



MORE

Morecambe Bay
Community
Renewables

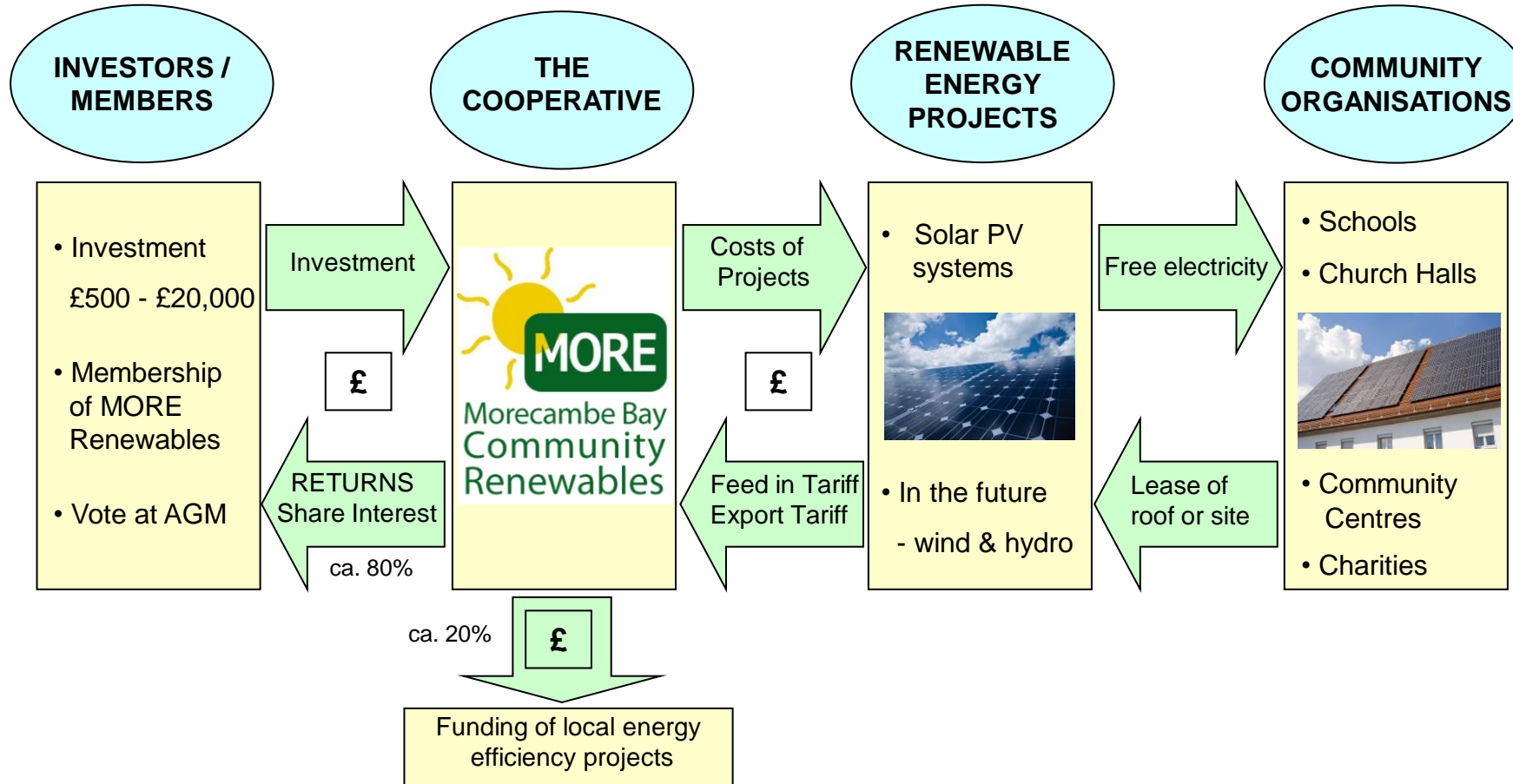


A Community Benefit Society, set-up in 2011 to help people and organisations to benefit from renewable energy.

to develop a range of renewable energy installations in the Morecambe Bay area:

- to reduce carbon emissions
- to provide a return to investors (our members)
- to raise funding to help people reduce their energy use and live more sustainably.

The Plan



Share Offers



- 2012: £107,000 for 50kW PV
- 2013: £20,000 for 20kW biomass boiler
- 2014: £50,000 for 39kW PV
- 46 members

- Annual income c £20,000
- First payment to investors of 2% in 2013 (as predicted)
- Paying 4% by 2015

- End of 2022: 37 members, share capital of £141,333,
assets £141,715.

Projects



Panels supply electricity to a private wire network, supplying approx. 40 homes and workspace in a converted mill. Installed in 2012 and 2014.
All our electricity is sold to Lancaster Co-housing who sell it on to homes and offices.
Halton Lune Hydro also feeds into the network.

Horton Women's Holiday Centre



Lancaster Boys and Girls Club

- 10 kWp PV
- solar thermal



Installed in 2015 without doing a new share offer.

