

## **NextEnergy Capital**

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# Multiple Milestones Achieved in First Half of 2024

NextEnergy Capital ("NEC"), a leading global renewables manager is pleased to update on the achievements of NextPower UK ESG ("NPUK"), including asset growth and further fundraising momentum, over the last six months.

# **Fundraising:**

- Additional capital has been added in H1, taking total funds committed to date to £653 million, exceeding the fundraising target of £500 million by 30%.
- NextEnergy Capital continues to build on its positive fundraising momentum with several investors currently in late-stage due diligence with further capital expected to be announced imminently.
- Continuing to push towards NPUK ESG's hard cap of £1 billion.

## **Portfolio & Pipeline:**

- New assets have been added to the portfolio increasing total capacity to 497MW across ten assets.
- Successfully energised its third utility-scale solar asset, Pentlow (Essex, 24MW), increasing NPUK's operating capacity to **138MW**.
- 221MW of solar assets are currently under construction and making good progress.
- **86MW** of capacity qualified for the 6<sup>th</sup> CfD Allocation Round auction which will take place in August 2024. If successful, the share of CfD assets in the current fund portfolio will be over 70%, providing inflation-linked, long-term fully contracted revenues.
- Over c.1.4GW of pipeline secured for NPUK, with a further c.2GW currently under negotiation.
- Preferential access to projects from in-house developer Starlight provides a significant sourcing advantage alongside long-standing relationships. Projects at ready to build stage are transferred at a 15% discount to market value, equating to a savings of £12.62 million for the Fund thus far.



## **Acquisitions:**

- Ten assets acquired to date, including two operational seed assets, Llanwern, (South Wales, 75MW), and Strensham (Worcestershire, 40MW) that had been built for the fund.
- The Fund's most recent acquisition was in November 2023 with Project Hatherden, adding an additional **60MW**, plus a **7MW** co-located battery energy storage system, to the Fund.
- NPUK ESG has already deployed over 70% of the Fund's target size to date.

## Return:

- The fund has delivered returns in excess of its target due to the ongoing strong performance of NPUK ESG's operational solar assets.
- NPUK ESG leverages NEC's track record of successful investments in the solar+ infrastructure sector since 2007, with over 400 utility-scale projects acquired and previous funds delivering superior financial returns to investors.
- NPUK is a private UK solar fund that focuses on acquiring utility-scale solar and battery storage ("BESS") assets at the ready-to-build stage, constructing them through energisation in order to build a large operating portfolio of solar and BESS assets. Once the assets are operational, NPUK monetises its power sales through a fully contracted strategy which takes a hands-on approach to risk mitigation and value creation whilst optimising assets over the fund's life.

### ESG:

- Classified as an **Article 9 Fund** under the EU SFDR providing tangible and measurable impact including biodiversity measures.
- Once fully deployed at approximately 2GW capacity, NPUK will provide enough clean energy to power around 500,000 UK households per year, making a significant ESG impact in the UK.

### Michael Bonte-Friedheim, NextEnergy Group CEO and Founder, said:

"We are delighted with the significant milestones that NextPower UK ESG has achieved over the last six months and since its inception. I am proud that NPUK has total funds committed to date of over c.£653m, which is 30% above the target of £500m. This is a testament to NextEnergy Capital's leadership in the solar energy sector. As a private new-build solar strategy that focuses on acquiring utility-scale solar assets at the ready-to-build stage in the UK, NPUK investors benefit from the market leading expertise we bring alongside our hands-on approach to value creation and asset optimisation."

# Shane Swords, Managing Director and Head of Investor Relations at NextEnergy Capital, quoted:

"The first half of 2024 has continued the strong momentum from NPUK's launch in August 2022. NPUK continues to demonstrate solid progress through multiple milestones, in addition to already distributing strong dividends to its investors. NPUK's success is underpinned by its large pipeline and swift capital deployment, which commenced just seven weeks after the fund's first close, with the fund now having nearly 500MW. The Fund will provide clean energy generation for approximately 500,000 UK households annually.

All NEC Funds are experiencing strong fundraising momentum, which can be attributed to our track record, lengthy experience in the sector and the value that investors are now attributing to specialist managers."



