

Communications Pack

As we embark on Community Energy Fortnight 2025, to celebrate, Milton Keynes Community Energy (MKCE) has launched a new initiative we'd love your help sharing.

Our "[Speak Up for Community Solar](#)" student video competition invites young people across MK to raise their voices for renewable energy, develop creative skills, and be part of shaping a greener, fairer future for Milton Keynes. The competition is open to students aged 11–19 and offers great prizes, including filming equipment, vouchers, certificates, and an exclusive work experience day with local professional filmmaker Keegan Starkey.

At the same time, we're thrilled to announce that extra grant funding is now available to help more MK schools access our "[1MW Solar for MK Schools](#)" programme, providing fully funded solar installations, cutting energy bills, and strengthening schools' role in local climate action.

We believe this is a fantastic opportunity to empower young people, strengthen school sustainability, and keep energy and investment circulating within our community.

We'd love your support in spreading the word to help us reach more local families, schools, and community champions through newsletters, displaying posters and by following us and sharing posts on social media. The information below should be helpful to you for all of that, but please don't hesitate to contact us if there's anything else you need.

Thanks for your support.

The Milton Keynes Community Energy team
info@mkcommunityenergy.co.uk

Quick links for sharing:

- Competition webpage: www.mkcommunityenergy.co.uk/mk-student-short-video-comp
- 1MW Solar for MK Schools programme info: www.mkcommunityenergy.co.uk/1mw-mk-schools
- Follow MKCE on social media: [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

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- [Competition poster for download](#)

PRESS RELEASE

1 July 2025

Milton Keynes' Young People Called to "Speak Up for Community Solar" as New Video Competition Launches Alongside Extra School Funding News

Milton Keynes Community Energy (MKCE) has today launched an exciting new opportunity for young people to lead the conversation on renewable energy with the "[Speak Up for Community Solar](#)" student video competition. The launch coincides with Community Energy Fortnight 2025 — a national celebration of people-powered energy — and comes alongside positive news that extra funding is now available for Milton Keynes (MK) schools through MKCE's [1MW Solar for MK Schools](#) programme.

The "Speak Up for Community Solar" video competition invites young people aged 11 to 19 to create short, impactful videos celebrating the power of solar and community energy. With prizes including a DJI Osmo handheld pro camera, £50 gift voucher, certificates, and exclusive work experience with MK-based professional filmmaker Keegan Starkey of Starkey Productions and Wedding Diaries, the competition provides both a creative outlet and a pathway to real-world skills.

MKCE Director, Jane Grindey, said:

"Community Energy Fortnight is about showing how local communities can take ownership of the energy transition. Through this competition, we're giving young people in Milton Keynes the tools to share their voices, develop creative skills, and connect to the growing movement of community-led energy. It's a perfect summer holiday project or early-autumn term activity that also builds awareness of how schools and communities can lead the change."

The competition is directly linked to MKCE's [1MW Solar for MK Schools](#) programme, which already offers fully funded solar PV installations for schools with no upfront costs, no maintenance expenses, and guaranteed energy bill savings. Thanks to MKCE's delivery partner Solar for Schools securing new National Grid grant funding, eligible Milton Keynes schools can now access even greater financial benefits, including potential grants of up to £25,000 in addition to the existing solar project offer.

Eligibility for the additional school funding is assessed based on National Grid criteria focused on: Location of the school (with priority to areas of high deprivation), percentage of students eligible for free school meals, environmental impact of the installation, and projected financial savings for the school.

Several MK schools are already in MKCE's development pipeline with solar proposals in place, but with high demand for national grant funding, MKCE is urging schools to act fast to secure their place. Schools interested in exploring the opportunity should share their annual electricity data with MKCE before the summer holidays.

Jane Grindey added:

“Every school that joins this programme isn’t just saving on energy costs — they’re part of a wider network keeping energy and profits in Milton Keynes to support community projects, tackle fuel poverty, and build climate awareness in the next generation.”

Full details of the “Speak Up for Community Solar” short video competition can be found at:

www.mkcommunityenergy.co.uk/mk-student-short-video-comp

See here for more on the “1MW Solar for MK Schools” programme:

www.mkcommunityenergy.co.uk/1mw-mk-schools

About Milton Keynes Community Energy

Milton Keynes Community Energy (MKCE) is a not-for-profit Community Benefit Society delivering community-owned renewable energy projects across Milton Keynes. Established in 2015, MKCE has generated over 3 million kWh of clean, local solar energy to date.

All surplus income is reinvested into the local community through initiatives such as Home Energy MK, which helps reduce energy consumption, lower costs, and tackle fuel poverty across homes in MK. MKCE is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors, elected by members who invest to support community-led energy solutions.

Further Information

More about the competition: <https://mkcommunityenergy.co.uk/mk-student-short-video-comp>

More about MK Community Energy: <https://mkcommunityenergy.co.uk>

Community Energy Fortnight: <https://www.communityenergyengland.org/pages/community-energy-fortnight>

