

Weston, Locking & Hutton Community Energy Workshop

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Introduction

In September 2025, Low Carbon Gordano & North Somerset Council hosted a community energy workshop for local residents in Weston-super-Mare at the Other Place in Partnership with Race Equality North Somerset (RENS). The workshop was led by the [Centre for Sustainable Energy](#), an independent national charity, as part of a project funded by the Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme.

The session aimed to help local people understand the types, scale and potential locations of renewable energy technologies that could be supported in the Weston-super-Mare, Locking and Hutton area. Participants engaged in discussions about community energy options and explored what renewable solutions might work locally.

This report examines the renewable technologies suggested during the workshop - including wind turbines and solar panels - and estimates how much energy they could generate for local people.

Following the workshop, a survey and community engagement will gather wider public views on the proposals discussed.

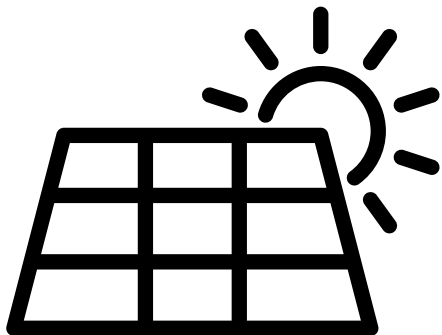
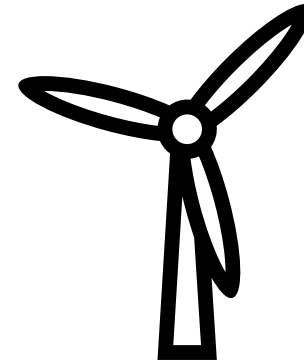




This page shows the main suggestions made in the workshop by local people.

4 wind turbine locations

To reduce their appearance, people felt they were best located Along the A370 or on existing industrial land



8 solar farm locations

This is the equivalent of 56 football fields. It would be split into several areas of smaller solar farms across the area. Similarly to wind turbines, people thought large roofs should be prioritised and then looking at land not suitable for housing and former industrial land

Report summary



This page shows some of the thoughts local people shared in the workshop.

“

I want more but people won't like that, we might not like them but we need more renewable energy schemes

”

“

Things are happening across the UK in terms of renewable installations, it's up to communities on how they benefit from schemes

”

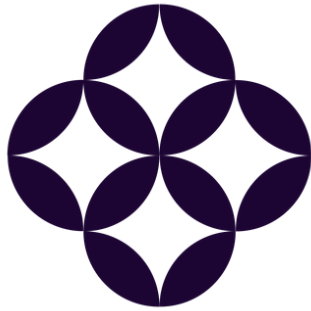
“

It's important that any local schemes focus on the benefits they bring to the area, can they be used to provide jobs or employment?

”

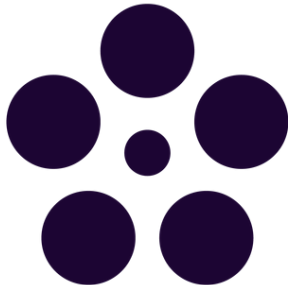


Why did we do the workshop?



Increasing renewables

The way we produce and use energy needs to change. It's the main cause of climate change. We need a lot more energy from renewable sources like wind and solar to meet the UK's climate targets. Nationally, we need to quadruple the amount of renewables that have already been built.



More affordable energy

At the same time, it's difficult for many people in the UK can't keep their homes warm in winter, even though it's essential for their health and wellbeing. Being able to afford to **keep warm in winter is a basic right** for everyone.

