

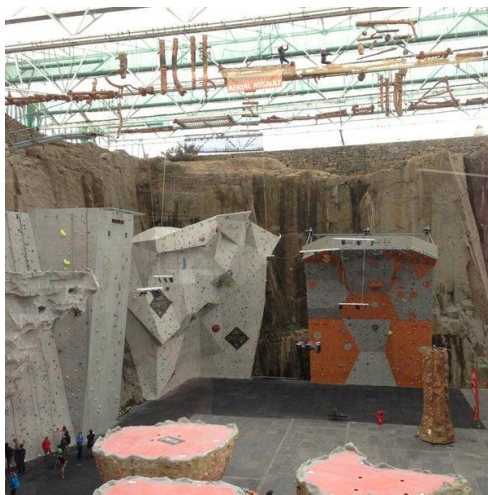


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Chair's Report: Lesley Hinds

Preparatory work on phase 2 has begun. The share offer is expected to be launched in April 2020. There should be more news at our AGM. This will be on **Saturday 28 March**, 1pm at the Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, EH1 2JL



One of the Edinburgh Leisure new sites to host our panels being considered is the Ratho Climbing Centre. This sounds an installation challenge but in fact the centre is in a quarry and access to roof level is easy by surface level road.

Breaking News

As you may have picked up from the media, there has been a fire at Liberton Primary School. We are in touch with the council about this. We do not yet know what the implications are for us.

Edinburgh Councillors on the board

On the board Cllr Gavin Corbett has replaced his Green colleague Steve Burgess as one of the three council nominees. Gavin is Green councillor for Fountainbridge-Craiglockhart area and has been a member of ECSC since the first share issue.



Open day at Drumbrae Leisure Centre

In October we held a community engagement event at Drumbrae Leisure centre to raise awareness of the co-op and our community benefit fund, and to gauge interest in the development of phase 2. Board members (left to right) Jim Lee, Niall Emmerson, Johanna Carrie and Fiona Douglas along with Victoria Scruton from Edinburgh Leisure (not pictured) were on hand to answer questions and hand out leaflets. The event was very successful with a considerable number of people, both existing members and non-members, interested in our current and potential future work and, despite construction only having just begun, a number of people even had a look at the leisure centre's community garden that was partly funded by the co-op - we look forward to enjoying it once it's complete.

Members meeting

On 14 December, 21 members and 7 directors (and some small children of members...) of ECSC gathered at the Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House to hear a presentation from the chair Lesley Hinds on the proposed Phase 2 of rooftop solar projects in Edinburgh and related community share offer, prior to voting on the resolution which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Marna McMillan, the Energy4All CEO, was also in attendance. Questions by members were put to directors and discussed accordingly, before the resolution was voted on. Ultimately when the vote was put to the membership, it gained unanimous approval from the members present (27 with no votes against and no abstentions). Postal/on-line votes totalled 36 for, 0 against and 5 abstentions. The Chair held proxies for 13 votes in favour such that the total votes in favour were 76. The motion was carried in the following terms:

"That members approve the proposals for Edinburgh Community Solar Phase 2 (as described in the Explanatory Note circulated with this notice by the Society) and authorise the directors to enter into the necessary contracts and arrangements to deliver Phase 2 and its funding, including the making of a community share offer and borrowing on such terms as they consider appropriate."

Jenny Allan



Community Benefit Fund

The first projects funded are:

Liberton Primary School who will receive £3,000 toward their 'Lighting up Play' project to light up their school 'Playbox' and play area so children can play outside in the winter months. Thanks to Valerie Agenew for photos

Oaklands School who will receive £2,750 towards 'Oaklands Growing Sustainable Communities', to promote awareness change towards sustainability / carbon reduction through community growing, meadows and interpretation activities.

Drumbrae Leisure Centre who will receive £2,954 towards their Community Garden, in collaboration with their Active Communities Programme and Holiday camps. The raised beds are in place, easily seen near the entrance.

Friends of **Redhall School** who will receive £1,840 towards Redhall School Garden, to improve their school grounds for wildlife, teaching and environmental education.

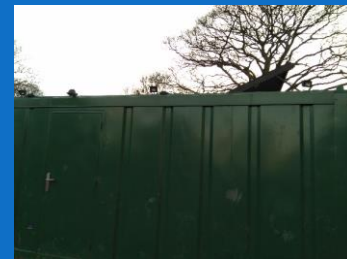
Davidsons Mains Primary School used their application to our fund to contribute to the installation of bike racks. Edinburgh Council part funded this.

