

Harbury Energy Initiative

2015 Update

Our first logo

Early in 2015 we ran a competition for the children of our primary school to design a logo for HEI. We had some lovely ideas from all age groups. The winner was 8-year-old Sofia with this very sophisticated design:



Going electric

The logo competition resulted from one of our initiatives that began with an enigmatic email from an influential friend: *"I've got a great idea for you and I can make it happen"*.

This enticing invitation turned out to be about an electric car club. In October 2014 we were successful in gaining a grant of £18,000 from the Carplus Car Club Challenge, part of the Department for Transport's Developing Car Clubs in England programme, to create an electric car club in Harbury with the dynamic start-up company E-Car Club.



We launched on 13th May 2015 with an audience of over 70 people.





Our hope was to reduce car ownership in the village, thus relieving traffic and parking congestion, and to cut emissions of exhaust and carbon. Why own two cars when there is a cheaper option available within walking distance?

e-Wheels

Part of our plan had always been to make the cars work for the community in socially beneficial ways, as well as for the environment. At the end of October we launched e-Wheels. Eight volunteer drivers and 5 volunteer coordinators now provide a clean, green transport option for those in need physically or financially. e-Wheels takes referrals from agencies such as food banks, child care centres, AgeUK, surgeries and others within the local area. With a round trip range of some 80 miles, we can help most people to get to where they want to go comfortably.

The scheme was only an idea until Big60Million, the solar farm company, offered £1,000 to help us launch. E-Car Club, our commercial partner and owner of the cars, were happy to provide in-kind support for our volunteers, enabling us to afford to have 8 registered member volunteer drivers and a reduced rate on hourly use. By November we had had an additional grant offer of £960 from the Heart of England Community Foundation, giving us time to work out a long-term financial sustainability plan for the project.

LEDs

By the end of 2015 we were working on plans for installing LED lights for some of our community buildings. The company Powersaver offered us free lighting surveys for the school, library, village hall and rugby club. The library lighting proved to be already efficient. We hope to be able to find a way to finance improvements to the others.