

MORE Renewables

Chair's Report

The outlook for smaller renewable energy systems continues to be unfavorable and we did not install any new systems in 2018.

The sunny weather in 2018 meant that, despite the loss of output from the Halton Mill PV system caused by the fire at the end of 2017, overall output was 14% above our predictions, at 94,000 kWh and income 17% above. With the insurance claim, which covered about two thirds of our expenditure following the fire, we made a small surplus for the year of £477 before tax.

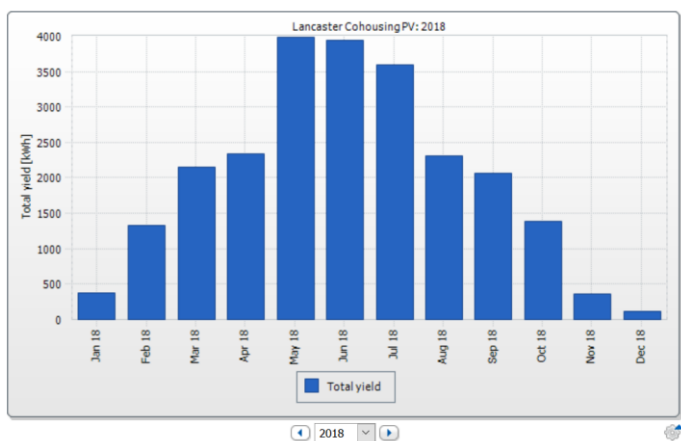
Following agreement of members at the 2018 AGM to invest in other community energy projects in the North West we purchased £5,000 worth of shares in Burneside community energy. This was for a new PV installation at the Croppers paper mill in Burneside.

During the year we gave the accumulated community benefit payment for 2016 and 2017 (£3,275 in total) to Lancaster and Morecambe CAB, to help fund their work with people in fuel poverty.

During the year, members withdrew £10,000 worth of shares. This was in line with our financial model, which predicts a gradual reduction in share capital, and hence share interest and community benefit payments, over the lifetime of the projects.

Since the fire incident we have entered into a regular bi annual service contract with Lancashire based company 'Glow Solar'. This is proving to pay dividends as during the January inspection some defective wiring was discovered and repaired.

We also had one of the Mill inverters replaced under warranty due to a fault with the display screen (it was not displaying). We still have a few issues with our monitoring system at Lancaster Cohousing, which we are hoping Glow Solar can fix for us now that the rush to install systems before the Feed in Tariff scheme closed at the end of March 2019 is over. A screen shot of the monitored output is shown below however this is not a true reflection of what we generated in 2018 as some of the monitoring equipment was not working. It does show nicely though what a sunny May June and July we had compared to the other months



The Boys and Girls Club now has an electric vehicle charging point, installed by Charge My Street, another local community benefit society. We have looked into the possibility of installing a battery at the Boys and Girls club: EDF (Heysham Power station) may provide them with one. We have also pre-registered a solar PV system at the Gregson community centre, so we can get Feed in Tariff payments for a system there, provided it is installed by the end of March 2020. This is dependent on the Gregson Community Association completing repairs to the roof before that date.

Steve Wrigley April 2019