



NEWSLETTER 3 NOVEMBER 2017

CONTENTS

- Generation and Income
- Education
- Cooperative Community Energy Conference
- Awards

Future for Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative?

Following the success of Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative £1.4 million project, solar panels fitted on 24 public buildings and community information being installed, the new Board and Chair are planning now to look to the future for the Co-operative.

The Board held an Strategy Evening and invited key organisations to discuss our and their possible future in community renewables. The organisations included the City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh Leisure, Energy4All, Community Energy Scotland and Transport for Edinburgh. There are other organisations Edinburgh Solar Community Co-operative would also want to have discussions with in the coming months. The Board have set out a timetable to meet the organisations who attended the Strategy Evening and others who they felt could work in partnership with.

The Board discussed and proposed 6 criteria for possible future projects:

1 Social Dimension/Fuel Poverty

2 Innovation

3 Visible

4 Big Scale/ Financially Sound

5 Simple Ownership

6 Heat/ Electrical Storage Element

For the AGM in February the Board want to have discussions with our members regarding the future direction for Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative. The discussions at the Strategy Evening and meetings with organisations before the AGM will give us draft proposals for that discussion.

Lesley Hinds – Chair person

AGM provisionally Saturday 24 February 2018

Board members There will be the opportunity to stand for joining the board. More information will follow.

Format of AGM The intention is to make the event more engaging and participative. There may be workshops on the use of the Community Benefit Fund and our educational resources. If you have issues that you would like to discuss please let us know.

Generation and income

There have been a few problems around metering which has made it difficult to judge the level of success of the project in the early months but these problems have now been largely resolved and a bright picture is beginning to emerge.

The Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative has just completed its first summer of generation and the results are looking good. All of our sites have achieved or exceeded predicted annual generation. The poorest performing building performed exactly as projected. The best performing building was Oaklands which generated 139% of its predicted figure. On average, our buildings performed 117% better than predicted. So it may not have been a particularly glorious summer but the sun has managed to shine brightly enough on our solar panels.

At the time of writing (early October) the financial year has just drawn to a close on 30th September and it is too early to make judgements about the financial success of the first full trading year. However, the board is optimistic that it has been a successful year and looks forward to reporting financial outcomes to the AGM in February 2018.



Oaklands School



Woodlands School

AWARDS

Scottish Renewables Green Energy Awards

30 November 2017

ECSC is one of four on the shortlist for the Best Community Project Award. The others are

West Harris Trust - Talla na Mara

Berwickshire Community Renewables - Hoprigshiels Community Windfarm

Coigach Community Interest Company - Coigach Community Wind Project

Community Energy England Awards. November 1 2017.

ECSC were shortlisted for a Collaboration Award. However, congratulations go to Energy4All, Joju and M&S who won on this occasion.

One of the photographs taken by Colin Hattersley at our share launch in Gylemuir Primary School was shortlisted for the Community Photo Award.



SOLAR POWER PORTAL AWARD

4th October 2017

ECSC was shortlisted, in a group of seven, for the Best Use of Solar in a Community or Social Benefit Programme Award. Sadly not for us. It was given to Joju Solar for their Big Community Summer project who have more generation, more sites and more schools than we have.

Emtec, our installers, with the Blackwood group and Scene Connect, were given the award for Residential, Commercial and Industrial -scale Energy Storage Project for their work in Broom Court Care Home, Stirling .

The Emtec team are pictured below



Our Installers Emtec have nominated us for an award and we put in nominations ourselves.

The testimonials on our own nomination papers are most encouraging.

“The Edinburgh Solar coop has been a fantastic collaboration between the Council, the groups and people occupying the buildings used and the people in our communities who made the project possible. It has helped foster a better understanding and help directly link people to the energy they used within the urban environment in an unprecedented way.”

Adam McVey Council Leader

‘Edinburgh Solar Co-op is a truly outstanding example of how renewable energy can benefit communities by generating clean, green energy and at the same time providing funds for re-investment back into community projects. As well as directly raising awareness within the community about the vital relationship between energy and our environment.’

Steve Burgess Green Councillor.

“Edinburgh Leisure were delighted to work with the Edinburgh Community Solar Co-Operative to install solar systems on three of our Leisure Centres. It has not only reduced our carbon footprint but has also encouraged both staff and customers to positively engage with renewable energy on a local level.”

