



Power Generation

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Co-op Management

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Dear Member,

With the spring come some new starts.

In this newsletter, you'll find a question about renewing our electricity sales contract, the announcement of our [new website](#), and an invitation to join us for a meeting if you'd like to be a new director.

You'll also find an update on our partnership work to encourage Government to support community energy and an invitation to this year's AGM. Here's a [video reminder](#) of last year's AGM, which was full of energy, enthusiasm and ideas. Our cooperative spirit really comes to life at the AGM, so please do save the date in your diary now and join us if you can.

- Westmill AGM – Save the Date
- Invitation to potential new directors to attend the next board meeting
- Who do you buy your electricity from survey
- [New Westmill website!](#)
- Tom & Philip meeting with BEIS
- Solar Trade Association letter
- Climate outreach report on effective narratives
- Community Energy England's State of the Sector 2017 Survey
- Open offers

Best wishes
Richard

For Westmill Solar Co-operative

Westmill Solar AGM - Save the date!

We'd be delighted to see you at this year's AGM on **Saturday 20th May**, in [Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot](#).

Alongside Westmill business, we'll hear from Maëlle Guillou of Enercoop France, where she manages Enercoop's European projects and partnerships.

Launched in 2005 by French ecological and ethical business organizations, Enercoop is a 100% cooperative green energy supplier. Based on the multi stakeholder cooperative model, Enercoop is able to gather among its members producers and consumers of green electricity as well as key partners; all willing to work together to promote renewable energy and rational energy use. In 2016, the cooperative had a total of 27,000 members, and 42,000 consumers.

We will again be sharing the day with Westmill Wind, whose AGM will precede ours directly after lunch. We'd love to hear from you if you have any suggestions for this year's agenda too.

A formal advance notice with a request for resolutions and nominations will be sent to all members by email in late March.

Invitation to candidates: If you are interested in standing for election as a director and want to know more about what is involved, we would like to give you the opportunity to attend the next Westmill Solar board meeting on 25th April. If you would like to know more, please email info@westmillsolar.coop by 4th April.

Who do you buy your electricity from?

Westmill Solar are due to renegotiate their power purchase agreement this year. As part of this, we would like to have more information on which electricity suppliers members use. We would therefore be very interested if you would take a minute to take part in this very short survey.

Take part

Solar Park Performance

Production levels exceeded the expected levels for each of the wintery months of October, November & December. A total of 690,104 kWh was generated compared to an expected 581,768 kWh; a significant improvement over the same period in 2015 due to the higher irradiation levels. The level of power generated was the equivalent of the annual power requirements of 222 households with typical domestic consumption.

Westmill Solar's total generation for 2016 was 5,080,817 kWh.

Westmill Solar Website

We have just completed the upgrade to a shiny new website!

The website remains westmillsolar.coop, but (as you will see when you visit) it has a much improved aesthetic!

If during this period of adjustment you have any trouble navigating the new layout we would be happy to help you, or if you would just like to let us know what you think of the change, email info@westmillsolar.coop to chat with someone.

Government meeting about FiT

Following on from October's meeting with Nick Hurd, Tom Parkinson and Philip Wolfe joined representatives from Community Energy England and Energy4all at a meeting with civil servants at the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) on 11th January. This was to further discuss reinstating pre-accreditation of FiT for small entities (<50kW, e.g. social housing, schools) and direct supply as part of a broader government consultation on energy strategy. The meeting was generally positive although it is not yet clear what, if any, policy changes will follow.

Community Energy News

Westmill Solar have signed the Solar Trade Association letter to the chancellor encouraging investment in renewables and stopping the solar tax hike.

Over 160 NGOs, schools, academics, energy providers and public institutions have also signed asking the Chancellor to stop the proposed rise in business rates for properties with solar panels. The signees include big companies such as Sainsbury's, IKEA, and Kingfisher PLC (who own B&Q and Screwfix). Paul Barwell, STA CEO, commented that the sheer diversity of groups willing to sign demonstrated the breadth of feeling on the issue. The change will only affect systems where the energy is for self-consumption, meaning the tax rise is most likely to hit smaller companies who are less likely to have set up different ownership schemes for their panels, as well as public sector organisations such as state schools and hospitals.

Current Live Offers

Ethex are currently listing 2 community energy schemes undertaking primary, supporting a total of 9.17Mw of solar panels, which are both already generating electricity:

- [Gawcott Fields](#) 20-year bond offer, to help fund a 4.17MW solar farm in Buckinghamshire and generate a community fund to support fuel poverty and energy efficiency initiatives.
- [Orchard Community Energy](#) 3-year bond offer, to support their first 5MW in Kent that will create a community fund of up to £3m.

New:

[move](#)

- [Sandford Hydro](#) share offer has re-opened. Low Carbon Hub are aiming to raise £380,000 to replace debt finance with a 20-year share offer, so that as much of the historic Lasher Weir is owned by community investors as possible. Construction is due to be completed in the summer 2017.

Coming Soon:

- Solar for Schools are looking to raise £250,000 through a 5-year bond to install 260kW for 5 different systems of Solar PV panels across

England and Wales. Their long-term goal is to see every school in the UK with solar panels, contributing to a more sustainable future. [Sign up](#) to receive an alert.

There are also secondary market and saving products available for people to invest in. Sign up [here](#) for more information on projects as they go live.

Energy4All are currently working on a project on Assel Valley – you can register your interest in receiving information and about buying shares in the cooperative through the Energy4all website (<http://energy4all.co.uk/new-projects/>)

Please note that the energy co-operatives mentioned above are for information only. Westmill Solar Co-operative has not reviewed any prospectuses or share offers, and does not recommend or endorse any subscription opportunities. Individuals should make their own assessment of any such propositions, with specialist advice as appropriate.