance raised has been invested as capital in 612kW of solar PV across 10 schools and community buildings, including one 250kW ground mounted system linked to a business park.

We paid 7% interest to members in our first two years as per our targets in order to build a credible investment track record. This will be key to our plans to raise £10 million over the next 3 years, designed to fund approximately 6MW of renewable energy projects in development. We expect about £3 million of this to come from local share offers. If we succeed, we will be able to generate enough income to fund the development of the next tranche of projects, therefore becoming truly self-sufficient. Meeting these medium term targets means we will generate around £150,000 per year to run the BWCE and yield an average of £250,000 per year over 20 years to put into our community fund (less in early years more in later years).

Are you looking to build more common wealth & ownership and is priority your profit sharing and/or community benefits versus more traditional investor returns?
Yes – see above and below for comment on community benefits and ownership. As a community society, we cannot distribute profits and our rules define our priorities for applying our surplus as:

- a) paying interest on members’ share capital at such rate as may be determined by the Board from time to time, but not exceeding the minimum rate necessary in the opinion of the Board to obtain and retain the capital required to carry out the objects of the Society;
- b) the continuation and development of the Society;
- c) making payments for social and charitable purposes.

Localisation – are you sourcing, distributing and interacting locally?
We strongly believe in repair and reuse and we try to source locally all supplies we can’t reuse. Wherever we can we utilise local supply chains. For example, over 50% of projects to date have been installed using local solar PV installers. Those that haven’t were installed by SSE (as part of the financing arrangement) but via a local depot. Most of the electricity generated is consumed by site owners and approximately 70% of the income from projects currently in development (over £25 million over 25 years) is retained within the local economy with the balance going to repay loans.

Climate impacts – negative, beneficial or neutral?
Very positive.
The Big Lemon CIC
www.thebiglemon.com

Mission
The Big Lemon’s mission is to provide affordable, friendly and sustainable bus and coach services to encourage the shift from private car use to sustainable alternatives.

Is there a link with Transition?
We were a member of the Business & Economics group in Transition Brighton & Hove before it changed its name and then disbanded. Our Managing Director, Tom Druitt, has a keen interest in the Transition movement and has participated in a Transition conference in Totnes as part of his work with Local United.

Your product or service – how much does it help improve resilience in your local community or elsewhere?
We offer bus and coach services using recycled waste vegetable oil that we collect from local restaurants. The oil is processed locally and we use it to run two local bus services, a music festival coach service, a private hire service and a program of walking days out in the Sussex countryside.

Employees
Ten full time, eight part time, one volunteer.

Are you in profit? If not, when do you anticipate being so? How long have you been trading?
Turnover = £387,000; Profit = £19,000. Trading since 9 Jan 2007.

What is your company structure and why did you choose it?
We’re a Community Interest Company, because we felt it best reflected our intentions when we set up the business, and we wanted to ensure that there was a legal framework to ensure our aims stood the test of time.

What about financial sustainability? Are you trading or part-trading without money?
We used Director’s savings and a community share issue to get started, but it was a nail-biting time! We now have reliable cash flow but it has taken a lot of effort to get to this stage.

Are you looking to build more common wealth & ownership and is priority your profit sharing and/or community benefits versus more traditional investor returns?
Yes. All staff who complete their probationary period become shareholders in the company. We are very involved in the local community and aim to share our experience with a wide audience including local schools, colleges, and members of the public. A brief outline of our work with the community can be found here: http://www.thebiglemon.com/aboutUs/howWeWork/Community/. We also run a scheme called “Give Something Back”: www.thebiglemon.com/givesomethingback. This raises money for local good causes and our staff social fund.
Localisation – are you sourcing, distributing and interacting locally?
As much as possible, yes! Our fuel for example is collected processed and used locally, reducing our carbon footprint and supporting the local green economy. We have also been keen supporters of Brighton & Hove City Council’s “Be Local, Buy Local” campaign (http://bit.ly/OuDolb) and use local independent retailers for supplies wherever we can.

Climate impacts – negative, beneficial or neutral?
Realistically every business has some climate impact, but we aim to reduce ours at every opportunity: http://www.thebiglemon.com/aboutUs/howWeWork/Sustainability/. Through our use of renewable fuels we save CO2 emissions compared with running the same service on diesel-fuelled vehicles, and in the last year for which we have figures available, 2011, we saved an estimated 278 tonnes of CO2.

Anything else you’d like to share with us?
The Big Lemon has won a number of awards over the last few years. These have included
2009: Dandelion Award for Sustainable Business
2010: Best Sustainability Initiative, Brighton & Hove Public Service Awards
2011: Best Social Enterprise, EU Ethconomy Awards
2012: Best in Responsible Transport, Virgin Holidays Responsible Tourism Awards;
Bronze Award “Most Sustainable Small Business” International Green Awards

We have also tried to share our experiences with as wide an audience as possible to inspire, encourage and help others to develop similar sustainability initiatives in their communities. We were humbled and very excited to see reference to this on your website: http://www.reconomy.org/starting-a-community-scale-transport-enterprise/
Mission

The Bristol Bike Project aims to fulfill three objectives:

- To provide a valuable and empowering service for underprivileged and marginalised groups of people within our community whose lives would greatly improve through the benefit of having accessible, affordable and sustainable transportation.

- To provide an inclusive, non-judgmental, vibrant and supportive workshop environment for volunteers and project-users alike, from all walks of life, that encourages and promotes skill sharing and independence, where new skills are learned in a way that is empowering for all and friendships are made.

- To divert and redirect functional bicycles and their working parts from recycling and landfill. Through doing this, we help to lower the demand for raw materials, promote the ideas of reuse within our community and offer an alternative to simply buying new.

Is there a link with Transition?
There isn’t a formal link, although we are based in Bristol, which in 2007 became the first city to join a larger movement of Transition communities. Our objectives and aims are all in keeping with the Transition movement.

Your product or service – how much does it help improve resilience in your local community or elsewhere?
Repairing and relocating unwanted bicycles within our community, primarily through our Earn-a-Bike scheme and aiming to help people from all walks of life get out on two wheels and for it to be an inclusive and empowering experience.

Employees
We have 2 full time employees and 4 regular part time employees, but also offer other paid work to our volunteers when the opportunity arises. We currently have around 40 regular volunteers.

Are you in profit? If not, when do you anticipate being so? How long have you been trading?
Our turnover last year was £105,000. We have been trading, by selling secondhand bikes, since the project’s inception at our current workshop space in 2009, as a means of remaining a self-sustainable social enterprise.

What is your company structure and why did you choose it?
We are a not-for-profit, cooperatively-run Community Interest Company. We chose this model as we felt that it most appropriately aligned with our aims and objectives and suited the way in which we work together.

What about financial sustainability? Are you trading or part-trading without money?
We invested a lot of our time and energy voluntarily to start the project with no money. We renovated the current workshop space and as such had 3 months free rent to become more established. Very early on, we also had an anonymous donation of £1500 from a charitable organisation which helped pay overheads for the workshop space. We now have a very established trading arm as part of the social enterprise that directly supports our community work, by paying all of the project overheads.
Are you looking to build more common wealth & ownership and is priority your profit sharing and/or community benefits versus more traditional investor returns?
We are a co-operatively run organisation and invite our volunteers to become members and to have a sense of ownership of the project.

Localisation – are you sourcing, distributing and interacting locally?
We are a totally ‘local’ project! All of the unwanted bicycles and bicycle parts are donated to us by people living in and around Bristol and all of the bicycles that we relocate, both through our community and trading arm are to those people living in and around the city. We are supporters of the new local currency, the Bristol Pound, and work with 60 plus Bristol-based organisations who refer their clients to us. We engage continuously with our local community and provide free Dr bike maintenance sessions for grassroots events such as the St Werburgh’s Farm Fair, Trinity Garden Party and Refugee Week. We also run Family days and wheel decorating workshops. There really is something for everyone here at the project!

Climate impacts – negative, beneficial or neutral?
The climate impacts of the Bristol Bike Project are undoubtedly beneficial. The project always promotes re-use over recycling (which uses a huge amount of energy) wherever possible, and since it started in 2009, has prevented thousands of bicycles from being sent for scrap metal by refurbishing them and putting them back on the road instead. Bikes beyond repair are always stripped for parts that can be re-used on other bikes and only then are the remaining parts and frames sent to be recycled. We support people wanting to lead a more car-free existence, whilst remaining independently mobile in the city. The project is committed to minimising its waste stream wherever possible.

