



PRESS RELEASE

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TRESOC's First Community-owned Energy for Totnes

Totnes Renewable Energy Society launched back in 2010 with a share issue based on the Totnes Community Wind Farm. With that project well underway, TRESOC then partnered with South Western Solar Projects Ltd (SWSP) in order to deliver community owned, medium to large-scale solar electric installations. SWSP is a UK company based in Blackawton, with technical and commercial backers from the German solar industry who bring considerable technical expertise, and extensive experience of working with community owned renewable energy organisations in continental Europe.

Work has started on the first TRESOC solar installation with a 50 kWp installation at Hatchlands Farm near Totnes expected to start generating electricity in late September. TRESOC is also working with the Sharpham Trust on 50kWp of solar PV on the Sharpham Estate to be joint-funded by both parties.

These installations will generate an annual return of between 7-9% over the 25-year lifetime of the project. After allowing for replenishment of working capital, TRESOC members could expect to receive an annual interest award on their shares of between 3-5% from the end of 2012.

The Feed in Tariff (FIT) for electricity generated from solar PV panels provides incentives for the profitable installation of solar arrays up to 50 kWp in output. TRESOC's aim is to commission solar projects by the end of March 2012 when the annual FIT Review is widely expected to reduce the level of payments for electricity from solar panels installed after that date, and it was this opportunity in particular that brought TRESOC's 2011 Share Issue forward to September. Managing Director Ian Bright says "TRESOC has secured over £200,000 of renewable energy in community ownership in the current year. The more investment raised through the share issue, the higher the return to the local community."

TRESOC's 2011 Share Issue is currently in full swing with the application period expiring this Monday, September 19th at 5pm. All local residents can become members of the Society for a minimum shareholding of just £20, set in order for membership to be accessible to all members of the community, irrespective of their economic circumstance or investment experience. Larger investors, putting in up to £20,000, are also welcome to ensure that the maximum value from these projects stays within the local community. All members, regardless of the size of their investment, have equal voting rights in determining how their

local renewable energy resources are developed and managed. Applicants must be resident in Totnes and Environs to qualify and shares can be held in trust for children or grandchildren.

The prospectus and application form can be downloaded on www.tresoc.co.uk or are available in hard copy from Totnes library, Richard Hoyland Optician, Harlequin Books and the Transition Town Totnes office, or by emailing admin@tresoc.co.uk.

Visit www.tresoc.co.uk for more information. The Share Issue closes at 5 pm on Monday 19th September.

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