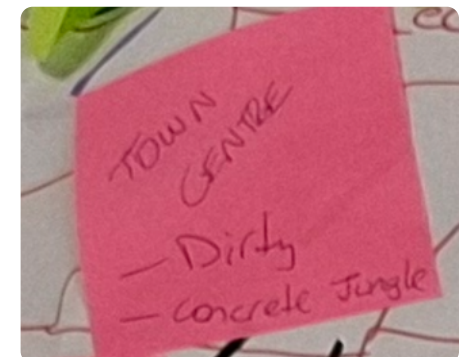
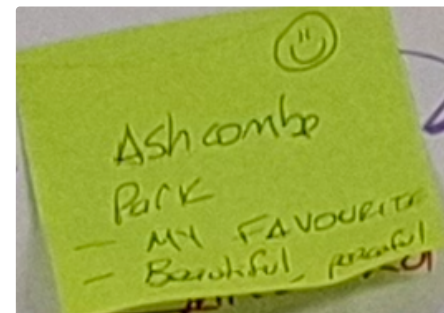
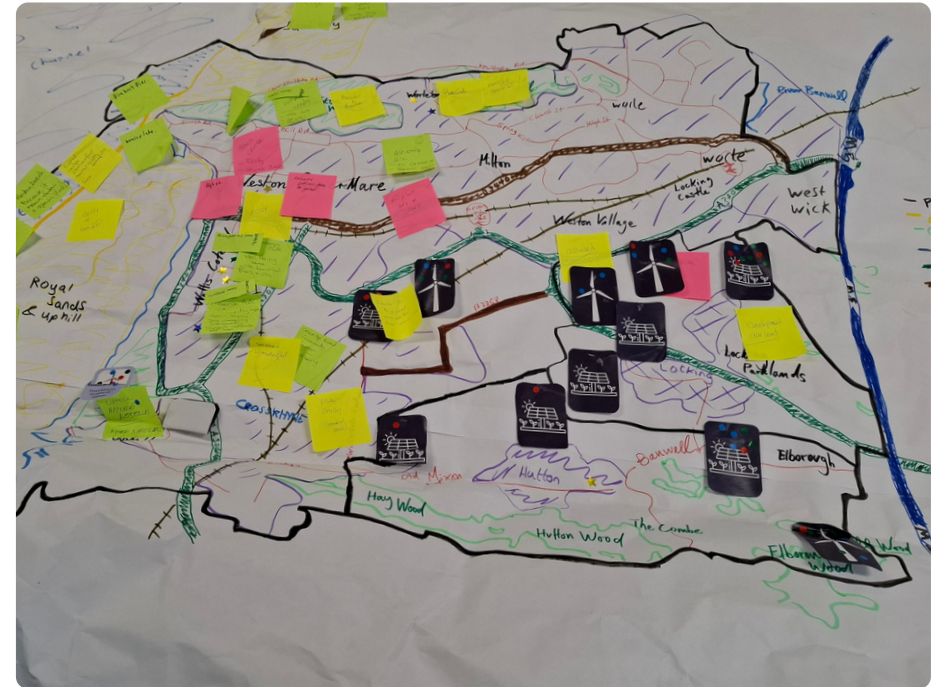
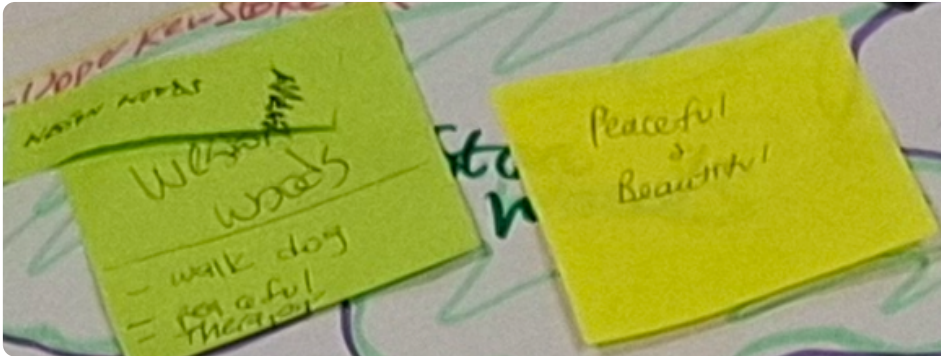


Community energy

Community-led energy projects keep benefits local – from cheaper energy bills to investment in local facilities. When communities lead energy projects, they create solutions that work for everyone – tackling both climate change and rising energy costs. In 2023, community energy projects contributed £12.9million to local economies and saved £4.4m in energy bills. They also reduced carbon emissions by 166 mega tonnes, the same as 209,570 passenger round trips from London to New York.

