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Dear <<First Name>>,

It has been a busy few months. The recent surge in energy prices (and the demise of several UK energy suppliers) has dominated the news, as has COP-26. Alongside this, your co-ops have been busy making things happen. Read on for more news about:

- [15-year planning extension for Westmill Wind](#)
- [How Westmill has navigated the turbulence in energy markets](#)
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[15-year planning extension for Westmill Wind](#)

The original Westmill wind farm planning application was made in 2005 for a 25-year project, at the end of which the turbines would be dismantled. At our annual meeting members indicated they would like the board to explore the potential to extend the life of the wind farm.

Last month, the planning authority informed Westmill that they had accepted our application to extend the planning life of the wind farm. We now have an additional 15 years that we can operate the turbines on the site. This decision was the result of hard work by Energy4All and our planning consultant.

The board will now refine the long-term financial plan for the site, and will consult with members as we progress.

[How Westmill has navigated the turbulence in energy markets](#)

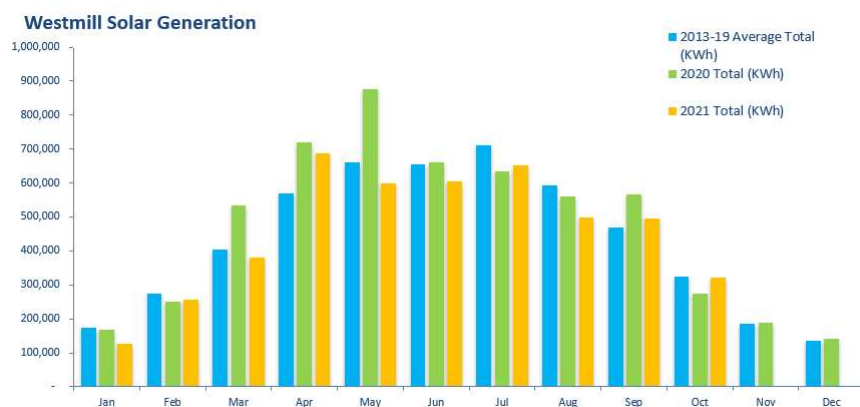
While the energy market remains extremely volatile, we have been re-assured that Octopus Energy's long-term hedging arrangements and financial strength mean that it is reasonably well-protected from the current situation.

This is crucial for both Wind and Solar co-ops as it reduces the risk involved in our recently-extended PPA's with Octopus Energy and also provides peace of mind for those members who are Your Co-op Energy customers (who are powered by Octopus Energy). However, the continuing volatility means that our plans to roll-out the trading dividend more widely across the co-ops' membership will be delayed into next year.

[Westmill Solar and Westmill Wind production and performance to date](#)

Westmill Solar:

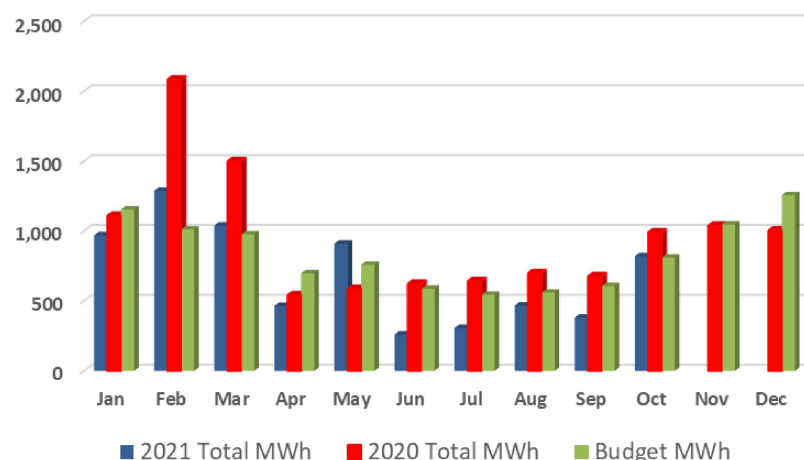
Generation in 2021 has (unsurprisingly) been lower than 2020's bumper figures but also below our historic average figures.



Westmill Wind:

In contrast to 2020, 2021 has seen record poor UK wind speeds - the lowest since 1962. This has adversely affected wind generation across the UK, and as a low wind site Westmill has been affected as well. By the end of October we had generated 6,901 MWh against a budget of 7,698 MWh.

Westmill Wind Farm Generation



Repayment of Capital

Alongside Wind's efforts to extend its planning consents, another team has been looking at the possibility of installing battery storage at Westmill. A report from independent consultants on the financial viability of this is expected to be completed in early 2022. We are hopeful that its conclusions will be positive and, if so, substantial investment may be required.

As a result, the Solar Board has decided that it would be inappropriate to implement now the capital repayment to all Solar members that we had previously anticipated would take place during 2021. If the battery plans do not proceed, then we would expect this repayment to take place during 2022.

And whether or not the battery storage project proceeds, both co-ops will be reviewing our longer-term capital structure during the course of 2022 to ensure we have a secure financial foundation whilst also allowing for more new members to join and the redemption and return of capital to those who wish it.

Community Grants

Your board is pleased to announce that, in our community grant scheme's second year, we have approved the funding of

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Once again, we were delighted with the responses we received and the projects that our panel of members chose were those they felt aligned best with our co-operative principles, with particular concern for community and sustainability, and were most likely to achieve real impact.

For more information on each of the successful applicants [click here!](#)

Supporting the Schools Energy Co-operative

Westmill Solar and Westmill Wind divide their cash funds across a number of banks. Both co-operatives have been looking at how they can do more with our cash resources in line with co-operative principles.

In September Westmill was approached by the Schools Energy Co-operative, an award-winning co-operative that has installed over 85 solar installations on roofs across the UK (mainly on schools, and also Salisbury Cathedral) with a total capacity of about 3.5MW.

The Schools Energy Co-operative is planning a new share offer in 2022. Westmill Solar and Wind joined a consortium of several co-operatives that came together to provide a loan to allow the Schools Energy Co-operative to move ahead with its programme while the share offer is being implemented.

Our education programme

Westmill was selected as a 'virtual landing site' for the Moths to a Flame project [\[https://www.mothsto aflame.art/project\]](https://www.mothsto aflame.art/project) run by The Art and Energy Collective, on its journey to the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) 2021 in Glasgow.

As a community energy partner, WeSET welcomed people to a family event organised by WeSET's Education Officer Emma Arnold, which featured Westmill site tours and demonstrations, plus a moth-making workshop, and other creative workshops linked to energy, sustainability and biodiversity.

Pictured below are a few of the moths installed in the Glasgow Botanical Gardens with Solar Chair, Tom Parkinson and Clare Mains from Plymouth Energy Community who helped co-ordinate the project.



Westmill Tours Progressing:

Our colleagues at the Westmill Sustainable Energy Trust (WeSET) offer regular tours of the Westmill site for people who wish to learn more about the importance of renewable energy. Nearly 200 people have visited Westmill site during the past five months and virtual tours of Westmill are also held online, to enable WeSET to reach out to people who are beyond any sort of commutable journey to the site.

Further detail of the many ways with which to visit Westmill is available on the WeSET website [<https://www.weset.org/plan-your-visit/>].

WeSET also has some great volunteering opportunities to meet, greet and lead visitors around Westmill, if you are interested in helping out then please email visit@weset.org for further details.

If you have any questions regarding Westmill Solar then you can email us at info@westmillsolar.coop. You can also visit our website at www.westmillsolar.coop.

WeSET are once again providing on site tours of the wind and solar park! [Book yours now!](#)

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.