

Westmill Solar Co-operative quarterly newsletter. You are receiving this email because you are a member of Westmill Solar Co-operative.

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Dear Member

Many thanks to those who contributed to this year's AGM, in person or online. We were delighted with the event and with your enthusiasm for keeping Westmill at the forefront of community energy in England. You can read some members' feedback below. As we reported at AGM, Westmill keeps performing well. In this newsletter, you'll find details of the latest interest payment and capital repayment.

Along with our campaigning activity and the first [state of the sector report](#), the sunny start to summer piqued interest in community renewables, so we've been busy telling the Westmill story in the Whitehall, on the news and online.

Finally, we're pleased to report details of our new Power Purchase Agreement with Co-operative Energy – a good deal in a tough market.

Best wishes,
Richard Benwell, Director

Westmill Solar Co-operative

Interest and Capital repayment

As approved at the AGM payment of interest of 7p per share was made to members at the end of July.

Also voted for an approved at the AGM was the upcoming capital repayment, equal to 1 share for every 8 held by members.

In preparation for this, there is a trading halt from 01/08/2017 until 31/08/2017.

During this period, ongoing transactions may be finalised but no new transactions will be matched. Normal trading activities will resume on 01/09/2017. If you have any questions, please contact help@ethex.org.uk

Thank you for taking our surveys

Earlier in the year, we asked members for information about their electricity provider, and over 200 of you responded! We wanted to make available to you the [analysis of this survey](#). Thank you to all of those who participated.

Thank you also to all those that answered the feedback survey in our last newsletter on AGMs. Those who managed to attend were very positive about the day, and we received some good feedback and ideas for what you would like next year too, which will hopefully translate into an even better AGM in 2018! Here are a couple of things members had to say about the 2017 AGM:

- *"Food was excellent. I thought the morning guest speakers were very good."*
- *"I couldn't attend the breakout sessions because of the other AGM. I was disappointed by the exhibitors but perhaps I was expecting too much."*
- *"I did not attend the AGM, but for the first time I was able to watch it on-line. I found it enjoyable and informative and I hope you are able to provide on-line access to future AGMs."*
- *"Location was ideal for me. It's the first AGM I've attended in a few years and that was because of the location."*
- *"I would consider joining the AGM next year if it was nearer or at Westmill. It is also a good social occasion to talk with like-minded individuals; maybe consider some after-AGM entertainment or plenty of time in the schedule to chat? For example the individuals who brought their EVs to last year's were a focus for much discussion."*

PPA now with Co-op Energy

The contract for Westmill's Power Purchase Agreement has recently come to an end, and after carefully considering all alternatives, the board decided to move to Co-op Energy. This is due to Co-op Energy offering a considerably more competitive price, and aim for responsible and sustainable business values that fit well with the Westmill philosophy. Good Energy remains our power supplier, so we look forward to maintaining and strengthening our positive relationship.

Co-op Energy is the energy supplier for roughly a fifth of those who responded to our electricity survey, so they seem a good fit with our member base. Although this is not how supply actually works, Co-op Energy allows users to nominally select where their electricity is sourced from, using Co-op Energy's User Chooser service. This means members who use Co-op Energy can select Westmill Farm to supply their electricity.

Westmill in the Media:

- Westmill interview on BBC Radio Wiltshire, 26 June
 - speaking about the opportunities for community solar across the UK
 - Westmill interview on BBC Points West, 26 June
 - speaking about our innovative ideas for local supply of clean energy
 - Open University [Stories of Change](#) features Westmill
 - Co-operatives Fortnight [case study](#) features Westmill
 - Meeting the Minister: Board members met with the new Government Minister for climate change, Claire Perry, as part of the Climate Coalition week of action.
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Investment opportunities:

Two online impact investing platforms, Ethex and Lendahand have joined forces to launch [Energise Africa](#) – an initiative that enables people to invest in pioneering businesses that install life-changing solar systems in homes in Sub-Saharan Africa – bringing clean energy and economic opportunities to families, whilst aiming to generate a 4 – 6 % annual return for investors. Throughout August and September, investors who want to make their money do good will be able to invest in either [Azuri Technologies](#) or [SolarNow](#). Both these projects benefit from match funding from [Virgin Unite](#). [Find out more](#). Please be aware that your capital is at risk and returns are not guaranteed.

Ethex are currently listing an offer for [Gower Regeneration](#) - a 1MW community-owned solar farm, forecasting 5% interest from 2018. The project has already met

the target, but is still accepting investment.

Energy4All have a project in the pipeline - [Assel Valley](#) Wind Farm will contain ten turbines and produce energy equivalent to that consumed by 20,500 homes.

Please note that the energy co-operatives/investment opportunities 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.