What is the local area like?

The workshop started with people sharing their thoughts about the local area. They added post it notes to a large handdrawn map of Weston, Locking & Hutton



What is the local area like?



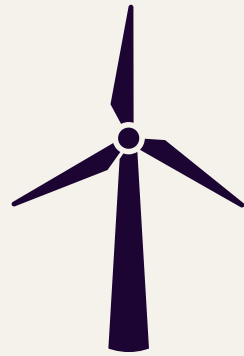
The main thoughts added to the map are shared in the table on this page.

Areas that are special	Areas that are disliked	Other descriptions and thoughts
Worlebury Hill - peaceful and beautiful.	Town centre is dirty and like a concrete jungle.	Weston beach - busy and beautiful, pivotal, large, wonderful, free and good mental health benefits.
Weston woods - peaceful and therapeutic.	The anaerobic plant can be smelly.	Edges of Weston are getting crowded and development overload.
Ashcombe park is beautiful and peaceful.	Old industrial land around Weston railway station.	Worlebury Hill is special, peaceful and beautiful.
Weston beach- because it makes Weston a special place.		
Royal sands is beautiful and wild with lots of birds.		
Uphill nature reserve - keep it natural.		
Coleridge Road Community Garden - good for wellbeing.		
Ellenborough park is a wellbeing area with beautiful trees.		



Choosing renewables

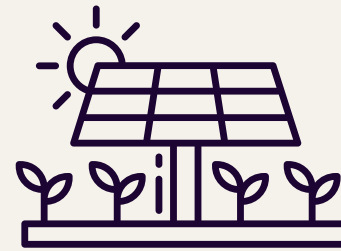
The main part of the workshop brought everyone to 'Sunshine Cafe' where a menu of renewable energy options was shared. This page shows the technology on the menu.



Medium Wind Turbine

Powers 177 homes,
100 metres tall, 1 megawatt.

Maximum **6**



Solar Farm

Each powers 343 homes (5 megawatt) per 13 acres, or
about 7 football fields.

Maximum **25**

This menu is based on technical evidence showing what can be built in Weston, Locking & Hutton. The evidence looks at things like flooding, green belt land and wind speed - so these are already thought about before the maximum number possible is decided. 'Maximum' isn't a number to aim for though, it's a guide of what could technically be delivered, but people in the workshop chose the technology based on what they thought is acceptable for the area.

Choosing renewables

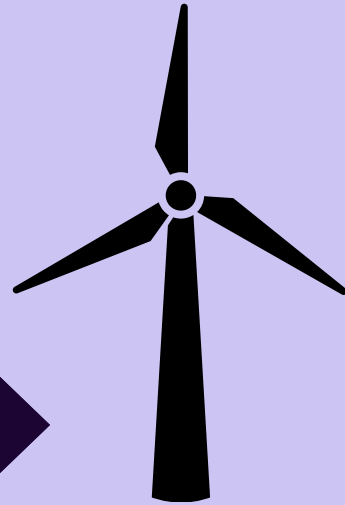




Wind turbine suggestions

People in the workshop suggested a total of...

4 turbines



Which would mean...

