Shropshire and Telford Community Energy Newsletter Oct 2025

Our Current Share Offer is Extended to Nov 14th, Don't Miss Out..

Our 2025 share offer has now raised over £260k, we are well on our way to our £300k minimum target for this offer and we can celebrate having raised over **Half a Million Pounds!** *(including our 2023 raise of £294k)*

We've extended the offer period to Nov 14th as we've got an article in the Shropshire magazine that has only just come out. This share offer will enable us to carry out the next phase of securing the Twemlows solar farm, to pay out more from our Community Benefit Fund and increase our membership. Thanks to our existing members who've bought more shares and welcome to our 60 new members. If you know anyone else who might be interested, please spread the word. Organisations can also invest, but don't delay, time is running out..

We maintain our target 6% return on investment and have recently paid out 6% to our existing investor members for 2024. See www.stcenergy.org.uk/investors-home.

Twemlows 2 2025 Community Benefit Fund Round is now open

STCE are now accepting applications for the Twemlows 2 Community Fund. This is open to organisations around Shropshire & Telford who have projects that will save carbon or improve biodiversity. Up to £6k per project is available with £15k available in total. An application form can be found at https://stcenergy.org.uk/community-benefit-funding/. Applications need to be submitted by Nov 30th, please contact us if you have any questions.

Twemlows Work Parties Oct 25th & Nov 29th 10am-12.30

We have arranged two work parties at our Twemlows solar farm on Saturdays Oct 25th and Nov 29th. We will be picking litter and removing tree guards, as well as giving the site a quick check over. Previous work parties have been very enjoyable, and we can adjourn to the Hollies Garden Centre café for coffee/lunch afterwards. Please join us. High vis and other equipment are provided but you might want to bring your own gloves.

An MSc research student at Harper Adams has been studying the biodiversity at Twemlows and says that it scores very highly against other sites she's visited.

STCE Social in Wellington Fri Nov 14th 4-6.30pm, House of Prayer Wellington

We are planning a social event in Wellington on the evening of Fri Nov 14th including a vegetable hot pot, teas & coffees & a showing of the film Wilding, we'd love to see you there.

The Wellington Orbit Received £4,000 from the last Twemlows 2 Round

STCE have just handed over £4000 to the Orbit, Wellington, for energy efficiency work - the last of our 2024 projects to receive their funding. The Orbit is a highly valued community resource that STCE are pleased to support.

Ray Hughes of the Orbit with STCE Director Robert Saunders.

STCE have also granted Community Resource £5,000 to top up the Twemlows 1 grant for smaller projects local to Twemlows. See https://community-resource.org.uk/grants-for-community-groups/.

New Director Heather Streetly

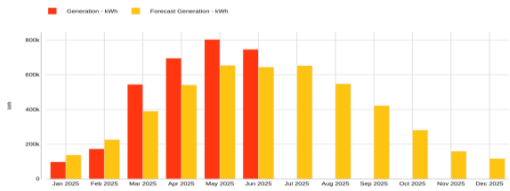
We are delighted to welcome a new co-opted member to the STCE board, heather Streetly. Heather has worked in Shrewsbury as a hydrogeologist for various environmental consultancies for 30 years until 2025. Having had a successful career in groundwater modelling and water resources management, she was keen to spend less time in front of a computer screen and has been enjoying volunteering for the Shrewsbury Food Hub and working on a 'slow the flow' and rewilding project in South Shropshire with support from the Severn Rivers Trust.

Bishop's Castle Wind Turbine Progress

Whilst we have planning permission for the Bishop's Castle wind turbine we do not currently have a viable business case for the proposed associated heat network. It has therefore been decided to press ahead with the turbine as a stand-alone project in the short term, whilst keeping a heat project as a medium to long term aim. This approach has been accepted at a public meeting and by the town council. A programme of work for the next 18 months is now being drawn up and when that is agreed further funds will be sought to get the project shovel ready, hopefully by 2027.

Record Output from Twemlows

July and August weren't as good as the previous months for solar generation but we have still generated 12.5% more electricity than forecast in the first ten months of 2025 - over 9,000,000 kWh! Our Asset Managers, Bright Renewables, tell us that Twemlows' generation has come top of the leader board for all their sites every month this year!



Twemlows 1 (half the site) output figures for 2025 against forecast

We are part of the reason that in the past year in the UK wind and solar power has contributed more to the grid than gas power plants. (37.2% as against 29.9% for gas)

source https://grid.iamkate.com/

Big Solar Co-op Bond Offer Went Very Well

Well done to our partners the Big Solar Co-op who have raised £1.8 Million through a bond offer for a 3MW ground mount solar scheme on an old open cast mine in Nottinghamshire.