

Gloucestershire Community Energy Ltd

Annual Report April 2016 – March 2017

Gloucestershire Community Energy Co-op is a society for the benefit of the community whose main aims are to support and develop local renewable energy generation that reduces dependence on energy generated from fossil fuels, thus cutting carbon emissions, and to support local communities by helping them to reduce energy use.

Gloucester Resource Centre

During this financial year the performance of our 186 solar panels has been disappointing due to the weather, particularly the cold and wet Spring. Only in July, August and October did the output exceed the expected output. However the total electricity generated amounted to 37,708kWh which saved a total of 16.8 tonnes of CO₂.

Once again the FIT income received, as well as providing 5% interest to our members, provided a payment of £2,799 (20% of our FiT income) to the Resource Centre to help them with their valuable community work.

GCEC Board and membership.

Over the last few years, we have put in a great deal of effort trying to develop new projects, and trying to recruit new Board members, without success. There are now just 3 Board members, with the resignation of Paul Knuckle for work reasons.

Our membership at the end of the financial year was down by 3, to a total of 46. Martin Alder, a founder member and former Chair of the Society, sadly died. We are grateful for the work he did for the Society. Two other members withdrew their shares. While leading to fewer members, this is healthy for the finances of the Society as it reduces the interest that we have to pay.

We spent time in the early part of the financial year discussing our options for the future, including merging with another co-operative or paying another organisation to manage the business. More recently however, we have been in discussion with organisations and individuals which may lead to a new project and growth in membership.

Potential projects and links with other organisations

Residents of Temple Guiting in Gloucestershire are considering options for generating community owned renewable energy in the village, and approached us to help bring the project to fruition. We have been exploring various possibilities with them, without a definite proposal so far.

We are members of Cooperatives UK and Community Energy England, and during the year members of the Board have been to conferences organised by Co-operative Futures and Community Energy England. We are interested in future possibilities for community energy, particularly though energy supply, smart meters and the use of battery storage.

Alison Crane

Secretary