Anything else you’d like to share with us?
We believe strongly in building stronger, more resilient communities and realise the success of the project relies upon working with the whole community here in Bristol. As such, we are committed to making this project open and inclusive to all.
Mission
To create a currency that is a demonstrable, systemic driver of a fairer, sustainable low carbon economy for the Bristol region.

Is there a link with Transition?
The Bristol Pound scheme emerged from the Transition Bristol Money and Economic Forum.

Your product or service – how much does it help improve resilience in your local community or elsewhere?
A local complimentary currency open to all independently owned businesses based in the city region, plus primary producers up to 50 miles outside the city. This builds connections between businesses, with communities and individuals. The economy is also, therefore, more transparent to consumers and enables them to make choices with a view to short and long term social and environmental goals in mind.

Employees
4 part time staff plus 3 directors.

Are you in profit? If not, when do you anticipate being so? How long have you been trading?
For the account year ending: 31/12/2011, the figures are as follows:
Total income for the year (A) £8850
Total expenditure for the year (B) £5365
Total savings or reserves at the year end £3489

What is your company structure and why did you choose it?
A CIC is easy to set up and locks assets into our community. In addition, we operate in conjunction with the Bristol Credit Union.

What about financial sustainability? Are you trading or part-trading without money?
Combined funding plus scheme revenues 2012/13: Initial funds: Tudor Trust, Local individual donations, Local Authority, DECC. Seniorage from paper pounds, TEXT2PAY and online payments revenue, range of research funding trader membership fees, public service payments from LA, EU development funding.

Are you looking to build more common wealth & ownership and is priority your profit sharing and/or community benefits versus more traditional investor returns?
Profit sharing through re-circulation of local wealth combined with non-profit banking.

Localisation – are you sourcing, distributing and interacting locally?
Yes and enabling other diverse actors in the region to begin this process.
Climate impacts – negative, beneficial or neutral?
Beneficial: shorter supply chains and localised production allows localised control of inputs and reduces dependency on fossil fuel intensive transport

The Bristol Pound is viewed by the Local Authority as a key underpinning for all their aspirations to develop Bristol as a sustainable city region. A local/regional currency is a structural intervention that over time can steer the region’s economy to a very different place. It is a big ask for businesses and individuals alike, but without such structural interventions it is almost impossible to achieve the qualitative and quantitative changes required.
Mission
De4 Food was set up in 2012 as a co-operative social enterprise with the aim of enabling local food producers in and around the DE4 postcode area to supply local consumers with food and related products at fair prices to both.

Is there a link with Transition?
DE4 Food developed out of Transition Matlock’s work on building a sustainable local food economy through encouraging people grow their own, to shop local, and to seek out local food businesses. Our history is here: www.de4food.org.uk/our-history.html

Your product or service – how much does it help improve resilience in your local community or elsewhere?
We source local sustainable food from local producers and provide an online market place to food producers to trade with consumers. We are building resilience in food by providing an easy route to market for existing local food producers but also providing a business support service and testing ground for new local food businesses, to test if new products will work, and if new food businesses are viable, and if so what are the best marketing strategies for local food. Two new food businesses have been able to set up using DE4 food as their route to market. We have given advice to two more who hope to start trading through us in the next few months.

Employees
No paid employees yet although we have 6 volunteers. We aim to employ the manager on 20 hours a week by the end of the first year trading.

Are you in profit? If not, when do you anticipate being so? How long have you been trading?
We have been trading 6 months and our turnover for November to April was £12,408. We anticipate getting to the point where we can cover all our costs, including the cost of employing the manager on 20 hours a week by the beginning of the second year.

What is your company structure and why did you choose it?
Industrial and Provident Society Co-operative. We felt strongly we wanted to be a Co-op of consumers and producers working together to understand what makes a sustainable food economy at a local level.

What about financial sustainability? Are you trading or part-trading without money?
We are trading and retain 15% of the costs of produce sold to cover DE4 Food costs. We started with no grant funding. We designed the enterprise with low start up costs and we asked the community of members to loan us their skills / time / equipment and we would pay back when we had started trading. For example, our website was designed by a member who submitted the invoice on the understanding that we would not be able to pay it until we had been trading a few months and started to build up a surplus. We have now paid the web designer. Another member paid for the printing of our leaflets, knowing we would pay back this loan when we were able to. This loan will be paid back next month. We have used the Stroudco Food Hub software -- which is open source and therefore free to use.
Our up-front start up costs were very low - £110 for a years insurance. We have recently received a grant of £500 from Derbyshire County Council to enable us to buy more cool boxes to allow us to deliver out to distribution hubs (local pubs) in rural villages that have no shops.

Are you looking to build more common wealth & ownership and is priority your profit sharing and/or community benefits versus more traditional investor returns?
We are a co-op when we do make a profit then that enables us to renegotiate with producers, employees and consumers. We will balance paying fair wages with retaining a smaller margin on produce thereby benefitting the food producers and allowing the price of food to be reduced to our members.

Localisation – are you sourcing, distributing and interacting locally?
All our food comes from within a 15-mile radius – most comes from within a 5-mile radius. We are focusing on building resilient supply chains recognising that we can not grow all types of food in our locality, and that to build a resilient food economy, DE4 Food needs to support the growth of local food skills and infrastructure – in addition to food production. In other words, the need for local bakers rather than just Derbyshire grown wheat and the need for local dairies and the craft skills that go alongside.

We are discussing with our members the issues around local food versus sustainable/ethical food. We are researching the existing local food economy investigating the potential for more resilient local food businesses to trade locally and can see the gaps where new and existing businesses could potentially be trading locally rather than those products being bought from elsewhere. Localism in Derbyshire food has often meant producers developing ‘niche market’ expensive products to sell throughout the UK and beyond as regional foods. We do not believe this to be sustainable. Our approach to localization is very different as we focus on producers supplying the staples of meat, veg and fruit and local processing businesses such as millers, brewers, butchers, abattoirs and dairies at the town and village level.

Climate impacts – negative, beneficial or neutral?
Our climate impact is neutral and hopefully moving towards beneficial. We do deliver our food orders by car to households and to distribution hubs in the community. But as we deliver bread, meat, veg boxes, etc in one delivery round this replaces the 3 separate deliver rounds that the butcher, baker and veg box scheme used to do in the area. We favour low input agriculture and our farmers are either certified organic or do not use pesticides and herbicides. We hold no stock so have no food waste at the end of each trading day.

Anything else you want to share with us?
We have learnt a lot about the problems of trying to localize the food economy in an area where the landscape and climate does not favor market gardening or arable production. Localising food in a traditional hill farming area has thrown up lots of challenges to the traditional way of thinking about growing and eating food. We are using ‘patchwork farming’ ideas of growing vegetables in small spaces, having lots of small-scale growers rather than field scale. The educational role of DE4 Food is immense as a diet based on local food means going to back to vast regional differences and in doing so challenging assumptions about “healthy diets” based on a wide range of fruit and vegetables, chicken and pork.

Our new business/enterprise support and development work is becoming increasingly important as we see what new businesses are needed to fill the gaps and we recognise the need to find funding mechanisms for this aspect of our work.
Mission

Dot Dot Dot lets people who do great volunteering live as property guardians in buildings that would otherwise be empty.

We turn empty buildings from a blight into an asset – providing a vital security service to property owners, giving our guardians cheap accommodation, and making a meaningful and measurable contribution to communities. As a social enterprise, we’re committed to supporting our guardians to get involved in great voluntary projects and to contribute to the neighbourhoods where we place them.

All our guardians do at least 16 hours a month of volunteering for a charitable purpose, and we help new guardians find the right opportunities to get involved with so that this voluntary work is enjoyable and worthwhile for everyone.

We also set up and run our own projects in the areas where we have concentrations of properties – such as a new community gardening project on a housing estate in E14 where we are bringing neglected growing beds back into use and helping elderly people with the care of their gardens.

Is there a link with Transition?
No, however we admire and share the ideals of the Transition movement.

Your product or service – how much does it help improve resilience in your local community or elsewhere?

We place Dot Dot Dot guardians in vacant properties ensuring that they are kept tidy and cared for and avoiding the blight that neglected or boarded up houses can inflict on neighbourhoods. On top of this, our guardians are dedicated to work that benefits the community. By acting as property guardians, they gain inexpensive accommodation reducing the financial pressures they face, allowing them to give more time and energy to the valuable projects they are involved with.

