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Dear <<First Name>>,

Westmill Newsletter

So much has happened recently and we hope that all of you and your families, are coping in these strange times. With the continuing threat of Covid-19, the Westmill site has had to close its gates to tours and visits, and our directors and the management team at Ethex are all following the government's social distancing policy of working remotely from home. However, we are continuing our mission to promote renewable community energy as well as keeping you up to date with the current goings on with the Co-op.

Inside this quarterly newsletter you will find:

- Updates on the Westmill Solar 2020 AGM
- How you can support your community in the current crisis
- Westmill Solar Energy Audit Nominations

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- Current Investment Opportunities

We hope that you continue to stay safe and look forward to seeing you again soon once this storm has passed.

Best wishes,
Tom Parkinson
Chair of Westmill Solar Co-operative

Update: Westmill Solar AGM 2020

Like so many other events this summer, our AGM has unfortunately been impacted by the Coronavirus outbreak.

Under our rules, we are required to hold our AGM within seven months of the end of our financial year (ie. by 31 July). Given the uncertainty about when (and how quickly) the current restrictions will be lifted, we are making arrangements so that we will be able to hold our AGM on the same date as originally scheduled, **Saturday 6th June 2020**, but online rather than as a physical meeting.

We understand that Westmill Wind are planning to do the same thing with their AGM and we are working with them on the particulars of how the event will be managed. We will of course be notifying all members as soon as the details have been finalised so please keep your eyes open for further emails from us on this topic.

How you can support your community in the current crisis

This is such a difficult time for many people across Wiltshire and Oxfordshire but already we are seeing so many brilliant responses from the local community to this epidemic. We at Westmill think it's important to share some of these with you and also how you can help:

- **Wiltshire Community Foundation** has launched a [Coronavirus response fund](#) to provide emergency help to voluntary groups across the county to support those most affected, particularly those facing issues brought about by isolation or loss of income.

support them with tasks such as walking their dog, buying groceries, or putting the bins out.

- **Wiltshire Council** has set up a dedicated hub to support its most vulnerable residents. It is available to anyone who is struggling during this time and doesn't have a support network around them. You can contact them at wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk or call **0300 003 4576**.
- **Project PT** are running a [virtual fitness class for children](#) every weekday morning at 9am, via Facebook and Instagram live.
- **The Midcounties Co-operative** have launched a [Food Bank Fund](#) and [Childcare Fund](#) to help those working in essential roles during this pandemic. If you would like to donate to either of these funds then you can find further information [here](#).

It's great to see that even in these difficult times communities are coming together to help one another. If you know of any other groups who are doing great work then please let us know by emailing us at info@westmillsolar.coop.

Can you help a community building “go green”?

Do you know of a community building (such as a village hall, youth club, community centre, school, church or other faith building) that could reduce its energy, water and waste? Now YOU can nominate such a building for a FREE energy audit, by filling in a simple form below.

The audits are funded by Westmill Solar as part of our community benefit programme, in partnership with the [Low Carbon Hub](#) and the [Environmental Information Exchange](#). This scheme is now open to community buildings within a 25-mile radius of the Westmill site as well as anywhere else in Oxfordshire. Help your favourite venue get good, clear advice to save money and reduce their carbon footprint.

Nominate Now

If you have any questions then please contact us at info@westmillsolar.coop.

Westmill and Community Energy in the Media:

Electric MINI launches at Westmill

In February, Westmill hosted executives from MINI UK to the site for the launch of their new electric MINI. A number of journalists attended including Fully Charged's Robert Llewellyn. Although the marketing campaign for the electric MINI has been delayed by the Coronavirus situation, you can watch Robert's review and mention of Westmill by clicking [here](#). (For Westmill mention click [here](#))

Community-generated green electricity to be offered to all in UK

Power provided from Co-op Energy's new tariff will come exclusively from community wind and solar farms from anywhere in the country [Read more>](#)

Mayor of London and Octopus Energy's London Power goes live

The Mayor of London and Octopus Energy launch new renewable-only energy supplier, London Power [Read more>](#)

UK's 'first' subsidy-free community solar farm connects to grid

Creacombe solar project set to provide 7.3MW of renewable power capacity as well as 'healthy returns' for local community [Read more>](#)

Want to get involved in Westmill Solar?

Westmill Solar is nothing without the active participation and involvement of its members.

We are always keen to hear from members who are interested in becoming a Director of Westmill Solar and we have a number of other areas where we would welcome additional member participation, including helping with our plans on Community Funding, reviewing potential investments by Westmill Solar in other community renewable organisations, and monitoring our Board governance and remuneration policies.

Some of these roles are only open to members but even if you are not a member and would like to help (eg with the site visits organised by WeSET) please contact the Westmill Inbox.

I'D LIKE TO HELP

Investment Opportunities

Given the current situation, we understand that members may not be looking to invest given possible uncertainty. However we at Westmill believe it is still appropriate to show support for pioneering businesses who are operating in the renewable energy and sustainability sectors. Even in times such as these it is important that we do not lose sight of the continuing impact that climate change is having on our planet. Below you can find a number of investment opportunities currently being supported by our partners at [Ethex](#).

Low Carbon Hub Community Energy Fund: With an established portfolio of 45 renewable energy projects ranging from hydro to rooftop PV solar for schools, businesses and communities, Low Carbon hub is targeting another £1.5 million to continue to strengthen its portfolio of community energy projects. Not only will these projects reduce carbon emissions but revenue from these projects will be put back into the local community to help benefit them.

Find out more

Ecological Land Co-operative (ELC): The pandemic has brought into focus the vital parts that make our society function with food producers amongst those valued most. ELC was set up to address the lack of small farm sites. They purchase agricultural land and divide it into a number of ecologically managed residential small farms. They are targeting £400,000 which will help them continue to grow the organisation and eventually double the number of small farms they develop each year

Find out more

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. **Please be aware that your capital is at risk and returns are not guaranteed.** Individuals should make their own assessment of any such propositions, with specialist advice as appropriate.

at www.westmillsolar.coop.

If you would like to visit the Westmill Solar site (when it reopens) then please visit the Westmill Sustainable Energy Trust website [here](#).

If you have questions regarding your investment and contact information then please contact our registrars at Ethex at registry@ethex.org.uk.

Please also make sure to like and follow us on our social media channels below.

Thank you also to Westmill Solar member Nan Pratt, who provided this months newsletter photo.



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