27,920 MWh generated



2,298 homes powered

**£21 million
total cost**



Main workshop thoughts shared about wind turbines

2 large wind turbines at 150m on the edge of the area and 2 more central at 100m

Concerns on them spoiling the beauty of the landscape

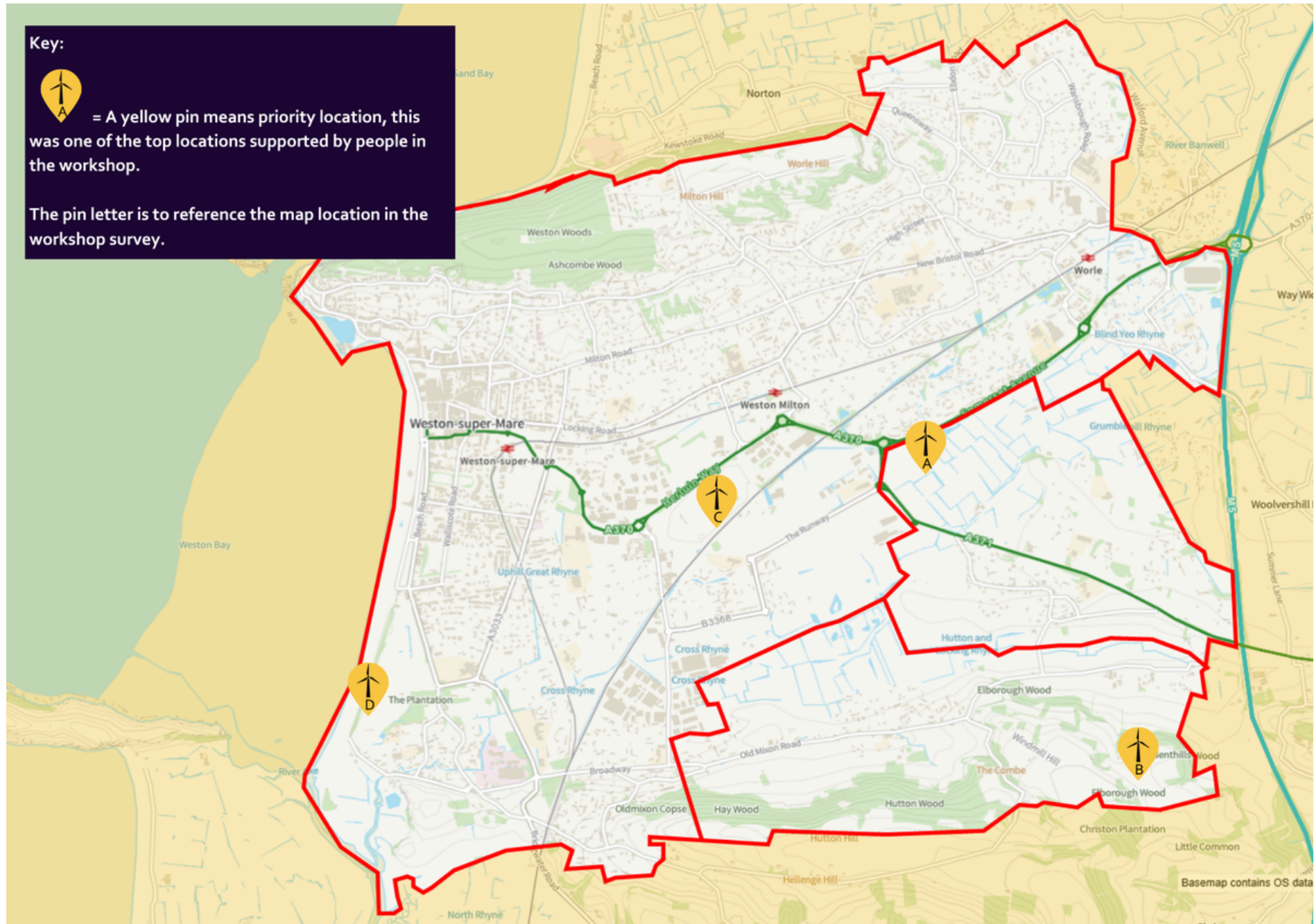
Many participants would like to see them in the estuary

Explore other wind turbine designs to reduce their visual impact

Have them further away from residential homes to prevent any noise impacts

More energy generated compared to solar with less of a footprint

Suggested locations - wind turbines

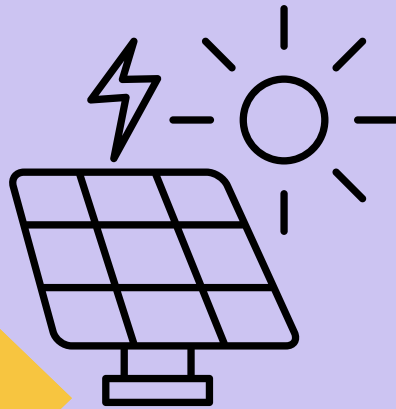




Solar Farm suggestions

People in the workshop suggested a total of...