Those living close to the properties that Dot Dot Dot protects can be confident that our guardians are reliable, considerate individuals who make great neighbours. They will also benefit from if they are involved in any of the projects that our guardians get involved with.

Employees

5 full-time.

Are you in profit? If not, when do you anticipate being so? How long have you been trading?

Our turnover in the year to June 2012 (our first year of trading) was £30,000. We have grown rapidly since then and are now in profit, and anticipate a turnover of £100,000 for our current financial year. We have been registered as a company since June 2011.
What is your company structure and why did you choose it?
Legally, we are currently a Company Limited by Shares and we intend to set up an associated charity when our scale justifies it. We chose this structure while starting up to give us maximum flexibility. We operate as a social enterprise and are committed to achieving social outcomes.

What about financial sustainability? Are you trading or part-trading without money?
We have received funding from the Bromley by Bow Centre (£15,000 in exchange for shares) and Nesta (£50,000 grant funding) as part of their Innovation in Giving scheme, in recognition of our novel and highly scalable approach to supporting volunteering and getting empty homes into worthwhile use.

Are you looking to build more common wealth & ownership and is priority your profit sharing and/or community benefits versus more traditional investor returns?
We are committed to increasing the community benefits we can achieve. As we grow, we increase the number of guardians we can house, which increases the community benefit we can achieve through them, as the number of volunteer hours increases.

Localisation – are you sourcing, distributing and interacting locally?
Yes, we buy the majority of supplies locally, and we currently have the majority of our properties in Tower Hamlets (London) so we are building links locally with small businesses in the area such as furniture shops. Much of the volunteering our guardians do takes place locally and we devote significant time and resources to building mutually supportive relationships with local charities and social enterprises. For example, when we held a party recently we rented the venue from a local charity, bought the food from a community group, and awarded prizes that were bought from a local shop.

Climate impacts – negative, beneficial or neutral?
Positive – We are helping to reduce the carbon footprint of the housing sector by making use of properties that would otherwise be empty. This provides additional housing without the need to embody carbon in new housing stock.

We also have a dedicated member of staff (our green officer) who keeps a track of ways in which we can reduce any climate impacts, be this by recycling or having an office ‘Boris Bike’ membership to ensure we all cycle to meetings and to travel to our properties.
Mission
We aim to provide excellent, healthy nutritious bread and food, sourced as locally as possible using organic ingredients wherever we can. We care about the development of local food networks, take an ethical stance in choosing who we build relationships with and as a workers co-op, we are active members of the co-operative movement. We are a non-profit making organisation.

Is there a link with Transition?
We have no formal links to MASTT, the local transition town group. However, one of the founders was briefly connected to the start up of that group and some of the ideas for a local food business emerged from that period.

Your product or service – how much does it help improve resilience in your local community or elsewhere?
We are an Artisan Bakery with a café. We provide our local community with a choice of excellently made real breads on a daily basis. Our range includes sourdoughs, yeasted breads and specialty loaves. All of our bread is slowly fermented which develops its flavour, nutritional and digestive qualities.

We are also a community supported bakery. From the outset, we have sought a trusting connection with our consumer base. This has been embraced in the form of a subscription service, where customers pay monthly for a loaf of their choice. This was important in our early development as we had visible commitment and support along with a monetary income that we could rely and build upon. When moving to larger premises, we sought financial investment from the local community who have lent us money for a fixed period and have their interest paid in bread.

Education is also important to us. We run courses on a monthly basis which helps to spread knowledge and interest in artisan production methods and the benefit of slow fermentation processes.

Employees
We employ eight worker directors. These members work across bakery and café and are responsible for the running of the business. We work a maximum of four days a week. We have 6 co-op members who each work a 32hr week, plus 14 casual workers who work in the café, clean, do markets, etc.

Are you in profit? If not, when do you anticipate being so? How long have you been trading?
Our turnover was approximately £250k last year. This was a break even position. This year we are looking to turn a small profit as we further develop the business. We have been trading for 4 years.

What is your company structure and why did you choose it?
We are a workers co-operative, not for profit and limited by guarantee. We believe in the values of shared working and shared profits. The non-hierarchical structure of a co-op means that we all have equal control and responsibility that develops a sense of mutual trust and commitment to the business amongst its worker members. As co-op, we also act with concern for our wider community.
What about financial sustainability? Are you trading or part-trading without money?  
We raised some of our initial start up from small social enterprise funding (UnLTD) and the rest from loans from founder members. This amounted to about £30,000 -- the majority of which was loans from founder members.  
When we moved to larger premises we raised £40,000 from individual community loans. These bread bondholders lent small amounts (£500-4000) and receive bread as interest.

Are you looking to build more common wealth & ownership and is priority your profit sharing and/or community benefits versus more traditional investor returns?  
We are committed to our co-operative values that embrace ideas of commonwealth and ownership.

Localisation – are you sourcing, distributing and interacting locally?  
We have a policy to source food ingredients as locally as possible. All of our flour is organic, some of this is from Yorkshire Organic Millers, the rest is from Shiptons Mill in Gloucestershire (a well respected source of organic flour for British Artisan bakers.) Food for the café is sourced as locally as possible and we seek to nurture relationships that we can trust and that have a high degree of transparency. We have a garden outside the bakery where we grow as much as possible for seasonal café food.

Climate impacts – negative, beneficial or neutral?  
Where possible we seek to save energy and limit the climate impact of our business. Phone and utility companies when in our control are ethically chosen. We recycle and compost as much as possible. Compost is used on our garden outside the bakery where we grow some food for the café.
Mission

To deliver high quality care and support to older people within their own home.

Is there a link with Transition?
Not formally, but we have attended some of the local REconomy meetings.

Your product or service – how much does it help improve resilience in your local community or elsewhere?
We provide services to local communities within the South Hams and in particular to older people in the Totnes and Market Town Area, within an approximate 7-mile radius of Totnes. The main focus is to help those who require support and assistance in order to remain in the community. The company’s activities are of particular benefit to:

- any older person who needs practical assistance and support in order to remain at home, including those with physical disabilities and mental health issues such as dementia,
- any older person who has reduced contact with the community or services within it or who are disadvantaged or vulnerable,
- the carers of older people who may need support in order to be able to continue providing care.

Employees

4, including the Director/Manager

Are you in profit? If not, when do you anticipate being so? How long have you been trading?
Hestia launched in June 2012. We got our first client in July 2012 and since then all loans have been repaid and we are in profit. At this point in time, we have invoiced and been paid £39,000.

What is your company structure and why did you choose it?
Community Interest Company Limited by Guarantee.

What about financial sustainability? Are you trading or part-trading without money?
I won an Unltd Award of approximately £3,500 that helped with initial funding. I was also loaned money by family. We are now making an income from the services provided.

Are you looking to build more common wealth & ownership and is priority your profit sharing and/or community benefits versus more traditional investor returns?
We don’t have shares. In the future, we may grow to a CIC with a larger membership but not until we are more established.

Localisation – are you sourcing, distributing and interacting locally?
We work within a 7-mile radius of Totnes in Devon.

Climate impacts – negative, beneficial or neutral?
We need to drive to all our clients. This is the only climate impact.
Mission
To address the community’s need to provide work and volunteering opportunities to the disabled members of the community while also providing a place where locals can get together.

Is there a link with Transition?
No.

Your product or service – how much does it help improve resilience in your local community or elsewhere?
The community café provides a place where people can meet and purchase fresh, health, affordable food daily while also providing a place where the most disadvantaged have an opportunity to volunteer and learn new skills improving their employability and confidence.

Employees
1 x 35hrs, 2 x 30hrs, 1 x 25hrs and 16 volunteers.

Are you in profit? If not, when do you anticipate being so?
How long have you been trading?
Turnover: £38,000.00, Profit: £6,000.00 We have been trading since 4 June 2010.

What is your company structure and why did you choose it?
Social enterprise – company limited by guarantee.

What about financial sustainability? Are you trading or part-trading without money?
3 members of the committee put £500.00 in each to get started.

Are you looking to build more common wealth & ownership and is priority your profit sharing and/or community benefits versus more traditional investor returns?
The profit that we make annually is reinvested into the service we provide and to purchase new equipment.

Localisation – are you sourcing, distributing and interacting locally?
We purchase all produce locally and work in partnership with local social enterprises to provide catering etc.

