Finance and contracts options

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Future Energy Development

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The budget provides a comprehensive breakdown of the expenses required for constructing and launching the project, as well as the funding sources for this process. On the other hand, the financial model outlines the projected income the project will generate once it becomes operational, along with the expenses for its maintenance and operation. It also determines the amount of funds remaining after covering these costs, which can be used to repay project debts owed to financiers and investors or to contribute to community benefits.

Budget

Determining the cost of a project is often the first question that arises, and it holds great significance. However, providing a precise answer can be challenging due to various factors. Here are some reasons why projects can exceed their budget:

- **Incomplete inclusion of costs:** Certain expenses may have been overlooked or omitted either because they were unknown, not considered, or intentionally left out.
- **Unforeseen costs:** New expenses may arise during the construction phase that were not anticipated at the outset.
- **Cost escalations due to delays:** Delays in the project can result in additional expenses such as increased rent, interest, and price hikes between the estimated timeframe and procurement.

It may be tempting to focus solely on major expenses and assume that any remaining costs can be covered by a contingency fund. Let's consider an example of an imaginary project involving 100 kW of solar power and 60 kWh of batteries. Please note that the cost figures provided below are rough estimates and should not be treated as definitive indicators of the final cost.

Initially, you estimate the solar cost at $180,000 and the battery cost at $80,000. Adding a 15% contingency brings the total project cost to $300,000. However, it's important to take into account additional factors, such as:

- Feasibility study: $20,000 to $40,000 (which could potentially double)
- Final design: $50,000 (which could double or triple for large or complex projects)
- Interconnection upgrade: $0 or $20,000 to $50,000 (which could be even higher)
- Metering system upgrade: $0 to $10,000
- Cables for distribution network connection: $20,000
- Control technology for loads, generation, and storage: $10,000
- Monitoring systems: $5,000
- Balance of plant (inclusive of miscellaneous equipment costs): $10,000
- Project management: $20,000
- Civil or building works related to wiring or upgrades: $5,000 to $25,000
- Equipment hire (e.g., work platforms, security fencing): $1,000 to $5,000
- Communications, fundraising, and administrative costs: $4,000 to $10,000

As a result, your initial $300,000 project could easily amount to $500,000. This estimate does not even encompass costs related to energy efficiency, load updates for controllability, application fees, financing expenses, legal advice, storytelling, or celebrations.

To avoid surprises, it is crucial to determine the true cost as early as possible and diligently record all expenses. This approach allows for identification and potential reduction of costs through creative solutions.

If you have exhausted all options for creatively reducing the budget and it still exceeds your means, it may be necessary to reconsider ambitions, preferences, or scale down the project.

Other considerations

When purchasing a system, there are several non-price factors that are worth taking into consideration. These include:

- **Inverter manufacturer:** Assess the reputation, warranty, and usability of the inverter's app. It can be beneficial for homeowners to understand how their system is performing and monitor its performance.
- **Inverter setup and power quality response modes:** Consider how easy it is to set up the inverter and how well it operates in different power quality response modes.
- **PV panel warranty:** Check the warranty duration for the PV panels, which typically ranges from 10 to 25 years.
- **PV panel annual light-induced degradation:** In the past, degradation was around -0.8% per year, but with advancements in PV panel construction, it should now be around -0.55% to -0.4% per year. Understanding this degradation rate is important for long-term performance assessment.
- **Weight considerations:** Evaluate whether the roof can handle the combined weight of the system, particularly for residential roofs where the weight is spread over a large surface. However, factors like snow loading may impact this. In commercial solar installations, adding weight to a building can trigger building code requirements for strengthening, potentially acting as a disincentive for installation.
- **Research and obtain multiple quotes:** When considering solar installation, carefully research different suppliers and obtain several quotes. Take into account both the price, as it can vary considerably between suppliers, and the non-price aspects mentioned in this list.

By considering these non-price aspects, you can make a more informed decision when purchasing a system that aligns with your requirements and maximises its benefits.

The Financial model

The financial model serves as a framework that begins with the budget as an input, spread out over the project's duration. It showcases the projected funds inflow for the project, ensuring that the amounts and timing align accordingly.

The model presents expected revenues for the next 20 years, along with estimated costs for operations, upgrades, maintenance, and potential contingencies. From these figures, net profit for each year, taxes, and ultimately, free cash flow are derived. This free cash flow is then utilised to either repay project financing or, if the funds were donated, to contribute to the intended community initiatives.

