



NEWSLETTER 5 NOVEMBER 2018

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Chair's Report: Lesley Hinds

The last few months have been busy attending partnership meetings and discussing with other organisations our proposals for Phase 2 of the Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative. For example, I attended two meetings organised by Community Energy Scotland with other organisations similar to us. It is important renewable energy projects in Scotland can support each other and best practice can be shared. Also, I attended a meeting organised by Royal Society of Edinburgh to give evidence for their major inquiry into Scotland's Energy Future.

The Community Benefit Fund is now active. Thanks to Drew Murphy and Kate Studd for all their work on behalf of the Board putting together the application.

Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative along with Changeworks has been successful in achieving funding from Local Energy Scotland's Innovation Fund. This will allow us to work on battery technology and energy use patterns in 6 buildings, which were part of Phase 1.

I signed, on behalf of Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative, along with 300 Renewable Projects and organisations, an open letter to the government on fair payment for solar electricity exported to the grid.

I was sorry to receive the resignation of David Hawkey from our Board. David has a new job which conflicts with his Board membership. Their gain is our loss! Thanks to David for all his work, over many years, for Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative.

The Board of Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative at its AGM agreed to organise members' meetings outside the AGM. I was sorry to miss the members' meeting on Tuesday 16th October, due to a hip replacement the week before! It was a successful event and will keep our members up to date with our work on the Board, but also ensure we keep in touch with our members. Thanks to the members who volunteered to help with our communications and in particular with social media.

AGM provisionally Saturday 16 March 2019

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

If you have issues that you would like to discuss please let us know.

Congratulations to Energy4All

For winning the Outstanding Contribution to Community Energy Award at the 2018 Community Energy Awards.

Farewell from a founder board member

Goodbye! After six years on the board of ECSC and its predecessor, the Edinburgh Community Energy Coop, I am standing down. I have started working for Ofgem the energy regulator, and obviously cannot work on both setting the rules for energy companies and directing one. Which, I am very proud to reflect, is what we have created - a cooperative energy company that generates and sells renewable electricity and builds a financial surplus to use for community benefit. I wish the coop well and have every confidence that many more exciting projects lie ahead, making Edinburgh more sustainable, giving people a chance to participate as members of an ethical energy company and creating a growing fund for community benefit. The enthusiasm and (human) energy of both the board and the membership of ECSC is awesome and I am sure even greater things lie ahead.

Dave Hawkey

Phase 2 plans

The Edinburgh Solar board is actively considering a second phase of solar installations. We are working with Edinburgh Leisure, Lothian Buses and some churches to see if we can register some sites before the Feed in Tariff ends in March 2019. Survey work is currently being carried out and we would hope to announce a list of buildings sometime in the New Year. We are considering how best to finance this work and have had encouraging discussions with some potential partners. The board would envisage a share offer being made in future after a few phases have been completed.

Jim Lee

Solar event in Edinburgh

Transition Edinburgh and the University of Edinburgh plan to have an event on Solar Power Locally either in December or the New Year. The University is planning to install a solar meadow. We should be able to discuss progress with Phase 2 and there will be other contributors. The venue will probably be in the George Square area. Look for update on www.transitionedinburgh.org.uk.

Johanna Carrie



Members meeting 16th October 2018

Members had asked for an autumn meeting. The date chosen, Tuesday 16th October, was in the middle of the schools' October break. A turn out of 25 was encouraging and, again, there was an enthusiasm to be more involved. Kate Studd presented an update on the Community Benefit Fund (see below). Jim Lee reported satisfactory generation figures. We were delighted to have John Malone from Energy4All with us. He gave us a broad perspective on strategies for planning and funding future projects. Some of the E4A group of coops are potential lenders for developments.

Discussion of a future projects led to considering communication and the use of social media. Some members were keen to contribute their time and skills to this. Two people are exploring the possibilities for having more information about our generation available on line. Our system is complex with 24 buildings. Harlaw Hydro has live data, but from a single turbine. Fintry has several parts to the system, which also shows live data.

