

# Where should we draw our ethical boundaries?

Chris Rigby, Big Solar Coop &  
Pete Capener, Bath & West Community Energy

## Embodied Carbon in PV Panels

- We should use the cheapest good quality panels irrespective of embodied Carbon
- We should use the lowest embodied carbon panels we can, what's the point in decarbonising UK grid, if we're increasing carbon elsewhere

## Example - Big Solar Coop's view on embodied carbon

[IEA report on solar PV global supply chains](#)

[Wilmott Dixon Whole life carbon of photovoltaic installations](#)

## Forced labour in the manufacture of PV panels

- We should use the cheapest good quality panels irrespective of enforced labour
- We should use panels which do not exploit people. We act on climate change to save humanity in the future, why would we use panels who disregard humanity now

## Example - Approach to supply chain

### Big Solar Coop

- Reviewed [Sheffield Hallam report](#)
- No third party accreditation so relying on manufacturers and [press reports](#)
- Chosen to go with Meyer Burger due to Norwegian silicon supplier
- Opted for more expensive panel for initial projects. Modelling increased performance over lifetime will offset cost

### Bath & West Community Energy

- Only currently looking at solar panel supply chain
- Reviewed [Sheffield Hallam report](#)
- Chosen to go with Q cells, not guaranteed free from forced labour but little evidence that they are
- Could have gone for better options but significantly more expensive and more difficult to get hold of

## Host sites and business practices

- We should install on all buildings irrespective of use as decarbonising the grid is the priority
- We should only support host sites who have strong environmental credentials

# Example - BWCE's approach to site selection

