

# The Schools' Energy Co-operative Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held via Zoom Video Conference  
On Wednesday 21st September 2022 at 6.00pm

**Present:**

**Directors of the Board:** Mike Smyth (Chair), Richard Watson, Eilish Kavanagh, Andy Rolfe, Laura Moreno and Alan Simpson.

**E4All Ltd:** Zach Wishart

**Members:** 34

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

Mike Smyth (Chair), welcomed members to the Schools' Energy Co-operative AGM. Mike then went on to introduce the Board and outlined the agenda.

## 2. Energy4All

Mike then gave a brief introduction to Energy4All and its staff. He explained that Energy4All was a co-operative of 32 independent community energy co-operatives (including Schools' Energy Co-op) which co-operate to deliver a shared mission and meet operational and administrative needs, develop and share expertise, deliver future community energy through a shared development team and deliver representation. Energy4All is self-financing and non-profit distributing.

One of the things that Energy4All does for us is organise share offers. In the last year there has been 10 share offers by Energy4All member co-ops. The biggest one was earlier this month in Lochaber to build a hydro site in which just under £2m was raised in just over a week.

Buchanan, Kinlochbervie and Lochaber are all new Energy4All members (all hydro and recently commissioned).

New prospective members include North Lincolnshire Community Energy, Dundee Renewable Energy, Younty Community Energy, Community Energy Moray, Inverurie and Manor Royal, Crawley

New partners include Horsham Community Energy (partner with Energise South) and CREW (partner with Schools' Energy Co-op).

Existing community energy organisations joining Energy4All to support their development include Westmill Solar (joined 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022), Southern Staffordshire Community Energy and Power Up North London (dependent on project proceeding)

**ScotWind bid – offshore wind with floating turbines.** We were invited to become part of a consortium with Falck and their joint venture partners in floating offshore wind: BlueFloat Energy and Orsted, to build a community turbine costing about £50 million per site. We were the most successful consortium with three successful bids (and only consortium with a community partner).

## 3. Overview of the year

Andy Rolfe updated members on the key achievements and challenges of the Co-op in the financial year ending March 2022.

- ▶ Installed solar panels at 5 new sites, and since the year end 4 further sites, bringing us to 92 installations and just over 3.7 MW of installed capacity.

- ▶ Developed our relationship with Community Renewable Energy Wandsworth (CREW), installing systems at three Catholic schools in Wandsworth which were introduced by CREW.
- ▶ Continued our successful relationship with Ealing Council and Ealing Transition, bringing the total to 16 sites (14 schools and 2 Children's Centres) and 528 kWp.
- ▶ Continued our successful relationship with Harrow Council, installing a system at one additional school in Harrow.
- ▶ Awarded three further London Community Energy Fund (LCEF) grants by the GLA, to support a pre-feasibility review of Ealing schools previously rejected and capital grant support for the new Wandsworth and Harrow installations.
- ▶ Returned a further £50,563 to members by redeeming shares, paid interest at 5% on the shares subscribed under our first three share offers and at 4.5% on shares issued under the fourth share offer, and paid £15,000 in dividends to member schools.

Total generation for the year was (2,855,654 kWh) which is equivalent to the electricity consumption of almost 1,000 average households, saving 996 tonnes carbon dioxide<sup>2</sup>. Up until March 2022 generation from our installations was 99% of projections and cumulative generation from all sites at 31/8/22 was 101% of budget (at 13 GWh) which has saved almost 4,400 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. Capacity is now 3.7 MWp and the annual generation of 3.32 GWh, saving more than 1,159 T CO<sub>2</sub>.

Installations up until March 2022 were at Chelmsford School for Girls, West Acton Primary School, Grange Primary School extension, Sutton Community Academy and Ollerton & Boughton Nursery. Grange and West Acton (both in Ealing) were supported by an LCEF4 capital grant. Sutton Community Academy became our largest site.

New installations since April 2022 were all supported by LCEF 5 capital grants. These were at Sacred Heart Battersea RC Primary School, Sacred Heart Roehampton RC Primary School, St Anselm's, Wandsworth and St Bernadette's Harrow.

London Community Energy fund - We have secured grants in all five rounds of the GLA's London Community Energy Fund since it started in 2017

- ▶ *In February 2022 we were awarded up to £49,595 of further LCEF 5 grants to cover:*
  - a further pre-feasibility review of Ealing schools previously rejected (£4,800)
  - capital grant support for Wandsworth Schools (£36,295)
  - capital grant support for one additional school in Harrow (£8,500)
- ▶ *The Ealing project and St Bernadette's school in Harrow are completed.*
- ▶ *Three of the four Wandsworth schools have been completed*
- ▶ We now have 955 kWp installed on 27 schools with LCEF support

In May 2022 we launched our sixth share offer. Initially it was to raise £430,000 but we later increased it to £540,000. This was raised in six weeks, of which four weeks was priority to South West London. As a result of these funds all debts have been repaid, we have paid for 4 more installations and we have a cash balance of over £300,000 for further installations.

