



## Job vacancy for Renewable Co-operatives Consultant

Based in Shrewsbury, Shropshire

### Shareenergy

Shareenergy is a small, not-for-profit co-operative that helps communities to set up new renewable energy co-operatives generating electricity or heat in their area. Shareenergy works with a variety of renewable energy technologies including wind, solar, hydro, biomass and anaerobic digestion at a variety of scales, generally up to 1MW.

Shareenergy has brought a number of successful projects to the point of issuing community shares, including Leominster Community Solar (50kW, up and running), Neen Sollars Hydro (12kW, currently under construction) and Woolhope Woodheat (200kW+ thermal, share offer underway). There are a large number of projects across the technologies at an earlier stage of development.

Shareenergy is a spin off from Energy4All, the UK's leading community renewables organisation. Shareenergy was originally set up as a project of Energy4All in the West Midlands with funding from the Regional Development Agency. It became an independent co-op in April 2011, to continue supporting projects within the West Midlands and to extend their services across the UK and still works closely with Energy4All.

Interest in community owned renewable energy is growing rapidly and Shareenergy is looking to expand its team to meet this need.

<http://www.shareenergy.coop>

### The Job

The Renewable Co-operatives Consultant will join the small and dedicated Shareenergy team to help community groups around the UK to develop their own renewable energy co-ops. The chief purpose of the role is to help groups of varying expertise to take their projects from an idea to completion, with a focus on delivering real projects.

Shareenergy is involved in:

- Assisting groups to find sites and opportunities
- Development of project plans and feasibility studies
- Development of financial plans and helping to find development funding
- Setting up legal agreements and co-operative structures
- Support to fulfil regulatory requirements
- Support of share offers

The role demands some level of involvement in all these tasks, with a focus on the day-to-day development of projects, working closely with community groups. Shareenergy's ethos is to encourage community groups to take the lead with their own projects and to enhance their skills and resilience. The successful candidate will act as an advisor, mentor and advocate for the groups, forming close working relationships which will last throughout the development cycle – commonly several years. They are likely to take a lead role in the appointment of external consultants and oversee their work to ensure they

deliver high quality outputs for the group, and to work with groups to develop proposals for accessing funding from the Shareenergy Revolving Investment Fund.

## **Skills**

The Renewable Co-operatives Consultant will work across all projects and technologies and will need to be well versed in the theory and practice of renewable energy, with good interpersonal skills and a grasp of financial, policy and project management fundamentals. Personal experience of taking projects to completion is essential, as is an ability to explain renewable energy technologies in everyday terms. With support from the other Shareenergy staff, the RCC will have to be able to understand and interpret regulatory guidance and financial models. The role has a strong public facing aspect and the candidate will need to have an understanding of and personal connection with the concerns and approach of voluntary community groups.

An understanding of and personal commitment to environmental sustainability and co-operatives will be an important part of what the successful candidate brings to the role.

## **Details**

**Location:** The role is based in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, and the role involves working directly with the other Shareenergy staff from there for the majority of the time. As we are working with community groups throughout the UK travel for site visits and meetings is a constant aspect of the role.

**Hours:** Nominally normal office hours. However in practice it is often necessary to attend meetings in the evenings and occasionally on weekends. There will be need for the occasional overnight stay. Applicants need to be flexible and willing to work around the needs of the projects.

**Reporting Structure:** The role reports directly to Jon Halle, Director.

**Employment:** Permanent, full-time.

**Salary:** £22,000 per annum

**Holidays:** 25 days plus statutory holidays.

**Notice Period:** There is a 6 month probationary period during which notice period is 1 month on either side. After that a notice period of 3 months applies.

**Office and Equipment:** The company will supply all necessary equipment

**Expenses:** All expenses are reimbursed at cost against receipts. Mileage is paid at 40p per mile but, wherever reasonably possible, employees are encouraged to use public transport.

**Closing Date:** Closing dates for all applications is 9am on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2012. Please email a CV and covering letter to [eithne@shareenergy.coop](mailto:eithne@shareenergy.coop)