Climate impacts – negative, beneficial or neutral?
We are environmentally friendly in every aspect of the business, we use recyclable products, we grown our own fresh herbs, the café is fitted out by low energy, light and equipment.
Mission
Addressing unemployment & worklessness in disadvantaged communities through a community-powered approach to employment & enterprise that creates local jobs for local people.

Is there a link with Transition?
Yes, Transition Town Brixton (TTB). Mamading Ceesay was involved in the following TTB subgroups: Brixton Pound, and Business & Economy. Sofia was involved in the Community Shop. LCL has delivered training & support to TTB and its members. LCL itself was setup as an initiative entirely independently of TTB.

Your product or service – how much does it help improve resilience in your local community or elsewhere?
Many cities have neighbourhoods with high levels of unemployment & social exclusion. The Social Startup Labs programme is an ecosystem approach to enterprise & work creation using underused assets like vacant spaces & talents of the excluded to enable deghettoisation. The centrepiece of our programme, Social Startup Labs, are a series of intense workshops where a range of neighbourhood stakeholders match underused assets with un(der)mets needs in order to discover enterprise opportunities. The resulting Social Startups can be incubated with training, coaching & seed funding over months to become trading enterprises creating value for paying customers, paid employment for the excluded & tax revenue for local government.

To empower the excluded to fully participate in the Labs, we offer Skills Camps. This is a course delivered over several weeks - using a peer to peer career coaching approach - to build confidence, improve interpersonal skills & discover transferable skills, while building supportive relationships with peers. Camps graduates are more active in the Labs & better engaged with the job market.

The above services are generally delivered as part of a programme on a commissioned basis. Previous participants have gone onto employment or into vocational training; demonstrated positive behaviour change; positive changes in how they thought & felt; had improvements in interpersonal relationships. Our services have changed peoples' lives & can transform neighbourhoods by instilling a culture of entrepreneurship. Brixton is our test-bed, prior to scaling and/or replication.

Employees
Core team is 3 people, 2 are currently volunteering on full time basis and 1 part time.

Are you in profit? If not, when do you anticipate being so? How long have you been trading?
Turnover in year ending 31st March 2012 was £159,200. It was almost entirely grant funding. We envision being commissioned to deliver services by local authorities and housing associations & eventually developing a social investment model for scaling/replicating on a sustainable basis. Our first trading activity was in 2010.
What is your company structure and why did you choose it?
Charitable company limited by guarantee. Being a registered charity was a condition of funding from JP Morgan. Despite being a charity, we’ve always intended to be a social business that puts purpose before profit. Based on work commissioned by local authorities & housing associations, we will operate a trading arm that will fund the charitable activities.

Since we are working to change the system as a whole, taking on functions that usually would be seen as the remit of government, some work will always be funded through charitable means & eventually social investment, and other work will be financed through delivering value to the market place. Thus our social enterprise will always operate in tandem as a charity with a for-profit arm.

What about financial sustainability? Are you trading or part-trading without money?
Initial funding of approximately £6000 was through a peerfund (pre-crowdfunding), then self-funded through debt. We were then commissioned to conduct various community consultations by Lambeth Council, the local strategic partnership Lambeth First and the London Community Foundation. We then raised nearly £160K from JP Morgan and the Mayor of London to deliver first major programme in 2012. We are currently working on strategy and fundraising and the business model is still in development.

Are you looking to build more common wealth & ownership and is priority your profit sharing and/or community benefits versus more traditional investor returns?
The emerging model has an emphasis on social investment in locally owned and operated enterprises for community benefit.

Localisation – are you sourcing, distributing and interacting locally?
We use local talent in many cases from the very community we are helping. We also make use of local resources that would otherwise be underused or wasted altogether.

Climate impacts – negative, beneficial or neutral?
Neutral. As things ramp up, creating local jobs for local people will be beneficial in terms of transport-related climate impacts.

Anything else you want to share with us?
Sofia Bustamante was named a London Leader by the London Sustainable Development Commission and won the People’s Vote in Ogunte’s Women’s Social Leadership Awards 2013.

In 2012, we trained 67 mostly unemployed & disadvantaged local people to be career coaches in the community via Skills Camps. We also facilitated the instigation of 19 social startups locally via Social Startup Labs.
Mission

We think that a community coming together around good food can be a real catalyst for more change and better relationships. We’re passionate about the environment too... you can read more about our values on our website.

Is there a link with Transition?
Yes, We were started by members of Transition Norwich.

Your product or service – how much does it help improve resilience in your local community or elsewhere?
We are a community supported agriculture project supplying vegetables to our members; alongside the vegetables we offer the benefits of a greater connection with the growing, seasons and wider environment.

Employees
We have 3 part time employees and around 30 regular volunteers.

Are you in profit? If not, when do you anticipate being so? How long have you been trading?
We’ve just entering our third growing season. We received money from the lottery when we started, which we’ve been able to eke out over the years. We really need to start turning a profit this year and will need to grow our membership by around a third to achieve this. We’re meeting to tweak our marketing strategy for this season in a week or so. Our turnover last year was around £45,000.

What is your company structure and why did you choose it?
We’re a social enterprise and a CSA – Community Supported Agriculture scheme. We felt this was the best fit – allowing us to make a profit we can plough (!) back into the business but underlining the fact that making money isn’t our reason for doing this.

What about financial sustainability? Are you trading or part-trading without money?
We were very lucky to get £50,000 from the lottery to get us going. Our ongoing income is solely from the payments of our membership for the vegetable shares.

Are you looking to build more common wealth & ownership and is priority your profit sharing and/or community benefits versus more traditional investor returns?
We don’t have any investors to pay a return to- so as soon as we turn a profit, we’ll be free to invest that money back into Norwich FarmShare to improve what we do.
Localisation – are you sourcing, distributing and interacting locally?
We’re working with a local organic wholesaler to help us keep our members happy with the veg while allowing us to buy in extra produce if a crop fails or just to keep the shares interesting over the hungry gap. We’ve just expanded to offer eggs from a local producer too.

Climate impacts – negative, beneficial or neutral?
Well, the farming of the land will certainly be emitting carbon, but we hope that as we’re producing vegetables within 5 miles of Norwich, we’re replacing vegetables that would have traveled further. We’re also growing without artificial fertilisers.
Mission
To re-open and, subsequently, keep open “The Raven Inn” community pub, the only pub in our village -- providing an inclusive social hub for locals to keep in touch with one another and to access services such as a Post Office counter.

In addition, we have preserved a circa 1772 historic building that was becoming an eyesore when the village took over the lease, with a view to preventing the landlord converting it to housing. We now have a “full repairing” lease which means we are responsible for the upkeep inside and out, keeping it open for future generations.

Is there a link with Transition?
No.

Your product or service – how much does it help improve resilience in your local community or elsewhere?
We provide a venue for people to meet and socialise. In addition, we provide employment opportunities, both paid and unpaid, which increases community cohesion.

Employees
One full time, three part time and approximately 35 to 40 volunteers.

Are you in profit? If not, when do you anticipate being so? How long have you been trading?
Last year’s turnover was approximately £200,000 and we broke even. We don’t aim to make a distributable profit as all surpluses are ploughed back into the business or donated to local community causes. We have been trading for three & a half years.

What is your company structure and why did you choose it?
We chose to be a Company Limited by Guarantee. We are a not-for-profit social enterprise as this allows us to apply for grants reserved for such third sector organisations.

What about financial sustainability? Are you trading or part-trading without money?
We started with a small loan (£2,000) from a TV production company to stock the bar. They were filming a documentary about us called “Save your Boozer.” The business is cash generative and so we soon repaid the loan and negotiated credit terms with our suppliers, which have sustained us since then. In order to strengthen our cash flow, we have diversified by providing accommodation in addition to food and drink.

Are you looking to build more common wealth & ownership and is priority your profit sharing and/or community benefits versus more traditional investor returns?
Our constitution prevents us from creating any returns for investors so as the business grows and becomes more valuable the community is the only entity to benefit.
Localisation – are you sourcing, distributing and interacting locally?
Wherever possible we source all the ingredients for our menu from local suppliers. Likewise we specialise in serving beers from microbreweries located in North Wales and the Border region. The staff we employ are either from the village itself or within 10 mile radius, thus helping to provide income locally.

Climate impacts – negative, beneficial or neutral?
Our policy of sourcing goods locally and of providing local services in the community that people might have otherwise travelled out of the immediate area to enjoy, reduces the road miles travelled and therefore the resulting environmental impact. We continue to investigate the feasibility of installing more climate friendly systems, including heating and hot water.