The financial model is built upon a set of assumptions for each number, which are continuously refined as the project progresses. When seeking financing, it is crucial to justify the accuracy of each number and address the associated risks.

To assess revenue, consulting the contractor regarding production estimates and multiplying that by the anticipated unit price can be a useful approach. However, it is advisable to verify such estimations independently. The Electricity Efficiency and Conservation Authority, in collaboration with the University of Canterbury, has developed a helpful tool for this purpose[1].

Direct operating costs need to be taken into account, such as insurance (which can be larger than expected), maintenance (including cleaning and mowing, potentially performed by contractors or volunteers), administration (billing and maintenance management), data management (if applicable on a small scale), and land lease. Additionally, indirect operating costs like compliance or administration fees should be considered. Accounting for volunteer time is also important since volunteer availability can fluctuate.

Finally, it is crucial to assess whether the free cash flow will be sufficient to repay project financing within a reasonable timeframe. This evaluation depends largely on the type of financing and the funder's return expectations. The objective is to align the certainty and size of the net cash flow with the certainty and size of financing payments, ensuring that both the project owner and the financier can be confident in servicing the financing costs and reducing the amount financed.

Financiers typically prefer long-term power purchase agreements (PPAs) rather than relying on arrangements tied to market electricity prices. Equity investors may also prefer fixed interest rates to prevent sudden increases in loan servicing costs. However, it is important to note that financiers generally do not offer fixed interest rates for extended periods, and they typically expect repayment earlier than the useful life of the assets or the term of the PPA.

If the project has received grant funding, the financial model can be used to determine how to cover costs beyond the grant amount. However, it is crucial to ensure that the grant funding contributes to community benefit rather than increasing financial returns for investors.

Having a comprehensive financial model provides valuable insights into the project's viability. It enables constructive discussions with stakeholders, assuring them that the project can be built and operated sustainably in the long term. Moreover, it allows for informed decision-making by understanding the financial implications and trade-offs involved. With this preparation, you are ready to engage with counterparties and partners confidently.

1 genless.govt.nz/for-everyone/at-home/explore-solar-energy/solar-power-calculator/

Engaging funders and investors

Caution should be exercised when seeking third-party funding for community "commercial" projects, as it is not without its challenges. The solar energy sector, particularly for community projects, has limited participation from banks as active lenders. Typically, banks primarily engage in financing grid-scale projects. It would be beneficial for the community group to seek early advice from a lender to establish realistic understandings and expectations regarding funding options.

The fundamentals of funding

Every commercial funder shares two primary concerns:

- Will they recover their investment? – Risk
- What return will they earn on the investment?

Grant makers and philanthropists may not prioritise financial returns, but they still seek assurance that the project has a good chance of success (risk) and that the funds are utilised effectively, resulting in some form of return, even if non-monetary.

Fundraising discussions typically revolve around the following key elements:

- The funding amount being requested
- The timeframe for the funder to recoup their investment or obtain other anticipated benefits
- How can the funder be certain that the information provided regarding the funding request and timeline is accurate and will materialise as projected?

At its core, establishing a relationship of trust between the funder and the borrower is essential, instilling confidence in the project and the team behind it. Trust not only helps secure funding but also enables the relationship to withstand the inevitable uncertainties that arise during project development and operation.

Transparency is another vital aspect when engaging with funders and complements the foundation of trust. Sharing commercially sensitive information with funders is necessary to build their trust and allow them to make their own assessment of the project's risk and return.

The project financing process comprises three distinct phases, each with its own risks, timeframes, and capital requirements:

1 **The development phase:** Spanning from project inception to the commencement of construction.

2 **The construction phase:** Beginning from the groundbreaking to the initial generation of electricity.

3 **The operating phase:** Extending from the initial flow of electricity to the final flow of electricity.

Understanding these phases and their associated financial considerations is crucial for securing the necessary funding throughout the project lifecycle.

The development phase is characterised by uncertainty as decisions regarding technology, budget, location, and permissions are still being determined. Typically, this phase is funded by the community or a benevolent sponsor. Grants from private and government sources can also be used to support different aspects of the development, such as feasibility studies, or geotechnical studies. While the capital requirements are usually lower compared to the other phases, it is uncommon to secure commercial funding during this stage.

During the development phase, community engagement and discussions play a crucial role in determining project objectives.