8 solar farms



Which would mean...

54,830 MWh generated



4,512 homes powered

**£29.5 million
total cost**



Main workshop thoughts shared about solar farms

Look to place on old industrial sites

Ensure the benefit these bring to the community are clear i.e profit generated can be reinvested locally

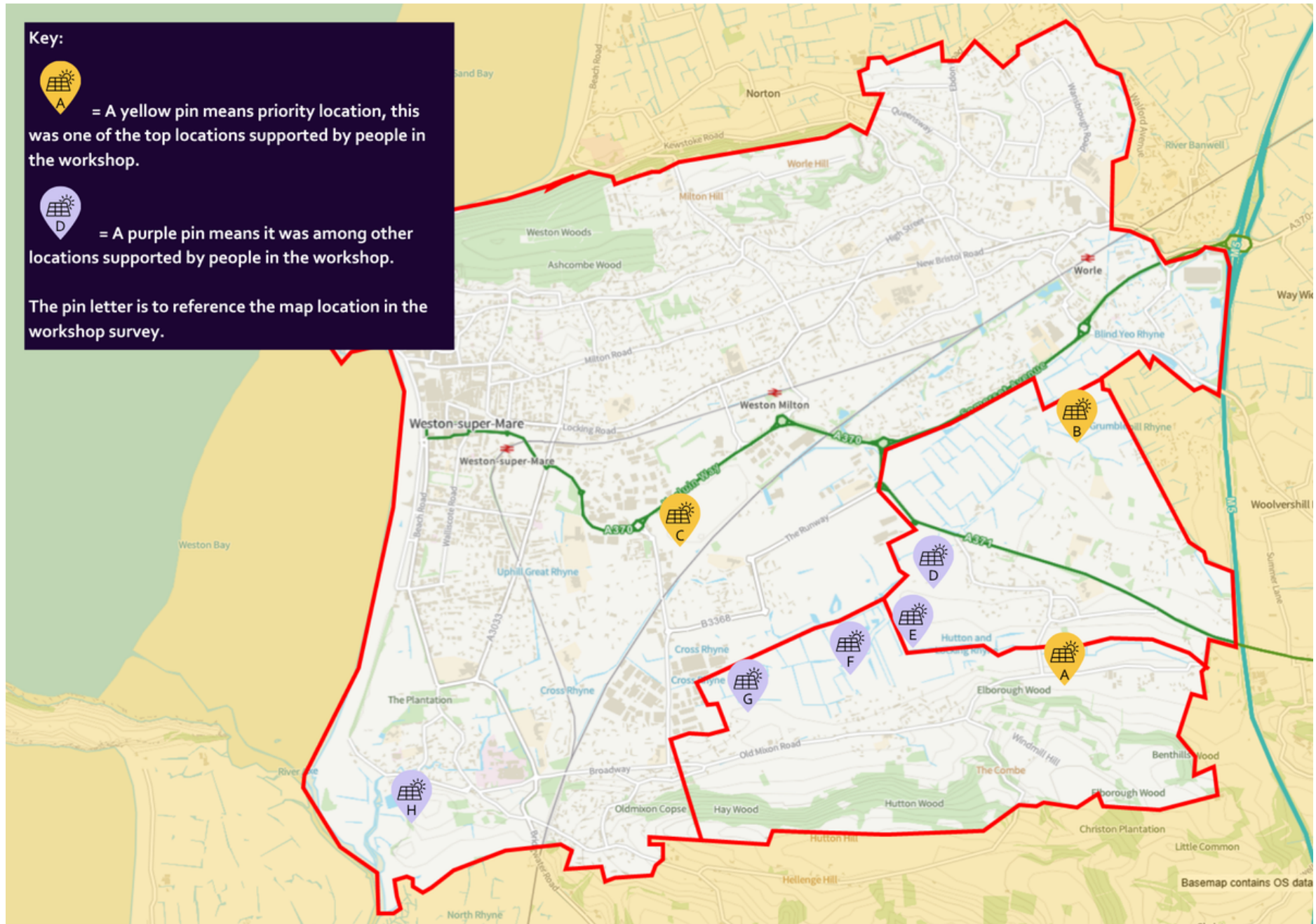
Former landfill site in Weston would be a good location