Anything else you want to share with us?
We believe that we have proven this business model works for community enterprise, which is reflected in the fact that we have been trading for 4 years in August, whilst other similar ventures have sadly failed. This is largely due to the response of the village and the hard work and determination of a core number of volunteers. Running a pub as a social enterprise is very demanding and has many “behind the scenes” tasks.

We endeavour to provide excellent customer service as we know to continue have a pub for the village – we also need visiting customers!
Mission
Our mission is simple: To educate communities and enable them to take responsibility for their environment by managing their energy usage. As a co-operative, we take community education seriously, integrating it into every area of the business.

Is there a link with Transition?
We have strong links with Transition Penwith, taking part in local events, attending meetings and giving talks on energy saving and renewable energy.

Your product or service – how much does it help improve resilience in your local community or elsewhere?
R-ECO is a co-operative installer of renewable energy systems for homes, businesses and communities. We’re not here just to shift units, we’re here to ensure that our customers receive the correct, long-term support they need in order to achieve realistic sustainability, saving money and the environment for the future.

We aim to start at the bottom – working with children and families, conducting creative workshops and demonstrating the links between recycling, energy saving and the environment. Of course, ultimately, we want people to buy our product, but we have a wider community focus – we do not want people blindly purchasing renewable energy systems, we want people to think about their whole house, their lifestyle and their carbon footprint. We work with schools, we provide free, clean energy for community events with our mobile solar PV system, as well as carrying out free recycling craft activities and energy talks at all of our events.

Employees
4 full-time, 8 part-time. 9 of our 12 employees are members, giving them an equal say in the business. We operate a system of rolling Directorships – each year, the longest standing Director steps down, meaning that any member can stand and be voted in by the membership. We actively encourage our workers to become members and, as such, our Directors are also core workers. All members’ work volunteer hours, full-time members work at least 10 volunteer hours per week.

Are you in profit? If not, when do you anticipate being so? How long have you been trading?
Turnover of £750,000. We are in profit. We have been trading since November 2008.

What is your company structure and why did you choose it?
We are a worker co-operative, limited by guarantee. We chose to be a worker co-operative as we felt that as a collective, we needed a structure that reflected the democratic nature of the way we intended to do business. Having entered the world of co-operatives from a background of working for traditional corporations, it was a refreshing approach. Our structure has allowed our workers to flourish, from system designers, to office admin, everyone has an equal say into how the business is run. Nobody’s voice is lost in the business; all workers are treated as equals, and paid accordingly.
What about financial sustainability? Are you trading or part-trading without money?
The business began, and ran for the first two years, with no external funds, and just a small contribution from members to keep the office going. This amounted to approximately £6000. Members also worked voluntarily as and when possible. In 2010, prior to our first commercial job, we applied for, and received, a small loan, low cost loan from Co-operative and Community Finance. We have since received no external support.

Are you looking to build more common wealth & ownership and is priority your profit sharing and/or community benefits versus more traditional investor returns?
We are a co-operative limited by guarantee, and therefore have no shareholders. We intend to bring in a system of dividends, whereby a certain portion of profit would be shared among the members.

Localisation – are you sourcing, distributing and interacting locally?
We employ local people in the areas in which we operate. Our hub is in Cornwall, and all of our office and site staff, are local people. We source as much as we can from local suppliers, and interact with the local community on a regular basis.

We have recently opened an office in Bristol, as we had some interest from some Bristol based workers. Our Bristol office is now staffed by locals and we have sourced local site workers for our Bristol projects, meaning that not only are we interacting with the local community, but we are also keeping our carbon footprint low by reducing cross-country travel. We have a Bristol Pound Account, giving local customers the opportunity to pay for our services using local currency, therefore keeping the capital in the local area.

Climate impacts – negative, beneficial or neutral?
We aim to keep our carbon footprint as low as possible: our office is heated by solar thermal and solar PV provides the electricity. We don’t print brochures, instead preferring to email clients with our brochure, keeping printing at a minimum.

Anything else you want to share with us?
We are a co-operative business, aiming to do our best for the local communities within which we work, both in terms of income generation and climate change.
Mission
At Repowering, we are committed to working with Local Authorities and communities to develop local solutions to energy and related challenges, like fuel poverty, energy generation and energy efficiency.

Is there a link with Transition?
Our project, like so many others, was fostered by Transition Town Brixton (TTB) where our young ideas were allowed to grow within the protected nurturing environment. Now, as an independent organisation, we work together with Transition Town Brixton and its projects when ever possible.

Your product or service – how much does it help improve resilience in your local community or elsewhere?
Through the creation of local energy projects that are co-operatively owned, we aim to:

- Tackle fuel poverty and reduce exposure to energy price shocks;
- Generate decentralized renewable / low carbon energy;
- Provide training and employment opportunities for local people;
- Promote local leadership through community ownership, thereby empowering communities to take control of their energy generation and usage;
- Provide opportunities for local and socially responsible investment;
- Increase awareness about energy efficiency, encouraging behavior changes.

Repowering’s first project, Brixton Energy Solar 1 delivered in March 2012, was the UK’s first inner-city community-owned solar power station, a 37kW solar array on the roof of Elmore House on the Loughborough Estate. The second was a 45kW system spread over the roofs of the 5 housing blocks of Styles Gardens on the Loughborough Estate. Both projects raised a total £120,000 through community share offers attracting 180 local investors.

Repowering has just launched its third project Brixton Energy Solar 3 installing a 52kW solar array on four blocks of the Roupell Park Estate in Brixton.

Employees
1 full time and 7 volunteers.

Are you in profit? If not, when do you anticipate being so? How long have you been trading?
Over the course of a year Repowering has been successful in securing £100,000 through grant funding from National and Local government as mentioned below. Repowering’s financial status is secure for the next six months and is developing opportunities and partnerships to ensure long term financial stability.

What is your company structure and why did you choose it?
Repowering started as a constituted voluntary organisation on September 2011 and registered as an Industrial Provident Society (IPS), more commonly known as a Co-operative on 22nd March 2013. We are a not-for-profit organisation because we want to run as financial viable company for the better of the community whose company structure holds social values equal to fiduciary responsibility.
What about financial sustainability? Are you trading or part-trading without money?
Initial funds and resources came from local and national government grants such as the Greater London Authority Low carbon zone fund, Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Local Energy Assessment Fund (LEAF), Carbon Energy Saving Program (CESP) and Lambeth Council. Repowering is also supported by several hundred hours of volunteer time.

Are you looking to build more common wealth & ownership and is priority your profit sharing and/or community benefits versus more traditional investor returns?
All our energy projects are co-operatively owned with hundreds of investors facilitating community ownership whilst also increasing the community’s resilience to the increasing price of energy. Our company structure embeds co-operative principles of one share one vote. Each of our co-operative projects distributes 20% of profits to a community fund. This fund will be used to deliver energy saving initiatives such as draught-proofing and insulation, as well as educating and re-skilling local people about the environmental and cost benefits of pursuing more energy efficient behaviour.

Investors who are largely from the local community will receive an annual return on their investment and their investment back at the end of the project life. This is further boosted by tax incentives. For example Brixton Energy Solar 2 provides investors a 3% return on investment. With the 50% tax relief under the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme this is effectively a 4.5% return. For Brixton Energy Solar 3 it is 4% return with tax relief enhancing return to 6%.

In all projects investors may choose to donate their annual return on investment towards the community fund. In Brixton Energy Solar 1, eight investors chose to do this.

Localisation – are you sourcing, distributing and interacting locally?
We are committed to working collaboratively with local residents and community groups to develop projects to by and for the community. Due to our co-operative approach our projects have been successful in attracting members from the local community and providing work experience for young people on the estates.

Climate impacts – negative, beneficial or neutral?
Repowering has a positive impact on the environment. We save hundreds of tons of carbon directly through renewable energy generation and indirectly through behavior change.

Anything else you want to share with us?
Brixton Energy Solar 3 is our most recent project that was launched on 6th June. The share offer closes on 14 July 2013 and offers investors a 4% average annual return on their investment. Brixton Energy Solar 3 needs to raise £67,000 to install a 52kW solar array on 4 housing blocks on the Roupell Park Estate. We are working with 5 young people from the estate who have joined an internship programme for the last 10 weeks and are now doing a paid work placement installing the panels on the roof.