The construction phase is characterised by a clear budget and timeline. The main risk in this phase is whether the project can be completed within the specified timeframe and budget. Financing during the construction phase may be specialised and focused on this particular stage. It is generally considered riskier than the operating phase, leading to higher interest rates.

The operating phase: Once the plant is up and running, generating electricity and generating revenue, the project becomes more attractive to secure additional funding at lower interest rates. The established revenue stream offers a level of certainty in terms of payment, and the completed plant can serve as collateral or assurance that there is a valuable asset that can be sold if needed.

Doing “due diligence”

As part of the due diligence process, the funder will review the following aspects of the project to ensure alignment and accuracy within the financial model.

The revenue from the sale of electricity

The revenue generated from the sale of electricity is an important factor for funders, and the more certain this revenue is, the better. A Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) is a contractual agreement between energy buyers and sellers, where they agree to buy and sell a specified amount of energy generated by a renewable asset. PPAs are typically signed for long-term periods ranging from 10 to 20 years. Having a fixed price contract for 20 years holds more value than relying on selling electricity on the spot market, even if the market price is expected to be higher. This is because a PPA provides certainty. When considering a PPA, certain factors should be taken into account:

- The PPA should be legally binding and well-drafted to eliminate the risk of non-payment.
- The buyer, also known as the off-taker, should have a strong credit history and be a reliable consumer of electricity, capable of fulfilling payment obligations throughout the duration of the PPA, which is often 20 years.
- It is beneficial if the off-taker has a track record of using PPAs to procure electricity in the past.

The Construction contract

The construction contract should be legally binding, well-drafted, and include a fixed price agreement with penalties for delays. It should clearly outline how costs will be managed and ensure completion guarantees. It is important for the contractor to have a strong credit rating and financial stability to successfully complete the project and honour any guarantees. They should also have experience in the electricity sector, particularly with the specific technology being used. Financiers typically prefer to see reputable and established companies with a solid track record in constructing similar projects. In some cases, financiers may require a third-party engineer to review the design or oversee the construction process.

Technology and supply chain

Financiers are cautious about taking on additional risks, including technology risk. To mitigate this, they typically require the use of well-tested technologies. It’s not just about using solar panels, but also ensuring that the panels come from reputable brands.

In New Zealand, electricity financing is relatively new, so funders may perceive it as a form of new technology, despite solar, wind, and hydro being established as low-risk technologies in international markets.

Furthermore, financiers may also demand evidence of ethical sourcing practices.

The O&M (Operation and Maintenance) contract:

The O&M contract is similar to the construction contract but has a longer-term focus. It outlines how maintenance activities will be carried out effectively and within the allocated budget.

The financing contracts

The financing contracts should be transparent and equitable, without any concealed charges or excessively high interest rates that cannot be managed, especially when multiple funding entities are involved. It is important to clearly establish the hierarchy of financing facilities in terms of priority for repayment, step-in rights (the ability to assume control of the project), and rights to project assets as collateral for the financier's security. All financing documents should be carefully coordinated to ensure that the funds are committed in the correct sequence, often simultaneously.

The track record and experience of the developer

Financiers are wary of getting involved in the first project that a community or individual has done because it is believed that first time developers are more likely to make errors than more experienced developers. Those errors could lead to a reduction in revenue, delays, cost overruns or other circumstances that reduce the ability of the project to repay the financing.

One way to address this concern is to build a relationship and trust with the financier well in advance of needing their funds so that they can see progress and believe in you and the project.

A first-time developer can reduce the perceived risk by including more experienced developers as advisors, showing definitive progress against milestones and being diligent through having design, drafting, and consulting work done by well-established firms. This adds legitimacy to claims of serviceability and reliability.

Lenders and funders

Banks

Banks operate by receiving deposits from customers and lending that money to borrowers. Their primary source of revenue comes from lending, although they also generate income from service fees. Banks must keep a portion of their depositors' money in reserve to ensure that it is available for withdrawal or in case of loan defaults. The reserve requirement determines the amount of money banks can lend.

Three factors influence the size of the reserve:

- **The likelihood of default:** Higher default probability necessitates a larger reserve. Factors such as new technology, an unproven contractor, uncertain revenue streams, or poor cost control can negatively impact this probability.
- **Loss in the event of default:** Greater potential loss requires higher reserves. Collateral, such as assets or land, can help mitigate this risk by providing a means to recover the principal.
- **Loan term:** Longer loan terms increase risk as borrower circumstances may change. Banks typically lend for three to five years but may extend loans upon expiration.