We still have some funds available, and assigned a further £5,000 at the recent AGM, so we welcome further applications from our host buildings on an ongoing basis. Visit <https://www.edinburghsolar.coop/projects/community-fund/> for more information or contact communitybenefit@edinburghsolar.coop

Education links

Our resources section had a facelift recently. 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/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/ECSC-Educational-Resources.pdf>



Work with Community Energy Scotland

Lesley and Kate were delighted to take part in Community Energy Scotland's Community Energy Futures Programme. The purpose of the programme was to help community groups across Scotland understand the changes that are coming in the energy system and to identify the opportunities and challenges these might bring, both for community groups and for communities with high levels of fuel poverty. We attended 5 extremely informative learning sessions on how the energy system is likely to change, smart homes and buildings, low carbon transport and smart networks. As part of the project, we received one-to-one technical support and a small grant to develop our own mini-project to help us pilot awareness raising exercises in 2 neighbourhoods where ECSC are installed (North Edinburgh and Craigmillar).

With support from CES and Community Enterprise, we designed and produced two leaflets, 1) about ECSC, which includes the images in our home page on the web site and 2) guidance on running community-led solar projects for other community groups in Edinburgh. These are now available to read and download on our website (<https://www.edinburghsolar.coop/resources/>). Printed copies of the Edinburgh Solar leaflet are available from the ECSC team.

We also ran an e-survey of over 81 residents, and 7 local community groups and residents, and ran 3 community outreach events including 2 roundtable discussions with community groups interested in setting up their own solar project in North Edinburgh, and drop-in session at North Edinburgh Arts Christmas Fayre.

The project was hugely successful - reaching over 150 individuals, many of whom had never heard of ECSC previously.

If you'd like to help promote the Coop in your community, please get in touch with the Board, we'd be delighted to help in anyway we can.

Transition Edinburgh holds events about climate change and energy projects in the city. It also seeks to be involved in the city's Climate Commission and Climate Conference. www.transitionedinburgh.org.uk. The city has a consultation on climate change, now open with the closing date February 29. <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/ce/edinburghtalksclimate/>

Future for solar generation

The UK Energy Research Centre has produced a report Financing Community Energy (2018). It contains figures from the National Grid Future Scenarios 2018. The figures show the change predicted as the UK moves to be carbon neutral. 2017 Solar generation capacity 12 Gigawatt, 2020 15 GW, 2030 33GW – more than doubled in 10 years. We should be glad to contribute to this increase while planning to do more as ECSC and as individual householders.

<http://www.ukerc.ac.uk/programmes/energy-systems-at-multiple-scales/financing-community-energy.html>

<http://fes.nationalgrid.com/fes-document>

Johanna Carrie

Find out more about solar

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



Kirsty Lewin has picked two recent news items for us.

New Community Power tariff announced

According to the [Solar Power Portal](#), Co-op Energy has recently launched its Community Power tariff that will ensure all the electricity provided is sourced from community renewable energy. According to Co-op Energy, this tariff is the first of its kind in the UK. One of the projects involved is [Southill Community Energy](#), whose solar project powers around 1450 homes, with profits going to green community initiatives. The project is a joint venture between the Midcounties Co-operative and Octopus Energy. The new tariff will be around £5 a month more than the standard tariff for a typical household. Greg Jackson, CEO of Octopus Energy said: "Being able to buy locally-sourced clean, green energy is a massive jump in the right direction for this country's ailing power grid and carbon emissions. Investing in more local energy infrastructure and getting Britain's homes run by the sun when it's shining and the wind when it's blowing can end our reliance on dirty fossil fuels sooner than we hoped."

Solar jobs continue to fall

[Solar Power Portal](#) is also reporting that the number of jobs in the solar sector is continuing to fall. The Office of National Statistics shows that employment dropped in the solar sector from 9000 full time employees in 2015 to 6000 in 2018 in the UK. In the same period, economic turnover fell from £2.7 billion to £1.8 billion. The cause is largely due to the end of the feed in tariff last year, announced in 2015. This led to a reduction in solar projects throughout the UK. However, the Solar Trade Association expects the market to recover over time as the economics of solar improve, alongside deployment of energy storage and other smart energy technologies. The Trade Union Congress has labelled the the drop, alongside the wider drop in jobs in the green sector as 'an appalling failure' given the climate emergency and opportunities to create green jobs. However, there is hope in the wider sector. According to REA, the Association for Renewable Energy and Clean Technology, since the data was collected, policy has changed, particularly in the context of the UK legislation on net zero emissions by 2050.