## Further information:

### **NextPower UK ESG**

NPUK is a 10-year closed-ended private fund managed by NextEnergy Capital. It is a private unlevered Fund investing in new-build solar projects, backed by PPAs, in the UK.

- Launched in December 2021 targeting £500m, to invest into post-subsidy solar plants in the UK with contracted revenues.
- The UK Infrastructure Bank provided cornerstone match-funding capital for up to £250m.
- The Fund has since been supported by some of the largest LGPS pools in the UK as well as sophisticated investors ranging from the Middle East to Japan.
- Offers investors the opportunity to earn attractive risk-adjusted returns from solar PV infrastructure in the UK.
- Fund returns are then enhanced through NextEnergy Capital's expertise in technical outperformance, private wire agreements, repowering and storage additionality.
- Benefits from access to the Fund's own secured and proprietary pipeline.
- Real, measurable additionality ESG impacts, including biodiversity measures and community engagement.

## **NextEnergy Group**

NextEnergy Group was founded in 2007 to become a leading market participant in the international solar sector. Since its inception, it has been active in the development, construction, and ownership of solar assets across multiple jurisdictions. NextEnergy Group operates via its three business units: NextEnergy Capital (Investment Management), WiseEnergy (Operating Asset Management) and Starlight (Project Development).

### **NextEnergy Capital**

NextEnergy Capital ("NEC") comprises the Group's investment management activities. To date, NEC has invested in over 400 individual solar plants for a capacity in excess of 3GW across its institutional funds. www.nextenergycapital.com

- First Fund: NextEnergy Solar Fund ("NESF"), is a specialist solar energy and energy storage fund, which is listed on the premium segment of the London Stock Exchange. It currently has an installed capacity of 1,015MW spread among 103 individual operating assets in the UK and Italy, comprising an unaudited gross asset value of £1,155m. NESF is one of the largest listed solar and energy storage investment companies in the world.
- Second Fund: NextPower II ("NPII"), a private fund made up of 105 individual operating solar power plants and an installed capacity of 149MW, focused on consolidating the substantial, highly fragmented Italian solar market. Launched in 2016, NPII was successfully divested in January 2022 at IRRs significantly in excess of its gross target of 10-12%.
- Third Fund: NextPower III ESG ("NPIII ESG"), is a private fund exclusively focused on the international solar infrastructure sector, principally targeting projects in carefully selected OECD countries, including the US, Portugal, Spain, Chile, Poland, Greece, and Italy. NPIII is now fully invested with 172 assets, totalling 1.8GW. NPIII completed its fundraise with a total of \$896m, including an SMA raised. The target of the fund was \$750m.



- Fourth Fund: NextPower UK ESG ("NPUK ESG"), is a private unlevered fund investing in greenfield subsidy-free solar projects, with PPA's, in the UK. NPUK ESG is a 10-year closed-ended private fund targeting £500m. To date, NPUK has raised total commitments of £625m, with the UK Infrastructure Bank providing cornerstone match-funding of £250m.
- Fifth Fund: NextPower V ESG ("NPV ESG"), is a private contracted solar strategy that offers investors the opportunity to earn strong risk-adjusted returns from the solar PV infrastructure asset class with a highly experienced team and a track record of success in solar deployment globally. The strategy will primarily invest in OECD solar assets and adjacent technologies (e.g. battery storage) in the target markets. NPV ESG has to date raised \$745m in commitments (including \$150m in co-investment allocations) and is targeting \$1.5bn in size with a \$2bn ceiling.

Further information on the NextEnergy Group is available at: <a href="https://www.nextenergygroup.com/">https://www.nextenergygroup.com/</a>

# **WiseEnergy®**

WiseEnergy® is NextEnergy Group's asset operator. WiseEnergy is a leading specialist asset operator in the solar sector. Currently, WiseEnergy provides development, construction and operating services to over 1,500 solar and battery assets with an installed capacity in excess of 2.5GW. Its asset management clients include listed solar funds (in addition to the Company), banks, private equity funds and other specialist investors. Further information on WiseEnergy is available at: <a href="https://www.wise-energy.com">www.wise-energy.com</a>

## **Starlight**

Starlight is NextEnergy Group's development company that is active in the development phase of solar projects. It has developed over 100 utility-scale projects internationally and continues to progress a large pipeline of c.10GW of both green and brownfield project developments across global geographies.

### For further information:

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