

# *from* **COLDINGHAM** *to* **HEATINGHAM**

A Coldingham Heat Network to cut energy costs & drive energy independence

**Meeting: 14:30 Friday, 27 May**



**THE PRIORY  
COLDINGHAM**

## Coldingham is Bleeding Hot

As Coldingham energy prices rise oil & gas producer windfall profits are reaching staggering levels. But the more expensive oil & gas becomes, the more profit there is in saving it.

How can Coldingham stop the bleeding?  
Simple answer: don't change your energy supplier. Change how energy is supplied - from heat and power to mobility.

First step is Coldingham energy mapping:

- **Energy use** - Coldingham Energy Ledger
- **Energy source** - Coldingham Energy Domesday Book maps power, thermal & bio resources.
- **Energy Needs** - understand future Coldingham energy use & demand.

Heat First - Coldingham is off the gas grid and reliant on petroleum products for heat. Village Power proposes a Coldingham heat network.

As a member of the village community you are bleeding energy.

Join us to begin Coldingham's path to energy independence, resilience and a Coldingham Natural Grid

**When:** 27 May 2022

**Where:** The Priory

**Time:** 14:30 -15:30

Any questions please call:

**07423 481575**

## Village Power: towards affordable and sustainable local Energy

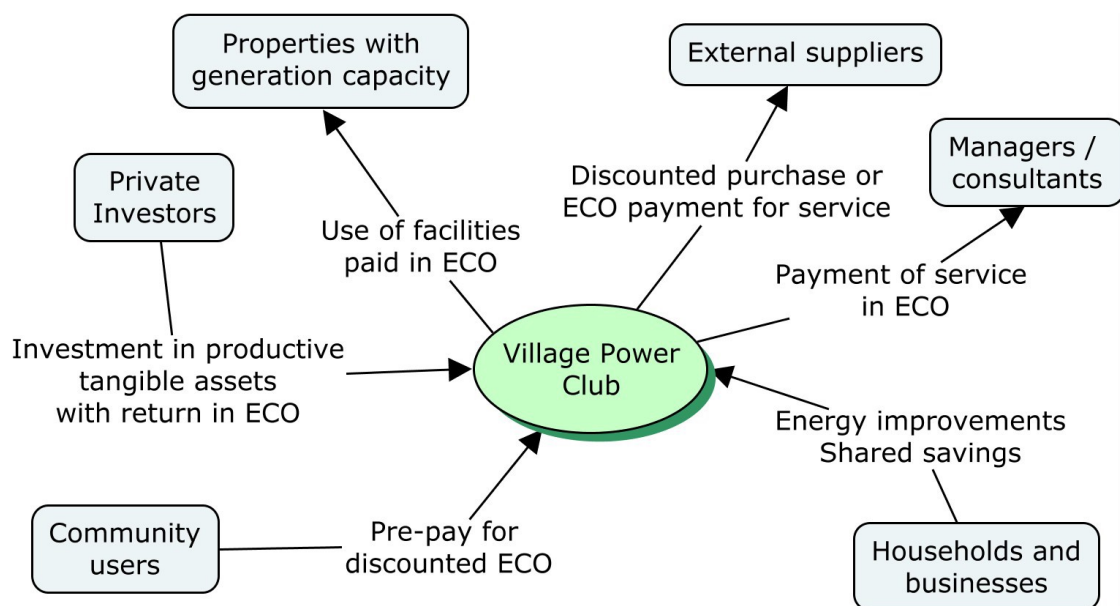
### Introducing the Natural Grid

The Village Power initiative addresses the energy affordability crisis across rural Scottish Borders villages through drastically reducing electricity and carbon-fuel consumption and costs thereby enabling energy independence and resilience

Renewable heat and power sourced, generated, stored, supplied and used locally replaces long costly and wasteful supply chains of big energy companies<sup>1</sup>, whose energy costs and financial charges will inevitably rise. Mutual ownership and shared costs, risk and production of essential community infrastructure enables a more resilient and localised rural economy<sup>2</sup>.

Mapping of local energy use and natural sources of thermal energy and power enables the optimal combination of technologies to be supplied as a service on the basis of sharing savings between households and service providers.

The “**Natural Grid**” will be a network of village micro-grids connected to, but independent of the National Grid and will deliver mutually owned renewable heat, power and mobility services under community control.



<sup>1</sup>Figures of 20-30% cheaper are often quoted by existing schemes.

<sup>2</sup> Apart from the key role of energy in the local economy, the operational model can be applied to land, food housing etc.

## Finance

Energy production & savings are shared with suppliers of technology and equipment (heat & power as a service) and with property owner hosts of infrastructure.

Village Power funds costs of installation and operation through the simple Energy Credit Obligation prepayment “ECO” vouchers as a means of secure long term investment which holds its value.<sup>3</sup> The ECO may be saved, spent or invested and a community Energy Dividend of surplus generated after operating costs is shared equally, and can be used to address fuel poverty

Village “Natural Grids” may be federated to share bulk supply of technology and services in exchange for long-term ECO income.

## Start-up

It is envisaged that any start-up grants obtained would be used for solar pv generation, battery storage, charging points for ev (car and bike) hire at village halls throughout the Borders. Simultaneously energy surveys will be offered to the communities with a view to sharing cost savings. Private investments would be invited. The scheme would be extended to the community by exploiting any other generation opportunities and offering sale of ECOs to households and businesses. Potential equipment suppliers will be approached to obtain the best terms for supply of equipment ( eg “storage as a service”) in return for long-term ECO payments.

## Island Power

As originators of the concept, they aim to accelerate existing community energy developers as consultants to the roll-out of Village Natural Grids across the Scottish Borders. [Island Power](#) ‘s simple mutual legal designs and financial tools enable villages to rapidly upgrade high cost/high carbon micro-grids. Based on existing and projected village energy use and naturally available local resources we procure physical and financial resources to deliver zero carbon Natural Grids with the aim of rural energy independence.

## Alternative Community Energy Enterprise Models

Existing community energy models are both based on conventional £ finance.

1. **Co-operative;** ‘Energy4All’ [www.energy4all.co.uk](http://www.energy4all.co.uk)
2. **Community Enterprise;** ‘Solar Circle’, Power Circle Projects Ltd, [jon.cape@powercircle.org.uk](mailto:jon.cape@powercircle.org.uk), 07577 564092.

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<sup>3</sup> ECOs are essentially energy cheques returnable in payment for energy supply. Since banks cannot print energy, ECO energy cheques are sold at discount by village clubs of local suppliers and used in payment for energy. Shared energy ledger accounting systems are already in widespread use.