Energy surveys completed by residents on the estate showed that 98% of the residents supported the project and they believed that being co-operatively owned is a good thing. What’s great is that they heard about it from the Loughborough Estate, where Brixton Energy Solar 1 and Solar 2 happened.
Mission
Our mission is to mobilize a global network of people who extend the lifespan of electronics by fostering repair skills and improving product design.

Is there a link with Transition?
The organisation was co-founded by a member of Transition Belsize’s coordinating group and it often organises events in collaboration with Transition initiatives in London. Other Transition initiatives across the country have expressed an interest, and we would be happy to support them.

Your product or service – how much does it help improve resilience in your local community or elsewhere?
“Restart Parties” are our current main service. These are events where volunteers experienced with electronics help participants learn to repair or maintain their broken or slow electronic devices, as well as share tips on how to take back control of what they buy. We organise these parties as free community events in collaboration with Transition groups, community libraries, markets and the like. In addition, we have begun working in partnership with universities, schools, councils and others to provide educational opportunities, including lectures on planned obsolescence, Restart Parties for students and repair courses. The next step will be events and opportunities targeting local businesses, inspiring them to embrace repair and to find fun ways to be more resilient in the workplace.

We directly curate events across London and we are increasingly supporting other groups set up their Restart Parties all over the UK and abroad, with requests from Italy, France, Canada, South Africa, Egypt, United States and beyond.

Employees
At the moment, we have two staff members who are both working part-time without a salary, plus fundraising and training volunteers. Our network of volunteer repairers is constantly growing.

Are you in profit? If not, when do you anticipate being so? How long have you been trading?
We are not-for-profit and at the moment we can only pay our expenses. We began running free events in June 2012, but only registered and began trading in March 2013.

What is your company structure and why did you choose it?
We are a Charity Incorporated Organisation. We chose this structure because we see ourselves as a social startup/enterprise but given that a lot of our activities bring social benefits without necessarily generating revenues, a charitable form was preferable. We also chose this structure in order to ensure transparency and accountability.

What about financial sustainability? Are you trading or part-trading without money?
Initial funds were raised through a grant from Earthkeepers (Project Dirt/Timberland) and through loans by the founders. We currently charge institutions for some of the events we curate/organise on their behalf. We accept donations both on our website and at events, and we’re looking for sponsors to support the expansion of our network of community events. We are also fundraising to develop an online platform to promote local repairers of all kinds of things and to make it easier to find them, both in the UK and abroad.
Are you looking to build more common wealth & ownership and is priority your profit sharing and/or community benefits versus more traditional investor returns?

We are a charitable organisation, meaning there is no return to investors/profit sharing. We reinvest all we earn from events to further develop the organisation. We contract our volunteers for some of the paid services we provide, thus reinforcing their connection with the project.

Localisation – are you sourcing, distributing and interacting locally?

We strongly believe in repair and reuse and we try to source locally all supplies we can’t reuse.

Climate impacts – negative, beneficial or neutral?

At the moment, they are completely beneficial: thanks to our work, participants at our events, courses, talks – as well as our followers on social media – are exposed to the importance of repairing and reusing electric and electronic products. In addition, the tangible benefit is an immediate reduction of unnecessary waste and of excessive consumerism, prolonging the use of existing products and increasing resilience and skill-sharing in the communities we work in. Our work does not generate a negative climate impact: we use public transport and bicycles. The only merchandising we do is via stickers. We go the extra mile to promote reuse as an alternative to recycling, helping communities, such as Freecycling groups, to repair the products they attempt to save from landfill.

Anything else you want to share with us?

Our slogan: don’t despair, just repair!

In addition to our direct activities, we promote the concept of repair online and through public events with the goal of helping communities to prepare for a new, more resilient economy, based on renewed trust and recognition for local repair heroes. By reimagining the role of repair and skill-sharing in our future high streets we explore ways to build an efficient, more frugal and less wasteful economy.
Robert Owen Community Banking
www.rocbf.co.uk

Mission
Banking services are essential for working local economies. At Robert Owen Community Banking (ROCB), our intention is to provide community banking as an alternative to the big banks, providing local and fair finance to homes and businesses in Welsh communities.

Is there a link with Transition?
Not directly, but Mick Brown has participated in REconomy events and has given informal input as well.

Your product or service – how much does it help improve resilience in your local community or elsewhere?
ROCB takes in local investments enabling it to provide loans. Some of these loans help homeowners to make their properties more sustainable, and some of these loans help new or existing businesses wishing to grow. Recycling local money is a fair way of financing our local economies and is what we call community banking. ROCB services the whole of Wales either directly (for business customers and local authorities) or in partnership with credit unions (for household and personal loans).

Robert Owen Community Banking can help with:
• finding ethical and local ways of investing savings
• raising finance for projects through ethical investments
• providing loans to local people and businesses (Enterprise Loans & Green Energy Loans)
• other services including consultancy, training, special Projects and share Issues

Employees
1 full time manager 3 part time staff, 6 volunteer officers.

Are you in profit? If not, when do you anticipate being so? How long have you been trading?
ROCB was established in 2006 and we had to become sustainable after only 3 years of trading. This is faster than most similar not for profit companies in our sector. Last year our turnover was £600k.

What is your company structure and why did you choose it?
ROCB is a not-for-profit company working to build better communities based on sustainable businesses, and is a CDFI (Community Development Finance Institution) and a member of the Community Development Finance Association. It provides a complementary legal and regulatory partner to credit unions and IPS’s.

What about financial sustainability? Are you trading or part-trading without money?
£100k from Welsh Government towards revenue costs during the first 3 years. We have service level agreements with local authority for renewable energy lending, and income from interest on our lending.
Are you looking to build more common wealth & ownership and is priority your profit sharing and/or community benefits versus more traditional investor returns?

Any profits go back into the company to support further development, as legally mandated by CDFI rules. We are supporting new start up businesses who cannot get capital investment elsewhere, to try to generate new enterprise, turnover and wealth into local communities, especially in rural Wales. We have set up a sister company – Robert Owen Renewables, established as an energy coop to encourage local share ownership into this sector. Linked to this, we are developing an energy backed local currency – NEWTs (Newtown Economic Wealth Tokens) which is convertible through the community bank. This project is supported by the New Economics Foundation (http://www.neweconomics.org/) and is one of the first attempts to model a genuine energy currency.

We are currently forming partnerships into a local consortium of social enterprise and ROCB will be the banking partner within this intended micro-Mondragon model.

Localisation – are you sourcing, distributing and interacting locally?

We contract all our services locally, such as outsourcing loan assessment work to local credit union teams. We work with local social enterprises that invest their surpluses with us rather than through the banking system, thus keeping their capital invested within local enterprise.

We have persuaded the Newtown Town Council (home of Robert Owen) to partly disinvest from the banking sector and lodge their reserves with us, which is now used for local investments. We have helped to create dozens of new local jobs that could not have been financed otherwise.

Climate impacts – negative, beneficial or neutral?

Hugely positive! We finance sustainable businesses and renewable energy projects, both of which aim to reduce carbon emissions and environmental impacts. We have financed over £1m in new small-scale renewable installations locally, where micro-finance has helped householders who otherwise would not have been able to afford to green up their homes. We are financing the new hydro scheme here on the river Severn with a £.75m construction.

And, we are a founder member of Community Energy Wales, and working on a new revolving loan fund for new community schemes to try and unlock the financial barrier to small scale renewables.

Anything else you want to share with us?

We are a CDFI with the emphasis on the CD – community development and we are committed to “providing fairer local finance.” This sums us up.
Mission
To provide pay-per-use vehicles to people in and around Dunbar.

Is there a link with Transition?
Not any more, though we benefited substantially from support from the Transition initiative, Sustaining Dunbar, in getting set up. Sustaining Dunbar provided moral support in addition to helping us put together our business plan and website. They also provided valuable contacts and staff time, covered some printing, advertising and other incidental costs initially. We have now been trading for 2 years as a completely separate organization, but still work closely with Sustaining Dunbar as we share the same goals. For example, Sustaining Dunbar is helping to explore options for more efficient community transport solutions, potentially using car club vehicles.

Your product or service – how much does it help improve resilience in your local community or elsewhere?
We have 3 cars (a practical Fiesta, a workhorse 7-seater, and a trendy automatic Mini) which we hire out to our members by the hour, the day or the week, giving local people an alternative to owning their own (or a second) car, or allowing them to drive a smaller car day-to-day in the knowledge that they can have access to a bigger one when they need it. We currently have 50 business and household members (70 named drivers).

