

Kerry McCarthy, M.P.  
Minister for Climate  
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

**Councillor David Rouane  
Leader of the Council**

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15 August 2025

Dear Ms McCarthy,

I am writing on behalf of South Oxfordshire District Council in relation to potential community energy benefit options from large renewable projects. We believe that new renewable energy infrastructure can contribute positively to the wellbeing and prosperity of the communities hosting them and that action should be taken to channel this potential.

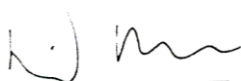
In 2019, South Oxfordshire declared a climate emergency. The council are committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions in our own operations by 2030 and in the district by 2045. To help achieve this, we, however, need to encourage the transition to renewable forms of energy.

As a district, South Oxfordshire has significant potential for clean energy deployment – particularly solar – but it needs to be delivered and harnessed in a way which benefits our residents. Currently, though, there is no requirement for proposed renewable projects to help further this ambition. This unfortunately, means that communities may be excluded from the economic and social positives accruing from the clean energy transition, therefore, making it harder than it would otherwise be to gain the support of the local community for such developments.

The council is, therefore, calling upon HM Government to take action to ensure that the option for local shared ownership or benefit schemes is offered by large-scale renewable developments to communities.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely



Cllr David Rouane  
Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council