

# Energy group obtains three grants

361 ENERGY has secured funding for three sustainable energy projects it is running in North Devon.

The not-for-profit organisation supports communities by raising awareness about energy efficiency and helping people in fuel poverty.

In 2014, it hosted an Energy Saving Open Homes event and an Energy Fair at Barnstaple Pannier market, funded by the Green Open Homes Network and the Energy Savings Trust's Ready for Retrofit Programme.

In 2015, 361 Energy will be focusing on three grant funded projects.

The first grant comprises £4,045 from the RegenSW Community Energy Accelerator Devon County Council fund to start up community-owned energy projects.

This will lead to the launch of 361 Community Energy this spring.

This organisation will develop renewable energy projects such as roof-top solar PV arrays that can be owned by local people who buy shares in them.

The group is looking for local businesses, land and building owners who wish to benefit from cheap daytime electricity to host the solar projects with no cost to themselves. The projects will be financed by a community share offer and investors will be paid an attractive interest rate.

The community investment will also raise a community benefit fund that will go to improving the energy efficiency of public buildings and to support 361 Energy's fuel poverty project, Empower.

361 Empower has been running in Ilfracombe to help residents who are struggling to keep warm or to pay their bills. Its aim is to help save money on fuel and water bills.

The second grant of £9,525 from The Ebico Trust for Sustainable Development is supporting this work in partnership with Scribes CIC and Encompass SW, to provide fuel and water debt assistance; energy and water bill analysis and tariff switching advice; in-home energy assessments; and energy efficiency funding and landlord liaison services.

The third grant of £2,000 is from the E-ON Community Energy Action Fund for an arts-based project with local artist Jo Bushell to promote energy awareness in schools.

Through using both art and science the aim is to develop a pilot phase of an ongoing project that will enable young people to explore their own relationship with sustainability and energy use.

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