

Funding - Community Grant Fund

Heart of England Community Energy (HECE) is a not-for-profit local energy enterprise which generates electricity and income from the sun. We reinvest our profits into community projects across South Warwickshire.

HECE's community grant fund supports projects that:

1. Support and enable people to remove themselves from fuel poverty.
2. Improve the well-being of socially disadvantaged people or communities.
3. Drive carbon reduction and support a just transition to net zero.



Examples of projects supported:

Stratford-upon-Avon Foodbank

£320,000 (2024-27)

- Funding to expand the service and set up of 4 new satellite locations (Bishopton, Meon Vale, Ken Kennett Centre, Escape Arts)
- Set to deliver 5,000+ food parcels annually and connect people with services like Citizens Advice for wraparound support.
- Includes funding for a delivery van, staff hires & venue hire for access points.

Carbon Literacy Project

£1,000 (2024)

- Supporting efforts to reach 200,000 Carbon Literate Learners by raising awareness of the carbon impact of daily choices and empowering people to take practical climate action.

Trinity Court Surgery

£10,000 (2024-25)

- To integrate green and blue social prescribing (nature-based and water-based wellbeing activities) into patient care.
- To establish a hardship fund for individuals facing urgent situations that impact their health and well-being e.g., BP monitors, mobility aids, urgent costs

Act on Energy

£26,000 (2025 crisis funding)

- To offer fuel payment credits and fuel vouchers.
- Funds small energy-saving measures, making homes warmer and healthier while reducing energy consumption and bills.
- Follows £23,000 of crisis funding in 2023/24.

£70,000 (2022-2024 complex caseworker)

Pilot of Act on Energy's 'Complex Caseworker' initiative, which delivered free, personalised energy advice to individuals facing complex energy-related issues. The success of the pilot prompted Stratford and Warwick District Councils to commit funding for two Complex Case Worker roles.

Citizens Advice South Warwickshire

£15,000 (2024-25)

Since May 2020, HECE's funding has supported the admin team behind CASW's grants programme, helping them secure and distribute vital items like food, clothing, white goods and heating support to households in crisis. This partnership ensures more residents get the help they need, when they need it most.

Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council

£3,600 (2024)

- Established a Community Fridge & Café rescuing surplus food, reducing waste and providing meals to those in need. Saved 1.2 tonnes of food in April 2024 alone.

Crafty Lunch Club CIC

£5,000 (2024)

- Supported weekly inclusive sessions for adults with disabilities and their carers. Aimed to combat loneliness and boost confidence through crafts, meals and socialising.

RSPCA Coventry and District

£2,500 (2023)

- Supported the 'Pet Food to Food Banks' project which collects pet food donations and delivers them to food banks for owners and animals in need.

SolarAid

£20,000 (2024)

- Supporting the Mayi Walas (Shining Mothers) programme in Malawi training women as solar entrepreneurs.
- 143 groups established, over 9,100 solar lights sold, 45,000+ people gained access to clean energy.
- HECE is a founding partner of the project.

Snitterfield Parish Council

£4,000 (2024)

- Funding toward the installation of solar-powered streetlights for energy-efficient public lighting.

Napton Environmental Action Team

£800 (2023)

- Grant awarded for a thermal imaging camera to identify cold spots and poor insulation in local homes.

