

Business loans for positive change

As we only lend to organisations delivering positive social, environmental or cultural impact, we can be a mission-aligned partner for customers who share our values. We provide loans from £1m –£20m for customers delivering this positive impact, with repayment terms of up to 25 years.

Solar for Schools

Solar for Schools CBS is a UK community benefit society (CBS) that installs solar panels on school roofs across the UK and abroad. By doing this, the organisation enables schools to reduce their energy costs, to decrease CO₂ emissions, and supports local authorities to progress towards their net zero targets.

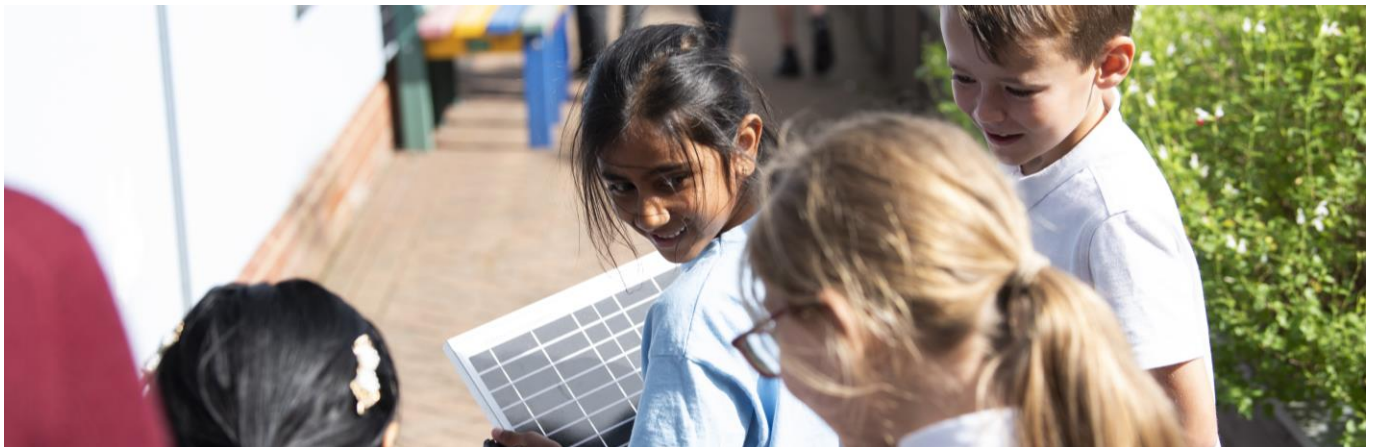
In 2024, Triodos Bank UK provided a £3 million loan to help Solar for Schools grow its network of solar-powered schools across the UK. The senior debt from Triodos Bank UK will be used alongside crowdfunding bond finance to help the CBS accelerate its work, which includes schools in some of the most disadvantaged areas of the UK.

In the Solar for Schools model, schools only pay for the solar electricity they use at a pre-agreed unit price, which is lower than their mains electricity rate.

These prices are fixed for 25 years, rising only with inflation. This provides additional security against unpredictable fluctuations in energy prices.

Furthermore, the unique structure of Solar for Schools, whereby each school that gets solar panels installed becomes a voting member of the CBS, means the schools have a share of all profits generated from the society. After the 25 years, the schools then have the option to own the solar assets outright.

Aside from giving schools access to cheap renewable electricity, the solar panels also provide the schools with a tangible resource that facilitates learning. This educational element is a key part of Solar for Schools' mission. Solar for Schools delivers interactive training workshops to each school that signs up, teaching students about the concepts of the energy transition, climate change, green skills and sustainability.



“Thousands of schools in the UK require finance to install solar – so it’s key to create a funding structure that addresses each school’s needs while meeting the requirements for lenders. Triodos’ loan is a vital milestone in proving we have created such a structure which will enable funders to confidently support schools.”

Robert Schrimppff, co-founder of Solar Options for Schools and voluntary director of Solar for Schools CBS

“We’re pleased to support an incredible organisation that is not only focused on generating clean energy but also educating the next generation about the environment and energy. This aligns with our mission as a bank to support organisations that have the power to make a meaningful difference.”

Amandine Tetot, head of energy & project finance at Triodos Bank UK

At Triodos Bank UK, we believe that banking can be a powerful force for good. For 40 years, we've supported thousands of entrepreneurs, organisations and projects that positively affect people's lives, protect the planet, or build strong communities.

We have particular experience in sectors including:

- Health & social care
- Social, affordable & community-led housing
- Faith groups
- Arts & culture
- Education
- Nurseries & childcare
- Charities & social enterprise
- Renewable energy
- Energy efficiency
- Sustainable transport
- Green tourism
- Sustainable buildings & retrofit
- Sustainable agriculture & natural capital

What we offer

- Lending from £1m-£20m
- Expertise in structured and non-recourse project finance
- Variable and fixed-rate loans
- Up to 70% loan to security value
- Repayment term up to 25 years
- A partnership with one of Europe's leading sustainable banks

How we work

- Every customer has a dedicated relationship manager
- Our team have in-depth sector experience and are proud to offer a flexible approach to finance

Capital raising and crowdfunding

- Our corporate finance team raises capital for mission-led organisations through our crowdfunding platform

Sustainable banking

For Triodos, sustainable banking means using money with conscious thought about its environmental, cultural and social impact, with the support of savers and investors who want to make a difference. It means meeting present day needs without compromising those of future generations.

Get in touch

We'd be delighted to discuss your financing needs for positive impact.

Contact us at:
referrals@triodos.co.uk