Employees
No employees. 4 volunteer directors, 3 volunteer car-minders. We contract a local firm to clean and check the cars regularly and pay a franchise fee to our parent organization that provides back-office support.

Are you in profit? If not, when do you anticipate being so? How long have you been trading?
Turnover last year was £20,000. We have been trading since April 2011 and are now breaking even -- generating enough income to keep things ticking over and to replace the cars when required.

What is your company structure and why did you choose it?
We are a community interest company (CIC). We chose this structure because it allowed us to access grant funding without which we would never have got off the ground. However, we are definitely a business and not a charity and expect to be paying our own way.

What about financial sustainability? Are you trading or part-trading without money?
We were given 2 cars and the insurance and booking systems were paid for in the first year by the ‘Developing Car Clubs in Scotland Fund’ administered by Carplus on behalf of the Scottish Government. We chose to use a high-tech computerized booking system that is expensive to install and run, but allows us to function without any paid staff. We are also a franchise of a national CIC, Co-wheels (http://www.co-wheels.org.uk), which not only gives our members access to a network of cars around the UK, but also handles all the back-office functions, again, freeing up our volunteers’ time.
Are you looking to build more common wealth & ownership and is priority your profit sharing and/or community benefits versus more traditional investor returns?
We are investigating opportunities from working with local groups to adding a community minibus to our fleet.

Localisation – are you sourcing, distributing and interacting locally?
We have supported the setting up of a sister club in the town of Haddington, 10 miles away. We contract a local firm to clean and check the cars. We use local garages for repairs.

Climate impacts – negative, beneficial or neutral?
Probably beneficial, although we haven’t measured this for a while. We reckon many of our members have sold a car or refrained from buying one, since they joined us, but equally, many of our members can’t afford to run their own car, so being a member widens their opportunities (but increases their car use). At least one of our members has replaced his own medium-sized car with a fuel-guzzling sports car, and uses our cars when he wants something more practical, so I can’t guarantee that carbon emissions have gone down. However, this same member also cycles much more than he used to.

Anything else you want to share with us?
Although carbon savings may not have been made directly, the community has benefited enormously from having access to our 3 cars. It has strengthened links within the community and created links across communities. We continue to explore opportunities to use our vehicles as efficiently as we can and are looking to trial an electric car soon.
Mission
We are a not for profit building company specialising in new construction, refurbishment and retrofitting projects that incorporate sustainable methods with an emphasis on natural materials & well-insulated, energy-efficient buildings.

Is there a link with Transition?
Yes, to Transition Town Totnes although we are a separate legal entity. All directors are actively involved in TTT.

Your product or service – how much does it help improve resilience in your local community or elsewhere?
We emphasise natural materials. In fact, we want to create a model for using natural and sustainable materials, using local suppliers wherever possible. We also employ local staff. In the past, before fossil fuels made possible the cheap transport of building materials around the country, even around the world, then buildings were constructed with locally available materials. This also meant that every region had characteristic ‘vernacular’ building styles. We believe a return to local materials will save energy and lead to a renaissance in regional styles of building.

Several of the buildings we have refurbished have gone on to participate in the Open Eco-Homes Weekends organised by TTT so local people can learn about the techniques and materials we have used. TTT won a LEAF grant to refurbish the village hall in Dartington and TSC won the tender to do the work. It was a great example of collaboration between TTT, TSC and the Village Hall Committee and was followed by an open day where local people were shown before and after thermal images of the hall. Materials used included sheep’s wool and wood fibre insulation, local timber as well as natural paints and timber treatments. Replacement window frames were made by a local joiner and around two local people were employed.

We also place great emphasis on energy efficiency. All new builds should be close to carbon neutral – today’s new build should never become tomorrow’s retrofit – and refurbishment should make this possible for many existing houses as well.

Employees
This varies with the job – around 10 people have worked for us on a self-employed basis at various times. As we develop a consistent workflow we aim to take on permanent staff, apprentices and trainees.

Are you in profit? If not, when do you anticipate being so? How long have you been trading?
We have been in operation for three years and our turnover was £127,000 in 2011 and 107,000 in 2012. We are not yet in profit but are currently negotiating a £280,000 contract that should make us profitable in the current financial year. TSC hopes to be the builder for Transition Homes – a £3.1m build.

What is your company structure and why did you choose it?
Company limited by guarantee – not for profit. Some members had previous bad experience of working as part of a cooperative. We did not want any individual liability and we didn’t want to seek community investment or have the hassle of being a charity – so this model worked for us.
What about financial sustainability? Are you trading or part-trading without money?
We only required very limited start up funds, which included some loans from individual directors which have largely been repaid. As we currently use self employed staff who work with their own tools we haven’t needed to invest in expensive buildings, vehicles or equipment.

Are you looking to build more common wealth & ownership and is priority your profit sharing and/or community benefits versus more traditional investor returns?
Being a not-for-profit company doesn’t mean that TSC can’t make a surplus but this is re-invested into the company rather than shared among directors, although no director has yet received any payment for work performed as a director. We anticipate being able to make donations to TTT or other relevant groups when we have a more secure financial position. But using local employees and materials inevitably boosts the local economy and the ‘common wealth’.

Localisation – are you sourcing, distributing and interacting locally?
As much as possible although some eco-building products are not manufactured in the UK. In Devon we have an abundance of local materials suitable for building – timber, stone, the raw materials to make lime, straw, sheep’s wool insulation and, of course, soil with enough clay to make excellent cob. There is already a return to the use of cob by several local builders and individuals. We are also looking at rammed earth and hemp lime which are comparatively new techniques.

Climate impacts – negative, beneficial or neutral?
Climate change and rising energy prices are a driver for our business. However, the complexity of climate change – wet years followed by extremely hot ones, mild winters and then very cold ones – make it difficult to design buildings that will perform well in future climate scenarios.
Mission
Provide low cost and low carbon homes built with local, natural materials in a sustainable setting that includes food production, renewable energy and waste management.

The idea grew from a recognition that we needed homes that were efficient to run as well as low in embedded energy and affordable for people in housing need. Our initial project is to build 25 homes on a 7 acre site which leaves plenty of room for food production. However, at least a million people in the UK are in serious housing need and millions more live in unsuitable homes. This project is designed as an exemplar for how local people can develop sustainable housing and we hope that many other communities will copy, and improve on, this project.

Is there a link with Transition?
Yes – our project grew out of the Building & Housing Group within Transition Town Totnes. All of our directors are active in TTT, we are represented on the core group and also have a TTT Trustee who is responsible for keeping us in good communication with TTT Ltd, the charity which oversees various legal responsibilities for TTT.

Your product or service – how much does it help improve resilience in your local community or elsewhere?
Low carbon homes for people in housing need – housing is a basic need and, since our homes are responsible for over 25% of energy consumption, the more we can reduce this the more resilient our community becomes. Affordability is also crucial. Places where local people have to move away because they can’t afford to buy or rent a home are unlikely to be sustainable as real communities.

Employees
15+ volunteers with a board of 10 trustees. No full time employees as yet but we will be employing professionals and consultants as required. We held a design competition among local architects and selected a small practice who demonstrated that they clearly understood the Transition Homes concept and had ideas of their own about how it could be implemented. We’ve already employed local surveyors for a topographical site survey and an ecologist to study the site.

Are you in profit? If not, when do you anticipate being so? How long have you been trading?
Not trading but we raised and spent around £15,000 last year. This year a few local people lent us £250,000 to purchase the 7 acre site and Venturesome CAF are loaning us another £60,000. We expect the project to create a small surplus towards Transition Homes 2.0!

What is your company structure and why did you choose it?
Community Land Trust – this enables us to manage land and other assets for ‘charitable purposes’ even though we are not a charity and ensure housing remains affordable in perpetuity. CLT’s are recognised at local authority and government level as a vehicle for delivering affordable housing and the National CLT Network provides a supportive umbrella with regular workshops, conferences, case studies and advice.
What about financial sustainability? Are you trading or part-trading without money?
Grants from Tudor Trust and the Network for Social Change enabled us to get the project off the ground. We also have small loans from local individuals to help us get going as well as £250,000 loaned from three local supporters which enabled us to make our first purchase of 7 acres of land. We have an agreement with Venturesome CAF to lend us £60,000 as a non-recourse loan to prepare the planning application and the first chunk of £30,000 is now in our account.