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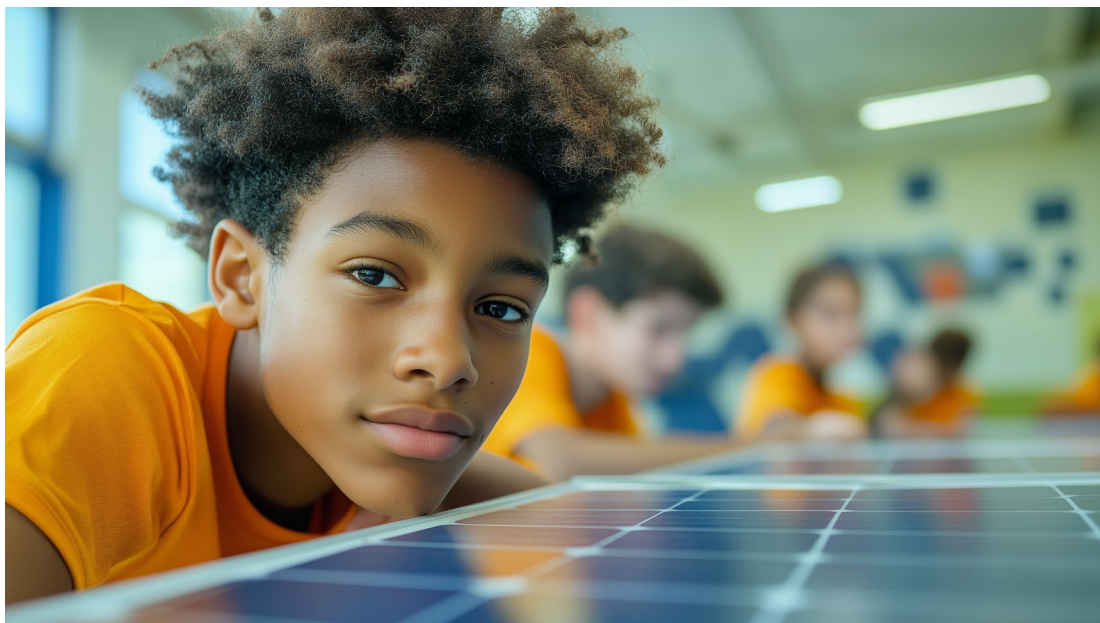
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PHOTOS AND MEDIA:

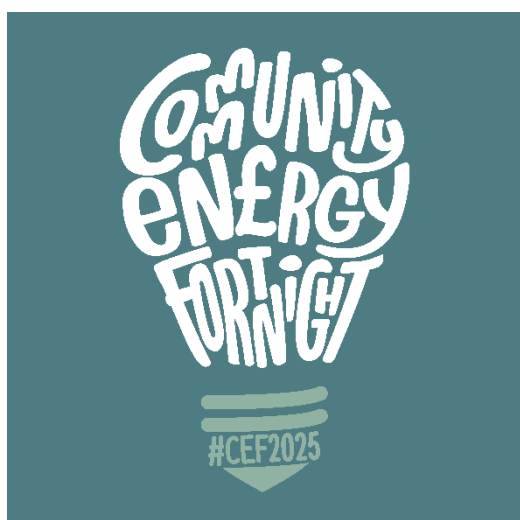


Students from The Radcliffe School in Wolverton on their solar education day as part of the 1MW Solar for MK Schools programme



#investincommunityEnergy

1-14 JULY 2025



NEWSLETTER/ EMAIL TEXT FOR YOU TO USE:

Help Young People and Schools Lead the Solar Revolution in MK

Milton Keynes Community Energy (MKCE) has launched a new student video competition as part of Community Energy Fortnight with huge benefits for young people, schools, and our local community.

The “Speak Up for Community Solar” competition invites MK students aged 11–19 to create short, impactful videos about solar and community energy, with prizes including filming equipment, vouchers, and an exclusive work experience day with a local professional filmmaker.

The competition runs until 30 September 2025 and complements MKCE’s “1MW Solar for MK Schools” programme, which is now offering even greater financial benefits for schools, thanks to new National Grid funding. Local schools are encouraged to check their eligibility for a fully funded solar installation project that comes with no upfront or maintenance costs, guaranteed energy bill and emissions savings, practical education days for students, and powerful community connections.

Find out more and share with your networks:

- Competition details: www.mkcommunityenergy.co.uk/mk-student-short-video-comp
- 1MW Solar for MK Schools: www.mkcommunityenergy.co.uk/1mw-mk-schools

Together, we can support young people, strengthen schools, and build a greener, fairer MK.

COMPETITION POSTER

[Download the poster PDF here](#) or by clicking the image below.

The poster features a blue and teal grid background. At the top left, a yellow box contains the text 'Join the'. Below this, the title '“Speak Up for Community Solar”' is written in a white, hand-drawn font. Underneath the title, a black box contains the text 'student challenge'. To the right of the title, a pink circle contains the text 'OVER £300 IN PRIZES TO BE WON!'. A white arrow points from this circle down to a list of prizes. The prizes are: 'DJI OSMO pro camera', 'Work experience with a top MK film-maker', and 'Runner-up cash prize'. Below the prizes, a blackboard-style area contains the text 'Be the first to know – Sign up here for launch alerts!' with a bell icon and a QR code. On the left side, a photo of a student in a green shirt is shown next to a DJI OSMO camera. Below the photo, the text 'Short Video Competition' is written in white. Underneath this, the text reads: 'Calling all MK secondary school students! It's your time to shine and speak out on climate action for our city. We're challenging you to create a short video (up to 2 mins) telling us why community-owned renewable energy matters to you.'

Join the

“Speak Up for Community Solar”

student challenge

**OVER £300
IN PRIZES
TO BE WON!**

DJI OSMO pro camera
**Work experience with a
top MK film-maker**
Runner-up cash prize

Short Video Competition

Calling all MK secondary school students!
It's your time to shine and speak out on
climate action for our city.

We're challenging you to create a short
video (up to 2 mins) telling us why
community-owned renewable energy
matters to you.

Be the first
to know –
Sign up here
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alerts!

MK COMMUNITY
ENERGY
local energy for local people

**It's your future.
Let's power it together!**

#investincommunityEnergy

1-14 JULY 2025