



# **NEXTENERGY** **SOLAR FUND**

**NESF community support**

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NextEnergy Solar Fund (NESF, or the Company) is a leading specialist solar energy and energy storage investment company that is listed on the premium segment of the London Stock Exchange and is a constituent of the FTSE 250.

The Company is driven by a mission to lead the transition to clean energy. NextEnergy Solar Fund is proud to do so while supporting a wide range of **Sustainability and ESG initiatives** to create a positive impact on society. As part of this, the Company runs a range of community engagement activities. This includes investing directly in local communities around NextEnergy Solar Fund assets, through its Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) and other collaborations. In particular, the Company supports local skills and educational projects relating to the environment.

An overview of key projects is provided below.

In  
2023-24,  
NextEnergy Solar  
Fund provided a total of  
**c.£106,000**  
in support to  
community initiatives.

## Community support



Tower Hill solar farm supported Chipping Sodbury School, which has encouraged children to engage in STEM subjects by running a technical challenge to build an electric vehicle to compete in local and national events. In 2023, the team achieved 20<sup>th</sup> position out of 80 school teams in a competition at Castle Combe. This qualified the team to participate in the national finals at Goodwood. The team is motivated to achieve an even stronger position in 2024's races with a new design.

The Company's direct grant making includes providing support to schools close to NextEnergy Solar Fund assets, particularly to raise awareness of careers available in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), such as renewable energy.

Examples include supporting STEM activities at Chichester Free School, which Bilsham Solar Farm supported in the form of science and math books to be given as awards, and an annual shield for the school to award to the highest achieving group in a STEM competition.





## BizGive

Following a successful pilot in 2022-23, NESF has continued its programme of charitable giving through the BizGive community funding platform. This includes supporting BizGive itself. NESF has established four regional funds, and the platform enables community groups to apply for funding from these.

Examples of projects NESF supported in 2023-24 include:

### Science Outreach in Cambridgeshire

Cambridge Hands-On Science (CHaOS) is a student-run science outreach group based at the University of Cambridge. It runs events that aim to inspire an interest in science and technology. NESF funds were used to support its two largest Cambridgeshire events: Crash, Bang, Squelch!, and Winter Roadshow.



## Earth Energy Education

NextEnergy Solar Fund is also collaborating with Earth Energy Education to embrace a future sustained by green energy through educating and empowering children. With the help of Earth Energy Education, the Company expects to deliver a sustainability-focused education programme, including site visits and workshops.



### Social Skills Early Intervention Programmes

NESF supported Life Education Wessex & Thames Valley, and Life Education in the Midlands, to develop social safety programmes for children in school years 1-4. The programmes look at dangers around the home and in public spaces, such as railways. They focus on friendship, peer pressure, difference and diversity in an age-appropriate way and are introduced and wrapped up by Resili-Ant, the charity mascot, in an animated video.

### Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools

Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools works with schools to deliver outdoor learning opportunities for children. The proposed project will provide training for teaching staff, outdoor learning sessions for students, and learning resources in line with the New Curriculum of Wales. The work will be supported by the Outdoor Schools Partnership who have the skills, experience and expertise to deliver and share outdoor learning opportunities.



## NESF Sustainability and ESG

For more information on NESF's approach to Sustainability and ESG, see the NESF 2024 Sustainability and ESG Report, and the [NESF website](#).

NESF also supports the NextEnergy Group's international charity, the [NextEnergy Foundation](#), which supports projects around the world.