Are you looking to build more common wealth & ownership and is priority your profit sharing and/or community benefits versus more traditional investor returns?
Yes – if possible we would like to raise the development finance through a community share issue. We are also considering forming a partnership with Totnes Renewable Energy Society (TRESOC) to develop the on-site renewable energy systems. The homes we build will be either rental or shared equity to ensure affordability and the fact that we are a community land trust means that we can lock in this affordability for all future occupants.

Localisation – are you sourcing, distributing and interacting locally?
Absolutely – local materials, local employees and local finance if possible. We intend the project to have a legacy of training and education in natural building systems and the use of local materials. We have support from Parish and Town Councils and the first thing we did after purchasing the site was talk to the immediate neighbours. We are also collaborating with South Devon College and hope that their staff and students will be involved in the design and build.

Where appropriate we will source expertise from outside the immediate area but always with a view to building local resilience. For example, we’ve been talking to Patrick Whitefield, the UK’s foremost permaculture designer and Jay Abrams who has an international reputation for permaculture wet systems design. But involving local volunteers in the process should mean that we can develop a body of skills and experience that we can use for future projects.

Climate impacts – negative, beneficial or neutral?
Homes will extremely well insulated, built with local and natural materials that have low levels of embodied energy and generate significant amounts of energy from renewable sources – solar PV and solar thermal and biomass heating. Overall impact should be carbon neutral or carbon negative.

Anything else you want to share with us?
We see this as an exemplar project – which means others should be able to learn from all the mistakes we will be making! Education, learning and hands on training are integral parts of the project. We have agreement for articles in Green Building and Permaculture Magazine and believe this project will excite interest around the UK and much further.
Mission
We exist to meet a very real community need. We are 40 miles away from the nearest shops, along mainly single-track B roads.

Is there a link with Transition?
No.

Your product or service – how much does it help improve resilience in your local community or elsewhere?
We are a community owned shop on the far west coast of the Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides. We provide lifeline services of fuel, fresh foods and post office to a fragile and remote community.

Employees
9 employees. 3 full time and 6 part time all paid. There is a voluntary Management Committee of 7 people from the membership, which are voluntary posts.

Are you in profit? If not, when do you anticipate being so? How long have you been trading?
£600,000 excluding VAT. We were not in profit in 2012 but anticipate turning this round for 2013. We have been trading for 9.5 years.

What is your company structure and why did you choose it?
Industrial & Provident Society limited company. This model was chosen as we registered to become corporate members of The Co-operative Group Limited and it fitted their criteria.

What about financial sustainability? Are you trading or part-trading without money?
We had grant funding from the Scottish Land Fund of approx. £70,000 to purchase the building and the community had to show their support by raising £4,500 through Share Purchases of £25 each. We raised £13,000 through Share Purchases.

We had community voluntary involvement at the beginning, including painting and re-designing the interior, in addition to stocking help prior to opening in March 2004.

Are you looking to build more common wealth & ownership and is priority your profit sharing and/or community benefits versus more traditional investor returns?
We are looking to ‘wash our faces’, to be sustainable and keep the £70,000 of wages currently paid to staff within the community. We don’t anticipate profit sharing for the foreseeable future as the shares have been purchased more as a gesture of goodwill than with a view to earning profits for the Shareholder.
Localisation – are you sourcing, distributing and interacting locally?
We endeavor to support local enterprises by purchasing their products although on their own these wouldn’t sustain our business. We deliver twice weekly within the community to people who are housebound or have no transport in addition to the Council Care Unit and Primary School.

Climate impacts – negative, beneficial or neutral?
Neutral.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Y ears trading</th>
<th>Trans. link?</th>
<th>Turnover</th>
<th>In profit?</th>
<th>Dev. finance/ start-up costs</th>
<th>Jobs - full time</th>
<th>Jobs - part time</th>
<th># Vols</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bath &amp; West Community Energy</td>
<td>Bath, Somerset</td>
<td>Energy - RE generator</td>
<td>IPS Bencom or Comm. Soc.</td>
<td>2 y</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>£180,000</td>
<td>£1,750,000</td>
<td>0 y</td>
<td>7 y</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Big Lemon</td>
<td>Brighton</td>
<td>Transport - Bus</td>
<td>CIC</td>
<td>6 y</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>£387,000</td>
<td>£20,000</td>
<td>10 y</td>
<td>8 y</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bristol Bike Project</td>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>Transport - Cycles</td>
<td>Comm.</td>
<td>3 y</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>£105,000</td>
<td>£1,500</td>
<td>2 y</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol Pound</td>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>Finance - Local currency</td>
<td>CIC</td>
<td>2 y</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>£8,850</td>
<td>£140,000</td>
<td>4 y</td>
<td>3 y</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE4 Food</td>
<td>Matlock, Derby</td>
<td>Food - Distribution</td>
<td>IPS co-op</td>
<td>0.5 y</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>£24,000</td>
<td>£610</td>
<td>Hope this year</td>
<td>0 y</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hestia Care at Home</td>
<td>Totnes, Devon</td>
<td>Health - Home care</td>
<td>Co-op company ltd by C.</td>
<td>4 y</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>£39,000</td>
<td>£3,500</td>
<td>4 y</td>
<td>0 y</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Owens Community Banking</td>
<td>Powys, Wales</td>
<td>Finance - Loans &amp; investment</td>
<td>Social enterprise</td>
<td>2 y</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>£100,000</td>
<td>£65,000</td>
<td>5 y</td>
<td>0 y</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewable Energy Coop (R-ECO)</td>
<td>Truro, Cornwall</td>
<td>Energy - RE generator</td>
<td>Co-op company ltd by C.</td>
<td>4 y</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>£750,000</td>
<td>£6,000</td>
<td>4 y</td>
<td>8 y</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewable Energy Coop (R-ECO)</td>
<td>Truro, Cornwall</td>
<td>Energy - RE generator</td>
<td>IPS co-op</td>
<td>2 y</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>£45,000</td>
<td>£100,000</td>
<td>1 y</td>
<td>3 y</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restart</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Waste - Reuse and repair</td>
<td>Charitable Co. Ltd by G.</td>
<td>0.5 y</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>£0</td>
<td>£4,500</td>
<td>Frequent</td>
<td>0 y</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Owens Community Banking</td>
<td>Powys, Wales</td>
<td>Finance - Loans &amp; investment</td>
<td>Community Ltd by G.</td>
<td>2 y</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>£600,000</td>
<td>£100,000</td>
<td>1 y</td>
<td>3 y</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iSmood Community Cafe</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Community cafe</td>
<td>Company Ltd by C.</td>
<td>3 y</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>£38,000</td>
<td>£15,000</td>
<td>3 y</td>
<td>0 y</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health at Home</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Health - Home care</td>
<td>Co-op company ltd by C.</td>
<td>1 y</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>£33,000</td>
<td>£9,000</td>
<td>4 y</td>
<td>5 y</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Handmade Bakery</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Food - Bakers</td>
<td>Shoe blacksmiths ltd by C.</td>
<td>4 y</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>£250,000</td>
<td>£7,500</td>
<td>4 y</td>
<td>5 y</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition Homes</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Housing - Empty buildings</td>
<td>Company Ltd by Shares</td>
<td>2 y</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
<td>£2,500</td>
<td>10 y</td>
<td>0 y</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devon Food</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Food - Distribution</td>
<td>IPS co-op</td>
<td>0.5 y</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>£24,000</td>
<td>£650</td>
<td>Hope this year</td>
<td>0 y</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol Pound</td>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>Finance - Local currency</td>
<td>Co-op company ltd by C.</td>
<td>3 y</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>£14,000</td>
<td>£8,500</td>
<td>2 y</td>
<td>4 y</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Big Lemon</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Energy - RE generator</td>
<td>IPS Bencom or Comm. Soc.</td>
<td>2 y</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>£180,000</td>
<td>£1,780,000</td>
<td>10 y</td>
<td>8 y</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bath &amp; West Community Energy</td>
<td>Bath, Somerset</td>
<td>Energy - RE generator</td>
<td>IPS Bencom or Comm. Soc.</td>
<td>2 y</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>£170,000</td>
<td>£158,000</td>
<td>7 y</td>
<td>4 y</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MORE ABOUT THIS WORK

This report was produced by the Transition Network’s REconomy Project, thanks to funding from the Roddick Foundation. To find out more about the Local Economic Blueprint work and the REconomy Project in general, please visit www.reconomy.org.

fionaward@transitionnetwork.org
Transition Network, 43 Fore Street, Totnes TQ9 5HN. 01803 865669.
Registered charity 1128675. Company limited by guarantee 6135675.