



Community Engagement

Bluefield Solar Income Fund (BSIF)

Case study:

Bradenstoke Solar Park community fund helps Wiltshire woodlands

In Spring 2025, Avon Needs Trees received £11,081 from the Bradenstoke Solar Park Community Benefit Fund (BSPCBF) to support management and community engagement across two new woodlands in Wiltshire: Hazeland and Pudding Brook Wood.

Avon Needs Trees are a charity focused on reversing deforestation by creating new, permanent woodland in the Bristol-Avon catchment area, with a particular focus on engaging and empowering young people and communities most impacted by future climate and nature emergencies.

The woodlands, spanning 46 acres, were established between 2020 and 2022, with the planting of 22,000 native trees. The new funding provided by BSPCBF will support Avon Needs Trees to coordinate monthly volunteer sessions focused on tree care and coppicing, alongside public events such as forest school days and bat walks. The activities, which will run from 1st July 2025 – 30th June 2026, are designed to maintain the long-term ecological health of the trees while offering opportunities for local residents to engage with nature.

The BSPCBF is funded through Bradenstoke Solar Farm, a 70MW project owned by BSIF, located on a former RAF base near Chippenham, Wiltshire. The solar farm generates renewable energy for over 20,000 homes annually and allocates funding to support local initiatives that create environmental and social value.





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Securing the BSPCBF funding will enable our charity to continue to deliver this project with the help of our wonderful volunteers. We would like to thank BSPCBF for giving us their support, and we are thrilled that we will be able to continue to deliver our well-being days for families to enjoy

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Tara Castle, Avon Needs Trees

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Case study:

Connecting classrooms to low-carbon energy

In January 2025, Earth Energy Education were engaged to deliver science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) learning experiences for primary and secondary schools local to Romsey Solar Farm, part of the Lyceum portfolio (of which BSIF is an investor).

The Mountbatten School, which shares the Broadlands Estate with the solar farm, coordinated the programme for six local primary schools, with the aim of connecting students with their local solar farm whilst showcasing exciting STEM career pathways.

Activities included an interactive launch workshop where students built and tested solar circuits, career workshops at the Mountbatten School's Big Bang Fair for GCSE students; and teacher training to deliver solar toy workshops, culminating in a Solar Car Race Day competition for the best solar toy designs from each school.

At the end of the programme, two classes visited Romsey Solar Farm, which has recently undergone construction to extend its capacity. The site, which features wildflower meadows and barn owl boxes, served as a 'living classroom' for the students to learn from solar engineers about how solar farms are built and run, as well as their role in supporting nature and climate change mitigation.



Top: Solar Car Race Day at The Mountbatten School
Middle: A Bluefield engineer explains solar panels
Bottom: Site visit to Romsey Solar Farm





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They really enjoyed it and appreciated the practical element combined with the theory. I have no doubt it will enhance their learning and tie together multiple areas of the geography and science curriculum

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Year 10 teacher,
Mountbatten Secondary School

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