

Edinburgh Community Solar Newsletter - October 2016



Installation Complete

We are delighted to report that all 24 buildings in our project now have panels installed and met the 28th September deadline.



Board Member Johann Carrie on the roof at

Wardie Primary School

(Photo courtesy of Richard Witney)

Our panels have a total installed capacity = 1,389 kW or 1.38 MW and a total generation potential approx. = 1,107,250 kWh per year. Of course this is weather dependent.

In Summary we could power....

2,100 laptops for a year

12,600 light bulbs

Very Impressive!

Our host buildings are:

Blackhall Primary School, Buckstone PS, Canal View PS, Carricknowe PS, Clermiston PS, Currie PS, Currie High School, Davidsons Mains PS, Dean Park PS, East Craigs PS, Gylemuir PS, Liberton PS, Oaklands S, Prospect Bank S, Ratho PS, Redhall S, Wardie PS, Woodlands S.

Ainslie Park Leisure Centre, Drumbrae Leisure Centre, Tumbles Leisure Centre.

Cameron House Community Centre, Carrickvale Community Centre, Craighall Day Centre.

(Cramond PS was withdrawn from the project because of roof problems)

PS = Primary School S= School

We expect to consider a 25th building. More information on that will be circulated in due course.

Celebration Event

2pm on Friday 7th October 2016

at Currie High School

31 Dolphin Ave, Currie EH14 5RD

The scheme will be formally launched by Richard Dixon, Chairman of ECSC and Director of Friends of the Earth, Scotland.

Please join the directors, fellow members industry professionals, representatives of our host buildings and CEC' for cake and refreshments.



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Inverter - Courtesy Jakub Kozlowski - Emtec

Most of our buildings have flat roofs. The installers fix rods to the roof first and then the "buckets" which are wedged shaped. These are filled with ballast and the actual PV panels bolted to the buckets.

The cables carrying electricity from panels to inverters are fixed to pathways of metal grids, for safety reasons to prevent trip hazards.

Lets Get Technical

The solar panels generate direct current electricity (DC) like a battery but higher voltage. Most appliances use alternating current (AC) as supplied by the grid. The job of the inverter is to convert DC to AC current. The inverter also records how much electricity has been generated. Almost all our inverters are made by Fronius. They store data on a web site. (Please see the Reception data section on the next page)

Our inverters are designed to match the electricity generated to the grid. The inverter shuts down if the grid supply is cut off in a power failure. This is for the safety of the workers repairing the system.

Inverters are up to 97% efficient.

Using the electricity on site cuts down loss during transmission from a power station to a building.



Bucket and cable protection

ECSC web site.

The coop has a web site, with more pictures of the installations than have been included here. www.edinburghsolar.coop

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Reception Displays

This is a still shot of a live display, for Carrickvale Community Centre on September 5th



The intention is to have a reception display in each host building. Which will provide a great educational tool to schools and communities.

The member survey we carried out earlier this year, supported the view that the community benefit fund should be used to develop this. A sub group of the board has been set up to work on the reception displays and associated educational web site. Their work will include applying to sources of additional funding. The Community Benefit Fund is expected to be small in our first year.

If any member wishes to join that subgroup please contact info@edinburghsolar.coop.

Claiming EIS (Enterprise Investment Scheme) Tax Relief

Once the sites have been producing electricity for four months Energy4All can apply to HMRC for the EIS claim forms which we send to members.

Members complete these forms and submit to HMRC to receive their 30% tax relief.

Share interest payments are paid annually starting next year (2017).

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Members insights

"As someone without the means to install renewable technology in my own home, the Solar Coop has provided an excellent opportunity to contribute to the generation of renewable energy here in Edinburgh. For me being a member is about more than just pounds, pence and kilowatt hours, it is about being at the forefront of urban renewables and reaching for that somewhat enigmatic 'low carbon future'. I am also interested to see if the 'community' aspect of ECSC will develop. Where other local renewable projects are born out of established rural communities, this coop is spread across a city and beyond. Yet the cooperative has tapped into something, a collective vision of a new way of doing energy, something that I am excited to be a part of and hope will continue to grow and evolve. "

Drew

Walking back from the dentist I notice a man on the roof of the Day Centre. He's checking and adjusting one of the many solar panels – were those there when I went by yesterday ? They must have been. I ask and sure enough they are for the Co-op. The sun is shining and the man on the roof expects they'll be finished soon. He's gone by the weekend but the panels remain. On our way to the park I lift my son onto my shoulders, point and tell him, "those are yours".

Chris

Our next AGM is planned for 11th February 2017

The next edition of this newsletter will be due round then.

Please send comments and material for inclusion to info@edinburghsolar.coop



Energy4All AGM 2016

Energy4All (E4A) enabled our board to set up the whole project. Without their huge contribution the project would probably never have begun. Johanna Carrie - Board Member attended to the E4A AGM in Lancaster.



Jim Lee E4A project Officer Scotland, Paul Phare E4A Project Manager, Johanna, Mike Smyth E4A Chairman

The AGM was a great place to hear what other groups are doing, there are 22 co-op in the E4A family. The range of energy projects is inspiring – community wind farms, hydro schemes, solar and biomass.

To find out more about Energy4All visit www.energy4all.co.uk

Local links, other organisations relating to sustainability.

Transition Edinburgh Transition groups in Edinburgh are active in raising awareness of ways to mitigate climate change. A series of events is planned between September 2016 and March 2017. <https://transitionedinburgh.wordpress.com/>

Harlaw Hydro is a local community project in Balerno . On their web site you can access generation figures to compare with PV generation. www.harlawhydro.org.uk

Take One Action Films are shown each September at the Filmhouse on Lothian Road. This year the first Film was To-morrow about community action and climate change. Johanna was asked to publicise some local action in Edinburgh before the film showing. Of course ECSC is a great example of what can be done. www.takeoneaction.org.uk

Friends of the Earth Edinburgh www.foe-edinburgh.org.uk The local group holds meeting and has an active campaigning programme.
www.foe-scotland.org.uk

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. Do get in touch if you want to contribute to the next one.

Barbara. Chris. Clement. Drew. Helen. Johanna. Sally. Seamus

The Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative

Engagement Team