Banks seek assurance of payment through secure revenue streams, collateral, the borrower's creditworthiness, or guarantees from third parties. Banks have established models and trusted advisors for traditional business lines like mortgages and business loans. However, since electricity, Distributed Energy Resources (DERs), and Community Energy Projects (CEPs) are relatively new to many banks, they may lack a standardised approach to financing these projects cost-effectively. The perception of technological risk in solar energy, for example, can hinder financing, regardless of its long history and success overseas.

Within a bank, three groups may work in the electricity sector:

- **Project finance** focuses on large-scale infrastructure projects and requires rigorous assessment of revenue streams. Deals are often non-recourse, relying solely on project revenues for security.
- **Commercial banking** serves the business sector and evaluates cash flow, balance sheets, and risk for growth projects. Aligning with community energy projects (CEPs) in complexity, this group needs to understand revenue potential, construction costs, and operational risks.
- **Retail banking** emphasises volume and standardisation, typically financing standardised residential properties based on stable buyer income.

Lessons from project finance, such as assessing off-taker credit, contractor reliability, technology maturity, and accurate financial modelling, can be applied to smaller projects. However, commercial lenders may face challenges in understanding DERs and CEPs due to their novelty, requiring time to comprehend the technologies' reliability and revenue stream certainty.

Finance the phases of the project separately.

Another possible financing approach for a project is to divide it into two phases: the construction phase and the operation phase. As mentioned earlier, banks are more inclined to finance a project once it is operational, which is referred to as "take out" financing. For instance, the project could be initially constructed using community funds, and once it becomes operational, a loan could be secured to release some of the community funds. Similar to a mortgage, it may be necessary to retain a portion of the community funds in the deal, the percentage of which depends on the size and reliability of cash flows.

Banks prefer well-structured and low-risk deals for operating projects, typically requiring a coverage ratio of at least 1.2. The remaining funding would need to come from the original source, which could be a community fund, grant, private equity, or philanthropist.

Another way to split the funding into two phases is for the same bank to finance the construction phase and then roll over the loan to the commercial operation phase. This arrangement benefits the bank by allowing a shorter-term construction loan with higher interest rates or collateral requirements, while the loan for the operation phase can have a longer term, lower interest rate, and reduced collateral requirements.

Include community capital in the deal.

Most energy projects that utilise established technology tend to generate their expected revenue or come close to it. The determination of what constitutes “proven technology” is generally left to the lender’s discretion. In cases where projects fall short of their revenue targets, the deviation is often a small percentage rather than a complete failure. Moreover, fluctuations in resource availability, such as wind, solar, or hydro, can lead to variations in annual performance.

To ensure resilience against these fluctuations, banks prefer to see community capital involved in the project. In the payment hierarchy, the bank is prioritised for repayment, followed by the community’s capital, which typically represents around 20% of the project’s financing. In the event that the project needs to be sold to recover the remaining capital owed to the bank, the bank is reimbursed from the proceeds first, and the community’s capital receives the remaining amount.

The community’s capital can be derived from various non-bank sources, including community funds, grants, private equity, or philanthropic contributions.

Provide a backstop.

A bank might require a reliable entity to guarantee the financial obligations of the Community Energy Project. A suitable option for this role could be a knowledgeable philanthropist. While the philanthropist may not need to provide any upfront cash, they would be responsible for covering any remaining debt if the project fails to repay the bank. This arrangement is advantageous because the backstop entity doesn’t have to contribute any funds initially; they simply need to possess the resources to cover potential losses, if they occur.

Other returns

Banks play a significant role in addressing greenhouse gas emissions in Aotearoa New Zealand. They are motivated to demonstrate their contribution to this cause. If your project aligns with the bank’s marketing objectives, they may invest more time and effort to make the deal successful. However, the financial viability of the deal remains crucial. The bank expects a return on their investment and repayment of the funds, but they might involve senior personnel who wouldn’t typically be involved in smaller deals.

Another potential benefit for the bank is the opportunity to learn from your project and develop more efficient processes. If you can demonstrate that your project is part of

a larger initiative with multiple similar deals, the bank is more likely to show interest. Nonetheless, your specific deal must still make commercial sense for them to consider it.

Learning from others

In developed and advanced markets, banks are willing to finance distributed energy resources (DERs) if the financial model is viable and there are contracts in place to ensure its validity. However, obtaining bank financing in the current landscape may require lengthy and patient discussions with banks and other stakeholders to create a financing package that satisfies all parties involved. It would be beneficial to have someone on your team who possesses knowledge of project finance or finance in general.

