

Shropshire and Telford Community Energy

Newsletter Feb 2024



Twemlows Purchase Completed.

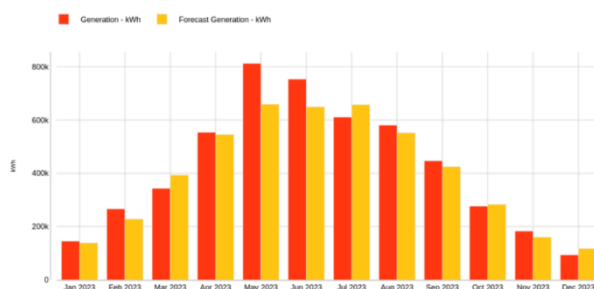
Our successful share offer raise of £294,000 has enabled us to purchase the 10MW Twemlows solar farm near Whitchurch. Thank you to those who invested, we welcome you all as members of STCE.

This purchase was part of a larger scheme co-ordinated by Community Energy Together (CET) of which STCE is one of 5 members. Overall, the CET sites have added a significant 20% to the UK community owned solar portfolio.

For more details see our website. www.stcenergy.org.uk

Twemlows Performance

In 2023 Twemlows produced an impressive **10,130,000 kWh**, 5% above the forecast figure,



£25,000 Now Available Through Our Community Benefit Funds

Our two Twemlows Community Benefit Funds now have an extra £25k available.

£9k of this is available for a wide range of projects within 15 miles of Prees. This fund is managed by Community Resource and has a maximum of £1k per project.

Additionally, £16k is available for carbon saving projects throughout Shropshire and Telford, with a maximum £6k per project. If you're planning to carry out an energy efficiency or renewable energy project in your community, please look at our website or contact treasurer@stcenergy.org.uk for details. Applications will close at the end of April.

Previous grants have covered PV panels at the Festival Centre, Market Drayton and new windows at Rushbury Village Hall, these can be seen below with Howard Betts, STCE Director, and members of the village hall committee.



Opportunities to Get Involved in STCE

STCE are starting to make a significant impact and have plans to do much more. There are several ways you could get involved,

- **New Secretary Required**, our current Secretary, Fran Hunt, has been part of the working group and committee of STCE for four years and now wishes to hand over the role of Secretary. The main secretarial role involves keeping minutes and ensuring our filing systems are kept up to date. We normally meet once a month, early evening by zoom, though we meet face to face occasionally.
- **Newsletters and Social Media**, this could be a separate role or part of the Secretary's role.
- **Help with the Community Benefit Fund**, particularly around publicising and helping to scrutinise the applications.
- **Biodiversity work**, we are keen to improve the biodiversity of the Twemlows site and we will be running work parties there with the help of Shropshire Wildlife Trust starting in the Spring.
- Please contact our Chair, Robert Saunders, if you'd like to know more - roberttc.saunders@outlook.com

Bishop's Castle Heat & Wind project

Further funding for the Bishop's Castle Heat and Wind project has been approved through our Next Generation grant. This will cover ecology surveys and completion of the Landscape and Visual Impact studies. Further funding for the next stage of the heat network study is being sought from the national Community Energy Fund. If you missed our treasurer, Dave Green, talking about the project on Channel 4's Great Climate Fight the programme can be found here. <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/the-great-climate-fight>

STCE working with the Big Solar Co-op

STCE has been working with the Big Solar Co-op (BSC) for two years now in the pursuit of local rooftop solar schemes. BSC's first site at Kerry Taste & Nutrition, South Shropshire is now generating electricity with a maximum output of 294kW.

See - [Kerry Taste & Nutrition – a case study – Big Solar Co-op](#)

And [Big Solar Co-op – community solar](#)

where you can read about their ongoing share offer.

Gordon Coppock of the Big Solar Co-op

at Kerry Taste & Nutrition



Numerous other potential schemes have been identified and are being followed up to verify the interest of the building occupant / owner and the feasibility of an installation.

Shropshire & Telford Community Energy, Registered Society 8829, www.stcenergy.org.uk