

## **Neston Community Energy Secures GB Energy Community Fund Support for Local Renewable Energy Feasibility Study at Leahurst Campus, University of Liverpool**

*Neston, Cheshire* — Neston Community Energy, a Community Benefit Society\*, has been awarded funding from the GB Energy Community Fund to undertake a feasibility study aimed at accelerating locally owned renewable energy and reducing energy costs for residents in and around the CH64 area.



*Leahurst Campus, (Google Earth)*

The funding will support early-stage investigation into renewable energy generation at the Leahurst Campus which houses the School of Veterinary Science and two associated farms, which are owned and managed by the University of Liverpool.

The feasibility study aims to identify the best means to develop low carbon renewable generation at the site, to the benefit of the climate, operational costs for the University and for community benefit in Neston.

Leahurst is the largest rural employer in the Neston area where it has operated and built a presence since WWII. Today its staff and student community are a significant 1000 strong presence in our small town. The University has been working to reduce the carbon impact of its operations across its estate, so we are excited to have this opportunity to work with such a significant partner on this feasibility study.

## Exploring Rural and Rooftop Renewable Energy

The feasibility study will focus on investigating the potential for **solar and/or wind installations on campus and farm buildings, and explore agrivoltaics and small-scale wind where appropriate**, subject to local consultation and planning permission.

The project will explore opportunities to install renewable energy schemes on suitable farm buildings and in fields where productive agricultural use can also be maintained.

## Strengthening the Local Energy System

Andy Mills the current Chair of Neston Community Energy said:

“Securing this support from the GB Energy Community Fund is an important step in exploring how locally owned renewable energy and innovative energy sharing can benefit the Neston community. The study will help us understand what is possible at the Leahurst site and how local people can play a direct role in shaping and owning the future energy system in our area.”

The feasibility study will take place over the coming months, with findings helping to inform the next stage of development and community engagement.



*1<sup>st</sup> site meeting for the project at Leahurst with consultants Scene Connect*

\*A Community Benefit Society is a **member-owned organisation that runs a business specifically to benefit a community rather than its members.**