Government Agencies

Government agencies, like MBIE, sometimes offer grant money to cover a portion or all of the project costs, such as in the case of Māori and Public Housing Renewable Energy Fund[2]. Governments aim to demonstrate their support for the people they serve in ways that are appreciated. Sharing positive stories about the impact of energy grants on communities helps advocates for such funding secure additional resources. Grant recipients have a vested interest in utilising the funds effectively and providing measurable evidence of how the community has benefited. It is important to remember that the grant funds were contributed by individuals in other communities through taxes, so it is essential to spend this money responsibly and wisely.

2 Māori and Public Housing Renewable Energy Fund

Not-for-profits

Not-for-profit, community, or charitable organisations are established to support specific sectors of society. They receive funding from individuals, governments, corporations, or a combination of sources. These organisations are professionally managed and tasked with responsibly utilising the funds for the benefit of the intended sector. If your Community Energy Project aligns with the objectives of a non-profit organisation, you may be able to secure some or all of your funding from this source. When approaching non-profits, it is important to have a credible financial model and provide contracts demonstrating your ability to complete the project within the specified budget and generate revenue and community benefits.

Private equity investors

Private equity investors, whether individuals, groups, or institutions, can play a significant role in funding your Community Energy Project. When presenting your project economics to potential private equity investors, it is essential to be disciplined and clearly demonstrate the financial aspects. Community fundraising may also be a viable option for raising funds.

Private equity investors can provide funding at various stages, from project development to long-term operational support. They will carefully assess the potential return on investment, evaluate risks, and expect to see plans in place to mitigate those risks. Like banks, private investors are concerned about recouping their investment and earning a return.

One of the key advantages of private equity investors is their expertise and creativity in funding projects. They may bring together a diverse coalition of funders or explore opportunities with complementary partners. Even if they decline initially, they may reconsider if they identify a partner or buyer who strengthens the project's creditworthiness. Private equity financiers are constantly seeking innovative ways to invest money and generate favourable risk-adjusted returns, often offering more flexibility than traditional banks.

Crowdfunding or Crowdsourcing

Crowdsourcing funds is a popular method used globally, similar to private equity but with smaller individual contributions. Unlike experienced private equity investors, the people contributing funds in crowdsourcing campaigns are often more passionate about the project than focused on financial returns. However, a return on investment is still expected, and the risks and benefits must be clearly communicated in simple terms. Regulations are often in place to protect investors in crowdsourcing campaigns, so it is important to research or use a reputable platform to run the campaign. One disadvantage is that managing crowdsourced funds involves dealing with numerous investors who require regular updates on progress and eventual returns. The administrative burden of handling crowdsourced funds is one of the highest on this list, as it entails legal and compliance obligations and associated risks.

Philanthropists

Philanthropists are often misunderstood as wealthy individuals who simply give away money. However, they are driven by causes and seek a return on their investment, which may not solely be monetary. They want to apply their knowledge and skills

to make a positive impact in the areas they support. In many cases, philanthropists expect to see a financial return generated from their contributions, even if the funds are not returned directly to them. They want assurance that the money is being utilised effectively and benefiting the community. Consequently, philanthropists approach projects with the same level of expertise and discipline as private investors.

Tiered financing

Different types of financiers have varying levels of risk tolerance and expected returns. This allows for multiple sources of funding, with each source positioned according to their risk and return profile.

For instance, a conservative funder like a bank would prioritise repayment before other investors. Private investors, who are willing to take on more risk for higher returns, would come next in the financing hierarchy. Finally, at the top of the hierarchy, there may be grant funding or philanthropic support, which is often more patient and may not require monetary returns, making it the last to be repaid.