A **shared ownership agreement** with the Boys & Girls club, rather than a lease for the roof space. Shares risks and rewards between the two organizations.

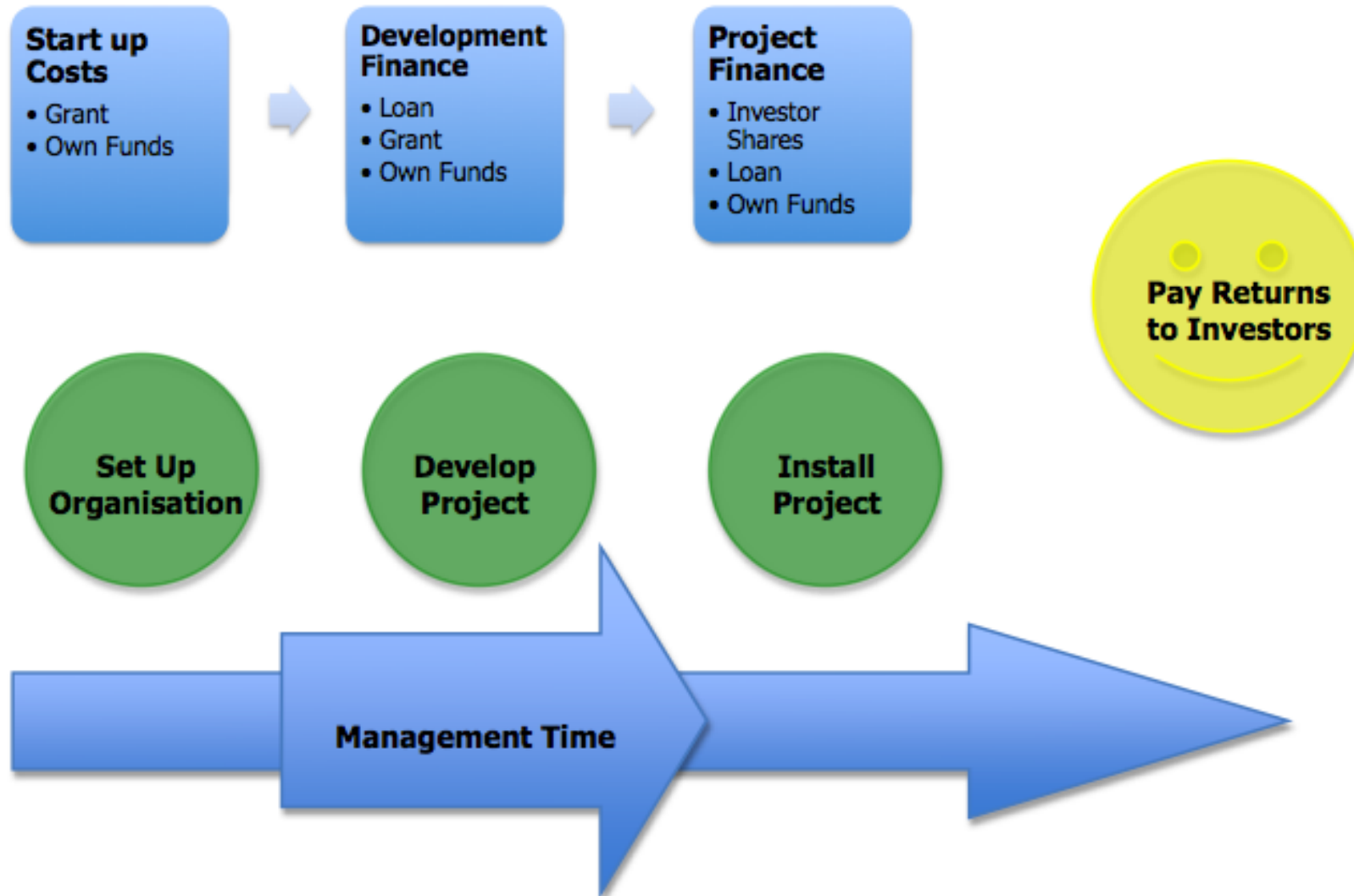


How to do a community solar scheme



- Form your team
- Set up an organisation
 - a community benefit society
 - Can get help with this from Business Support for Co-ops, run by Co-operatives UK
- Find your projects

How it Works



Main Issues



- Finding projects
 - Technically suitable
 - Willing site owner
 - Financially viable: need to sell energy at a reasonable rate
 - Likely to get through planning (if needed)
- Development finance (at risk)
- Competition from private developers

Evaluating solar PV projects

- Large south-facing roof
- Unshaded
- Condition of roof – can it support the panels?
- Roofing material – industrial metal roofs best.
- On a building which will use the electricity
 - sufficient day-time use on one fiscal meter

More about Community Shares



- Withdrawable share capital in societies
- Offers are unregulated
- Shareholders become members
- One member one vote
- Return is in the form of share interest – ‘sufficient to attract and retain the capital’
- Shares not transferrable, so cannot increase in value
- Withdrawal can be suspended by the society
- Best practice promoted by the Community Shares Unit within Co-operatives UK – CS handbook and standard mark

Thank you!

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