

MORE Renewables

Chair's Report

Performance

Our systems at Forge Bank, Halton and at Lancaster Boys and Girls Club produced 91,295 kWh of electricity and 606 kWh of heat in 2020, 13% above our predictions. As in previous years the arrays at Lancaster Cohousing that were installed in 2012 continue to perform best in comparison with what was predicted when we installed them, but the output per kWp (the size of the system) is greatest for the system installed at Lancaster Cohousing in 2014.

The Boys and Girls club solar thermal (hot water) system continues to perform poorly and stopped working at all before Christmas. It is in the process of being repaired, which has revealed that the boiler settings for the hot water were set to be on all the time, given little cold water in the tank for the solar panel to warm up. Some of the tubes of the collector on the roof have been damaged, probably by cricket balls – locals have been playing cricket on the adjacent field during lockdown. We are looking into getting a protective basket fitted over the solar collector before putting in the new tubes. The system should be sorted out for this summer, when hopefully use of the centre will get back to normal.

The only impact on us of the pandemic – other than having to hold meetings by Zoom – is that our income from the Boys and Girls Club system has been reduced: £1871 in 2020, down around £300 from 2019. The amount the club pay us depends on how much electricity they use – which has been down because of decreased use of the building.

Overall though our income was slightly up from 2019 and, as last year, 14% more than we predicted.

Performance of MORE Renewables systems in 2020

System	predicted for year	Actual	Difference	Predicted	actual	Difference
	kWh	kWh	kWh/kWp	£	£	%
LCH1	38192	45860	922	11352	13626	20%
LCH2	32796	36926	940	5939	6633	12%
B&G Club PV	8582	8509	851	1881	1871	-1%
B&G Club ST	1837	606		272	91	-67%
	81407	91901		19444	22220	14%

Insurance costs

In 2016 we paid about £600 for insurance – public liability, material damage and business interruption – the latter only for the systems at Lancaster Cohousing. In the years since then

insurance costs have increased steeply – to £1,400 in 2020, and they are likely to be increased by a further £350 this year. We have been with the same insurance brokers, Lycetts and this year will get alternative quotes but we are not very hopeful of being able to find cheaper insurance. From what we have heard from other community energy organisations insurers are introducing very high minimum premiums, giving disproportionately high insurance costs for organisations such as ours with not many systems

Future plans

The feed in tariff has now come to an end and there are no subsidies available for solar PV systems. We were not able to install the system at the Gregson Community Centre mentioned in last year's report as this was dependant on the Gregson carrying out repairs to their roof, which did not happen. The Lancaster community organisation we were in discussions with last year has decided to fund the solar PV system for their new building themselves.

Community benefit payment

In 2020 we gave a grant of £3060 to Green Rose CIC to set up a telephone advice service to support people applying for the Green Homes Grant Scheme. Green Rose will give a presentation at the AGM about how this has gone.

Anne Chapman

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