Fiona Douglas Edinburgh Leisure

Carrickvale Community Centre was very pleased to be one of the buildings chosen to have the solar panels fitted. We look forward to having the display boards fitted so that we can show our Centre users how much electricity we are generating and hopefully influence them to "go green" themselves.

Cary Coleman Carrickvale Community Centre

Education.

The resources page on our web site has some new items. The Energy Island, created by an Edinburgh teacher, looks fun. It will be good to have reports of using it from kids or teachers.

The displays in the reception areas of our host buildings are in place in about half our sites. The next step is to try to make the generation figures relevant to the general public. The outline below gives a feel of the problem. Ideas for helping people to understand and relate to these 'big numbers' will be very welcome.



The Edinburgh Community Solar Coop installed the solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on your building.

Solar PV panels generate clean electricity in daylight. The sunnier it is, the more they generate. The electricity generated is used in the building and any left over is sold to the National Grid

<p>Average house</p>  <p>4000 kWh a year</p>	<p>Annual Electricity figures School A</p> <p>PV generation – mainly summer 48,647 kWh</p> <p>Export – mainly summer 3,585 kWh</p> <p>Taken from grid- mainly winter 56938 kWh</p> <p>Total consumption 102,000 kWh</p>	 <p>1 kWh = 5 PCs on 1 hour</p>
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The whole PV project has been funded by Edinburgh Community Solar Coop shareholders.

This part of it, display panels, is partly provided by the Community Benefit Fund.

With special thanks from our PV display project funders:



Johanna Carrie

Pathways to Zero Carbon Edinburgh.

Transition Edinburgh has launched a new project, which the ECSC is supporting. In order to tackle climate change, we need to provide real solutions: to what's working well, fostering the spread of knowledge and building capacity of local change-makers.

Our community group Transition Edinburgh wants to promote grass-roots solutions to our Edinburgh and Scotland-wide networks for more sustainable lifestyles.

A start is further developing our [online Zero Carbon Edinburgh platform](#) into a fun tool for individuals, communities and businesses to get inspired by the many ideas already collected to lead a more sustainable lifestyle.

TE are currently applying for funding for this project from the Aviva Community Fund and we would very much appreciate if you could help to secure its funding by voting for it.

Here is the Zero Carbon Edinburgh project link where you can cast your vote [here](#)
(voting is open until 21st Nov 2017)

Johanna Carrie

The contributors to this newsletter have been board members. The members of the newsletter group have shown interest and support. With board involvement the group is no longer needed. I thank them for their help in creating earlier newsletters.

Johanna Carrie October/November 2017

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Cooperative Community Energy Conference

Monday 16 October 2017



Mark Lazarowicz, Jim Lee, Lesley Hinds and Paul Phare.

Mark was the inspiration behind the Edinburgh Community Energy Coop, which changed into the ECSC in 2012. Lesley is the Convener of ECSC. Paul, from Energy4All helped us from the beginning to ready for installation. Jim took over from Paul in 2016.

Promoting Energy Co-operatives in Scotland

Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operatives participated in a conference in October which sought to bring together people who are interested in community energy co-operatives and developing their role in the economy. Edinburgh Solar was considered as one of the case studies with Chair, Lesley Hinds, outlining the challenges faced in making Edinburgh Solar Co-op a reality. The other case study was also Edinburgh-based – Harlow Hydro. Lynn Molleson, who worked with others to develop the community benefit opportunities of the project, made a presentation on the success of the scheme.

Energy4All was well-represented with Paul Phare, their Development Manager, making a presentation on the growth of energy co-ops and Jim Lee, their Project Officer, explaining the way in which Energy4All supports communities who wish to take on a community energy project.

Other speakers included Andy Kerr, the Executive Director of Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation, where the conference was held, Gillian Wilson, Development Manager at Community Energy Scotland and Vivian Woodell, a leading co-operator who founded the Phone Co-op and who, as a board member of Midcounties Co-op, helped establish Co-operative Energy.

Jim Lee

INTERESTING NEWS ARTICLES

How the centralised generators are trying to strangle the decentralised energy revolution in the UK Dr Dave Toke. University of Aberdeen Read the whole [blog here](#)

See these lovely solar panels on a Danish school? Who said all solar panels have to be black?:-) Solar Power Portal 12th Sept 2017 [Click here](#)

Good Energy to start work on maiden battery storage project in coming months – [Click here](#)

Off shore Wind Power now cheaper than nuclear - [Click here](#) -The National 12th Sept 2017