Selecting a contractor to build your CEP

Choosing a reliable contractor is essential for ensuring a high-quality and cost-effective project. Trust in the contractor's capabilities is important to most people. When interacting with a contractor, it's beneficial to request a detailed breakdown of labor rates, hours, and component costs. This information will provide clarity on the project's requirements. If one quote appears to have significantly fewer labor hours for solar panel installation compared to others, it's worth inquiring about the reason. In certain cases, it may be possible to obtain a transparent cost-plus-margin quote, allowing for a fair evaluation of the quote's accuracy. Additionally, the contractor should be able to provide:

- The peak power of the Community Energy Project (CEP).
- An estimate of annual electricity production and its profile.
- Information necessary for completing the interconnection application.
- A breakdown of labor and material costs.
- Suggestions for potential cost savings.
- Ideas on how community members or others can contribute to the project

Specifics about electricity generation contractors

Community Energy Projects and Distributed Energy Resources are relatively new in Aotearoa New Zealand, which means that many contractors may not have sufficient knowledge to accurately estimate the upfront cost of complex projects. While there are numerous residential solar panel installers, the number of qualified contractors decreases significantly for more complex or larger projects. For instance, if you're planning to build a microgrid with battery storage, solar panels, controllable load, and advanced controls, there may only be one or two companies in Aotearoa New Zealand capable of delivering such a project within the specified time and budget.

To ensure the suitability of a contractor, it is important to assess their past experience, not just in terms of project volume but also in terms of complexity. Inquire about their previous projects and how they relate to yours, and consider checking references to verify their ability to deliver satisfactory results.

SEANZ (Sustainable Energy Association New Zealand)[3] maintains lists of reputable installers. However, it's important to note that the absence of a company from these lists does not necessarily mean they are unsuitable for your project. Nonetheless, knowing that a company has been vetted by SEANZ can provide additional reassurance and potentially offer recourse if they fail to fulfil their promises. SEANZ also investigates complaints against contractors on their list.

3 seanz.org.nz

Aligning incentives

To ensure good quality at a fair price, one approach is to align the contractors' incentives with your requirements. For instance, if this project is unique for the contractor, you can offer to be a reference customer, motivating them to deliver excellent results to earn a positive recommendation. Another option is to involve community members in the project, reducing costs while ensuring adherence to the plan. Additionally, you could consider implementing a bonus system if the project is completed under budget. Aligning incentives in these ways encourages contractors to prioritise your project's success.

Understanding inclusions and exclusions

Construction contracts typically include exclusions and inclusions. Exclusions are items or costs not covered by the contract, while inclusions are the specific items the contractor guarantees a price for. Contractors may overquote for inclusions to account for potential cost increases and risks. It's important to consider both exclusions and inclusions when assessing a quote or contract. Exclusions that are likely to occur may require additional budget contingency, while inclusions that are unlikely can inflate the quote unnecessarily. Comparing quotes can be challenging since contractors may have different inclusions and exclusions. Negotiating inclusions and exclusions is common in larger projects, but expertise is needed to determine what is beneficial for the project and negotiate necessary changes. Having someone with relevant expertise can help guide the community through this process.

Equipment sourcing

The cost of equipment is a significant factor in determining the overall cost of a project. In New Zealand, the cost of equipment for Distributed Energy Resources is notably higher compared to other countries. However, exploring equipment options from manufacturers outside of New Zealand could potentially lead to cost savings, although it would require additional effort on your part. The feasibility of direct imports depends on the scale of your project. Another approach to reducing equipment costs is to leverage larger projects or collaborate with nearby projects for bulk purchasing. It is crucial to ensure that the equipment meets electrical code requirements and is approved by the Electricity Distribution Business and your financier.

Ethical sourcing considerations

Ethical sourcing considerations are gaining importance in assessing equipment origins. The ability to trace manufactured goods back to their source is improving. There are three primary factors to consider:

- **Carbon footprint:** The amount of carbon emissions associated with the product during manufacturing.
- **Ethical labour and sourcing practices:** Ensuring fair and responsible practices are employed.
- **Recyclability of components:** Assessing the potential for recycling and minimising waste.

Each community must determine its priorities regarding cost, ethical sourcing, and quality. These considerations may also influence financing options and the overall acceptance of the project within the broader community.

Health and Safety at Work Act

It is essential to seek advice on your responsibilities as a PCBU (Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking), regardless of whether you are working with contractors or volunteers. The obligations remain the same for both. For further information, please visit the WorkSafe[4] website.

Upskilling for yourself and others

Investing in upskilling yourself and others in the field of community energy projects (CEPs) can be highly beneficial. As CEPs are still relatively new in Aotearoa New Zealand and rapidly expanding globally, gaining hands-on experience by participating in the construction of a CEP can equip you with valuable skills. These skills can be utilised to assist others in their own CEP endeavours, whether as a paid service or through pro-bono work. By sharing your knowledge and experience, you contribute to the growth and success of the community energy movement, empowering others to build their own CEPs.

4 Getting started | WorkSafe

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Future
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