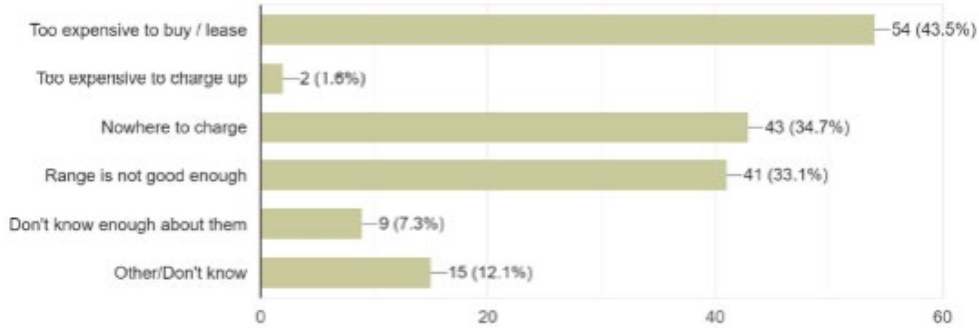
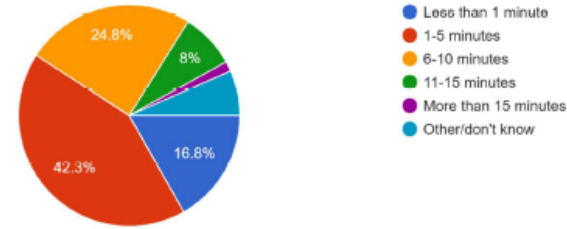


Sustainable Keswick

RCEF Stage: 1



How long would you be willing to walk from your home to the nearest vehicle chargepoint?
(Choose one answer only)
137 responses



The Story

[Sustainable Keswick](#) (Suskes) is a well-established community group who have teamed up with [Climate Emergency West Cumbria](#) (CEWC) to review options for community solar PV, community EV charge points and car sharing/car clubs. [Derwent Valley Car Club](#) are helping Suskes and CEWC to explore combining an EV car club with platforms like [Karshare](#) (AirBnB for car owners) and to use this model to encourage tourists to arrive by train and locals to reduce car ownership. The critical mass for car club membership is believed to be ~40 (for a population of 4,700). 50% of households in Keswick do not have off-street parking. [Charge My Street](#) is facilitating the installation of more community EV charge points, ideally in locations which can be combined with community solar PV and/or car clubs. For the solar PV element, [Sharenergy](#) is working across a large area (Keswick, Cockermouth and Greysouthen) to maximise rooftop solar options, and get critical mass and economy of scale to build the business case for a community solar PV project.

Challenges & Risks

Local business owners are not interested or are sceptical about community solar, particularly given the commitment to a 20-year lease. We achieved a good response rate to our household and visitor survey although the majority of visitors who responded were not willing to give up their cars. There is some interest from the local community regarding car clubs but we have yet to get a firm commitment. We will need to find grant funding for a community-owned vehicle if there are not enough people willing to share their cars. The installation of EV charge points can be expensive so we are prioritising community buildings with 7 or 22kW charge points.

Lessons Learned

[Cumbria Action for Sustainability](#) is leading the consortium and providing project management support but we still needed a significant amount of community input and coordination to deliver the project. This was especially difficult over our vast geographical working area. Next time we would consider using some funding to appoint a part-time community representative to help deliver the project.

Key Facts

PV co-operative	Sharenergy is working across a large area to ensure critical mass is reached, rising energy costs make a solar co-op more attractive.
EV charge points	Charge My Street is working to install community EV charge points.
EV car club	Susan Ross from Derwent Valley Car Club (8 years operation) is supporting household and visitor survey.

Key Figures

Project size:	PV 200 kW +
Tech type	
Energy Generation	~163 MWh (~45 houses)
Private finance leveraged	~£160,000
CO2 savings	42 tonnes per year
RCEF grant	£24,584

Further notes

LEP area: Cumbria
Link for further info: CAFs EV charging deployment report highlights issues for EV transition in Cumbria amid grid constraints and tourism.