Industrial land and around Weston train station could be suitable

Maximise the opportunities on roofs

Some areas will not be suitable due to housing now being built, golf courses or other local tourist attractions

Suggested locations - solar farms

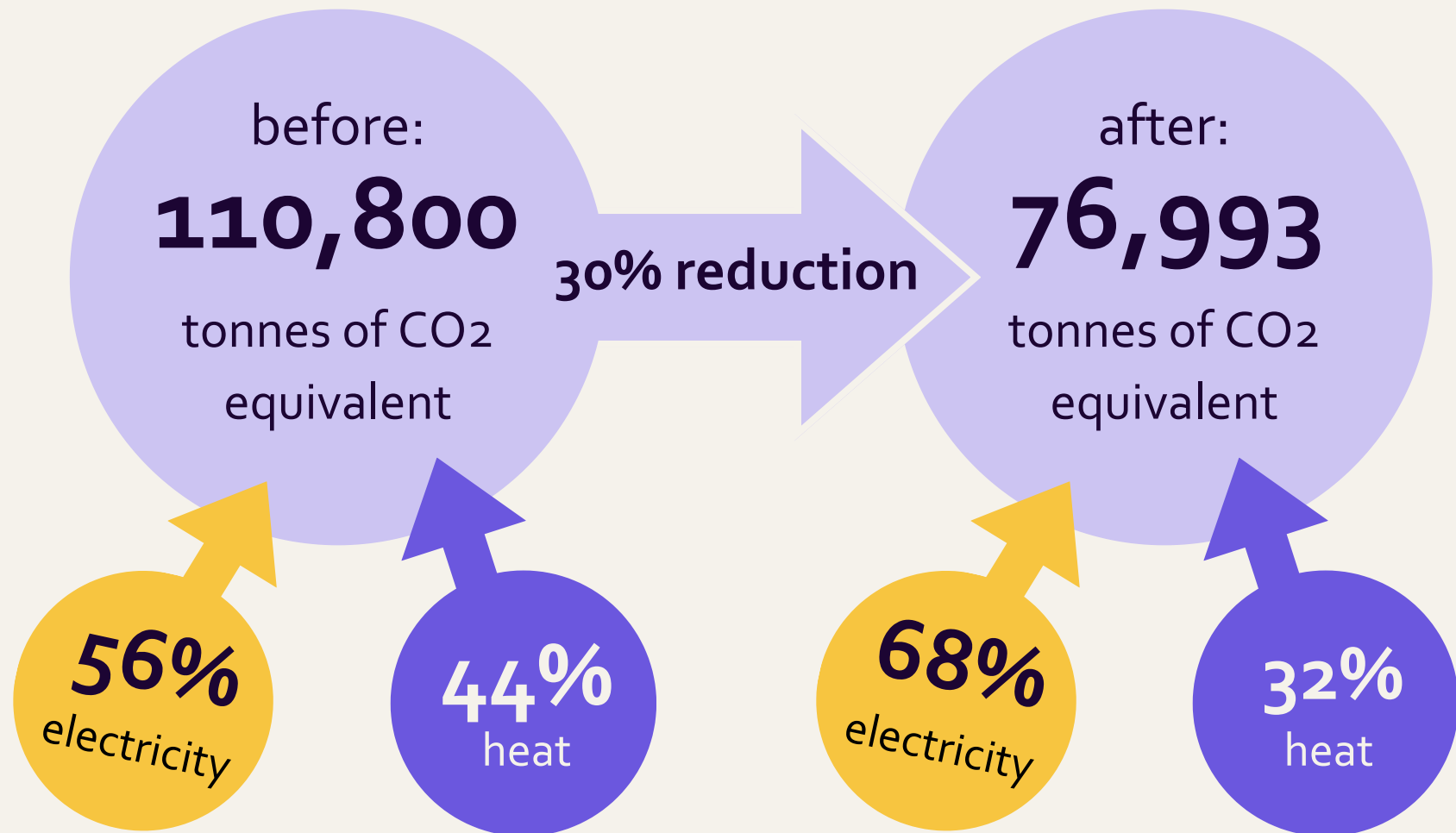


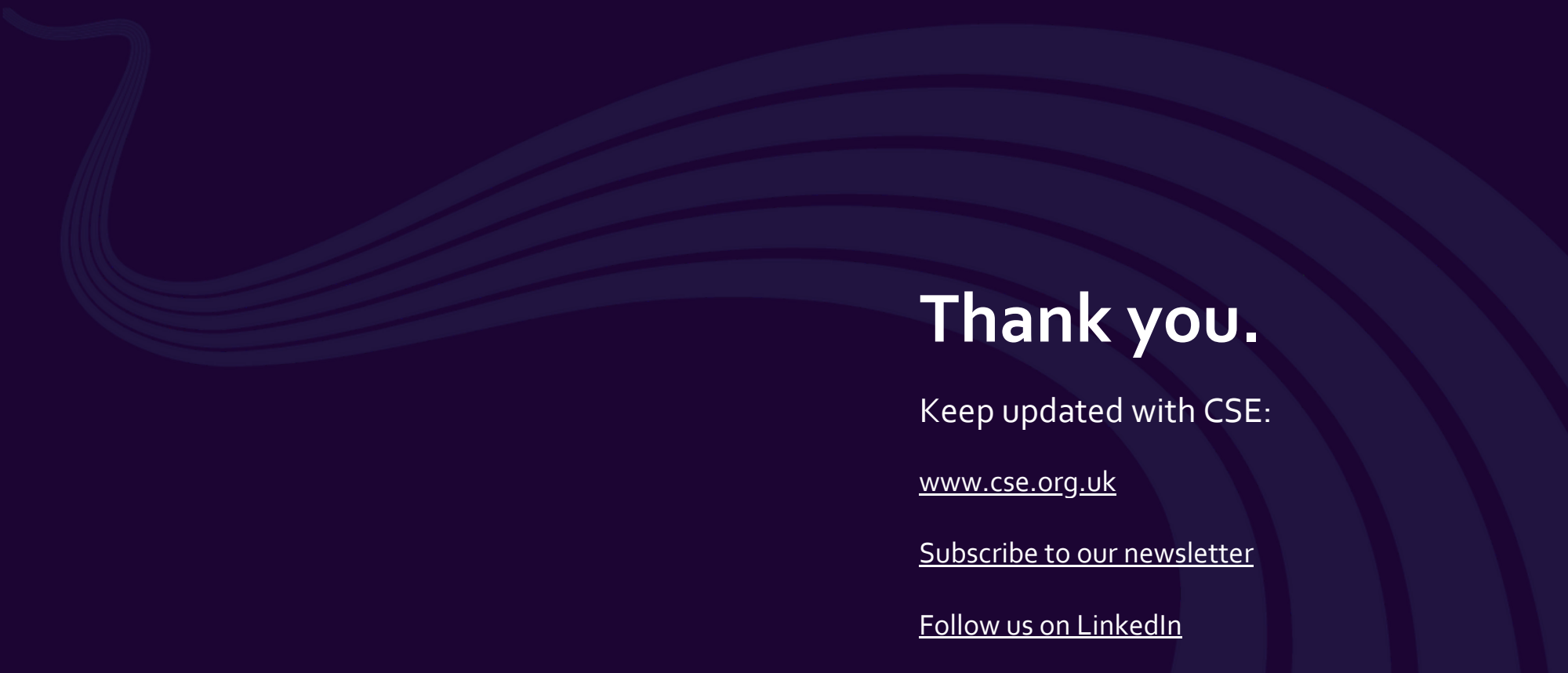
Impact of choices



This page shows the current carbon emissions in Weston, Locking and Hutton from electricity and heating use. It then shows how much those emissions would be reduced if the technology suggested in the workshop was built and installed.

The annual carbon emissions of Weston, Locking & Hutton before and after the suggested technologies from the workshop



A series of dark blue, wavy, concentric lines that sweep across the bottom right of the slide, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Thank you.

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