<http://www.harlawhydro.org.uk/power-meter/>

<http://smartfintry.org.uk/dashboard/>

Watch our web site to see what happens next!

Others thought we should have a greater presence on social media. Leslie looked on Twitter and found that although we had more than 300 followers the last contribution was in 2015!

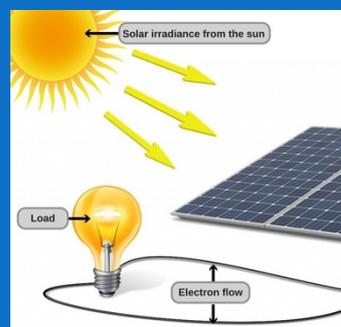
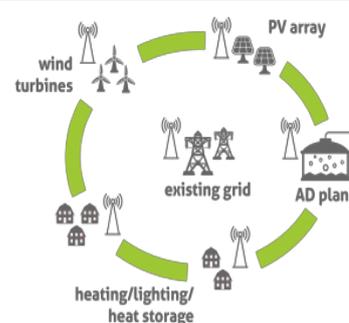
Do get tweeting!

Resources for learning and teaching

Our resources section had a facelift over the summer. We hope it is more attractive with more illustrations and a clearer introduction. Feedback from school pupils, teachers and parents will be appreciated.

<http://www.edinburghsolar.coop/resources/>

Johanna Carrie



Community Benefit Fund

Our Community Benefit Fund for ECSC Host Buildings is now live!

The Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative's (ECSC) objectives state that a proportion of the income from our solar electricity generation will be allocated to a Community Benefit Fund. During the first 5 years of ECSC (until 2021) this fund will focus solely on delivering benefits for the buildings which currently have ECSC solar panels installed on their roof (ECSC host buildings) and their users.

We are inviting the owners, managers, employees, users of a building that currently have ECSC solar panels installed on the roof (our Host Buildings) to submit applications of up to £3000 for projects which will deliver benefits for the host building and its users and meet the objectives of the ECSC (listed in the box above). Ideas for the types of project you could deliver, and possible delivery partners are listed in Section 3. We encourage innovative and creative approaches to achieve carbon savings, sustainability and behaviour change.

The Community Benefit Fund for ECSC Host Buildings must be used to deliver projects which meet the co-operative's objectives:

- Help make host buildings more sustainable
- Support initiatives which have the most significant carbon savings impact
- Help alleviate fuel poverty amongst residents of Edinburgh
- Encourage behavioural change relating to sustainability
- Relevant community benefit that show high levels of community support
- Other community led energy reduction projects

We expect to provide grants to between 5 and 8 buildings each year, and every building is eligible to access the Fund. This year's deadline is 31st December. Further details, including the application form, are on our website!

Kate Studd & Drew Murphy

<http://www.edinburghsolar.coop/projects/community-fund/>



Generation after 2 years

Members will be aware that our interest was as expected, and the summer weather was good for generation. By the end of September all our installations had been in place for a full two years. Only 3 of our 24 buildings generated less than the original estimate. The reasons for these shortfalls are being addressed. They range from metering and roof repair issues to fouling by birds. It is probable that every year there will be some shortfall in a few buildings. Including generation data on our web site is still work in progress.

Find out more about solar

This site carries lots of news: <https://www.solarpowerportal.co.uk>

Below 2 recent items:

- [UK's second subsidy-free solar farm completed by West Sussex Council using battery storage](#)
The UK's second subsidy-free solar farm, and the first by a local authority using battery storage, has been completed by West Sussex County Council in a project that ticked "every box" and will generate significant income over the next 25 years
- [End of MIP opening a 'huge door' for subsidy-free solar in Europe](#)
The end of the minimum import price on solar panels and cells imported from China is opening a "huge door" for subsidy-free PV developments throughout Europe.



Johanna Carrie