

Shropshire and Telford Community Energy

Newsletter May 2024



STCE AGM Thurs 27th June 7.30pm (by zoom)

We are looking forward to an active AGM with good attendance from our new members. We will be considering the accounts for 2023 and voting on a new board and discussing items such as our Community Benefit Fund policy so we hope you can join us. The papers (including the zoom link, Annual Report and voting paper) will be sent out on or soon after Fri 14th June. Only members can vote at the AGM. After the AGM closes we will hold a meeting to discuss progress made over the last 6 months and where we're going.

New board members would be very welcome, to strengthen the existing board who have all offered to re-stand. In particular we need a new Secretary and help with newsletters and social media. We would also like to see someone from the Whitchurch area on our board.

If you're interested in standing, please email info@stcenergy.org.uk. We will want a photo and a brief biography (up to 100 words) that we can include in the AGM papers, so we need to know by Monday 10th June. The board meet monthly, normally early evening, mostly by zoom.

You Can Still Join STCE If You're Not Already a Member

Most of our members have become members through investing in our Twemlows solar farm share offer. However, if you're not an investor member you can join STCE for just £10. This is to enable people who couldn't invest, or who missed the last share offer, to be involved in STCE. For a membership form please email info@stcenergy.org.uk.

Community Benefit Fund (CBF) Update

We have recently awarded £16,000 from the Twemlows CBF. This is going to,

- 1, Rushbury Village Hall, solar PV panels
- 2, Ditton Priors Village Hall, insulation
- 3, Little Wenlock Village Hall, induction cooker

We have also earmarked some funds for the Orbit, Wellington, details of how it is to be spent to be agreed.



Rushbury Village hall which will be fitting 20kW of PV with the help of STCE.

In addition, we have given £9,000 to Community Resource for community projects within 15 miles of Prees (where our 10MW Twemlows solar farm is). If you would like to apply for some of this money contact enquiries@community-resource.org.uk.

We expect to have another funding round in late 2024 or early in 2025.

Further Funding Approved for the Bishop's Castle Heat & Wind Project

Further significant funding for our innovative Bishop's Castle project has been approved from the national Community Energy Fund, managed by the Midlands Net Zero Hub. STCE runs this project in partnership with Lightfoot and support from Sharenergy, Carbon Alternatives and other experienced specialists. More detailed studies are now underway. Case study surveys are being conducted in the town and successful meetings have been held with the Community College and the SpArC leisure centre. We are planning to hold a public meeting late September and to submit a planning application for the wind turbine in October.

Good news from the Big Solar Co-op

Congratulations to our partners, the Big Solar Co-op, who have secured an agreement with Midcounties Co-op to put PV panels on up to 29 of their sites, many of which are in Shropshire & Telford. See <https://bigsolar.coop/2024/05/03/rolling-out-solar-across-the-midlands-with-the-co-op/>

Biodiversity at Twemlows

We are currently arranging for soil sampling to be carried out at Twemlows so we can finalise our plans for improving the biodiversity there. A biodiversity working group has been set up. We'll be undertaking litter picks soon and will be doing hedge enhancement work in the autumn. If you want to take part contact info@stcenergy.org.uk.



Twemlows Performance

In the first quarter of 2024 there has been a lot of rain and not much sun so the output from our Twemlows solar farm was nearly 25% down on the same quarter last year. However this is a relatively quiet quarter for solar production, so this is only 2.5% of our annual total. We are hoping the sun shines over the summer and this shortfall is soon made up.

Out & About

We'll be at several events over the summer, including the Wem Green Fair on 15th June, Ludlow Green Festival on 14th July and the always excellent Blackberry Fair on Oct 5th. Do search us out and come and have a chat.

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

