



CELEBRATING A RENEWABLE ENERGY VICTORY: Pictured from left, Mark Woodlock, Teign School principal; Helen Chessum, of TECs; Katie Ball, Teign School science teacher and Teign Energy champion; and Tony Dolan, head of Teign School sixth form.

Energy group links up with school for solar panel project

SOLAR panels on the roof of Teign School's sports hall will be the first victory for a Teignbridge community energy organisation.

Teign Energy Communities (TECs) has joined up with the Kingsteignton school for the solar panel project, due to be installed in February.

The recently formed group raises funds for community renewable energy projects across Teignbridge. It's currently looking at 13 community buildings for rooftop solar electricity and has support from local organisations, including Templer Academy Schools Trust, Teignbridge Council and Teign Housing.

Tony Dolan, head of sixth form at Teign School, said: 'We're delighted to be on board with this. Not only will the solar panels help with our energy bills, this project also provides a fantastic opportunity for students to find out first-hand about the benefits of renewables.'

'Geography and science have syllabus units on these topics and we

by **KATE COTTON**

will have a live example on our doorstep. I'm also keen for my sixth-formers to get involved with the TECs organisation for work experience. The possibilities are endless.'

Iain Freeland, of Templer Academy Schools Trust, added: 'This is great news and I'm very happy to be involved with this initiative at Teign School. It will enable us to furnish the last of our trust schools with solar photovoltaics, which is brilliant.'

'We're just waiting for the contract to be signed for a February half-term installation date. Then it's all systems go.'

Teignbridge Council's executive agreed at their September meeting to endorse and support the Teign Energy Communities group, including offering technical expertise in specific areas such as legal, finance and publicity on a case-by-case basis.

Cllr John Goodey, of the executive, said: 'This is an exciting new group looking to support local low carbon energy production while retaining the

income in the local community.'

'Teignbridge is keen to support local communities and groups who take initiative, especially when there are a number of benefits to our residents.'

After the meeting TECs' secretary Fuad Al-Tawil said: 'It makes sense in these uncertain times to have more energy produced and used locally. It's the best way to use energy and save money on energy bills.'

Teign Housing has also put its weight behind the TECs initiative, designating their asset manager Tony Sharland as one of the group's founding directors.

Mr Sharland said: 'Recent government changes in subsidies for solar energy has reduced our capacity to install more solar panels on Teign Housing properties, but working closely with TECs allows us to fulfil our commitment to renewable energy generation locally.'

'This is good for the local economy as well as our carbon footprint.'

For more information see www.teignenergycommunities.co.uk.