Future opportunities include talking to over 70 further schools, including:

- ▶ 5 more Catholic schools in south west London through CREW,
- ▶ 4 more schools from Ealing through Ealing Transition,
- ▶ 3 more from our relationship with Harrow Council
- ▶ The other sites include further schools from Multi-Academy Trusts we already work with and several new partners including Academy Trusts and a new Diocese, plus a Grammar School and a Technical Collage.
- ▶ 8 of the 70 sites are at the survey stage.

#### 4. Accounts

Eilish Kavanagh presented the accounts.

Income has increased this year to £424,234, which is an increase of 6% on last year. The majority of the cost of sales is the depreciation charge.

Admin expenses is lower this year at £50,332. Other operating income is mainly from the grants that Andy talked about. Last year we received £4,403 whereas this year we received £10,970.

The surplus for the year was £167,996 which is an increase on last year.

Fixed assets have obviously increased. This represents the capital cost of all of the schools. Net assets are pretty much the same as it was last year - £294,109.

From the surplus of £167,996 the dividend of £15,000 should have been added in respect of 2020/1, we therefore propose:

- ▶ interest for 2021/22 of £129,693 being
  - 5% for the first 3 share offers, and
  - The fixed rate 4.5% for the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> offers.
- ▶ Dividend to member schools of £25,000 (*£15,000 for last year in the accounts*)
- ▶ With the remaining £28,303 to reserves

In the financial year we redeemed £50,863 of shares to members. This enables members to get back money sooner than 20 years and SEC can pay interest at a rate relevant to returns of newer sites. We expect to continue to redeem shares on an annual basis (as well as small ad-hoc requests).

#### Questions

Q. Is there are further update on the Website Data Breach?

A. All members who were affected were notified straight away and security has been reinstated.

Q. How are you going to manage in terms of resources with the number of enquiries etc because if you are dealing with 70 now plus an additional 24 plus any others which you are going to get. That is a heavy workload?

A. We are struggling. Energy4All are recruiting an additional person to support this work. Currently it is dealt with by the Board and by Zach.

Q. Could we give a larger dividend to Schools even though its less interest to members?

A. We could ask members to waive their interest then it could be added to the Schools dividend.

Q. Do you know what proportion of electricity generated is used by the schools and how much is exported?

A. We know how much we generate and we know how much we export. We don't know how much the school's use.

Q. What happens to what they generate over the summer when the kids are not there?

A. They don't stop they have a base load like everybody else. The schools don't shut totally they are still using some electricity.

## 5. FORMAL MEETING

### Motions

**Motion 1: To approve the minutes of the Annual General meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021.**

*Proposer:* Mike Smyth

*Seconder:* Trevor Brook

Results of voting as below:

<b>Votes Cast</b>	<b>At AGM</b>	<b>Online/Postal</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>In Favour</i>	21	22	6	49
<i>Abstain</i>	1	7	0	8
<i>Against</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Motion carried</i>				

**Motion 2: To receive and adopt the annual accounts up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.**

*Proposer:* Mike Smyth

*Seconder:* Anne Ford

Results of voting as below:

<b>Votes Cast</b>	<b>At AGM</b>	<b>Online/Postal</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>In Favour</i>	22	28	6	56
<i>Abstain</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Against</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Motion carried</i>				

**Motion 3: To apply the surplus of the Co-operative arising in the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 as follows: to apply approximately £28,303 (being the balance of the surplus after allocation of the surplus towards the proposed sum of interest and dividends) to a general reserve for the continuation and development of the Co-operative and the furtherance of its objectives; to apply the distribution of approximately £129,693 of the Co-operative's surplus by way of share interest, to be paid at an interest rate of 5% on shares subscribed under the first three share offers and at an interest rate of 4.5% on shares subscribed under the fourth and fifth share offers; and to apply £25,000 of the surplus as a dividend to be paid to some of the Co-operative's school members in the proportions determined by the Directors.**

*Proposer:* Mike Smyth

*Seconder:* Mark Gill

Results of voting as below:

<b>Votes Cast</b>	<b>At AGM</b>	<b>Online/Postal</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>In Favour</i>	21	29	6	56
<i>Abstain</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Against</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Motion carried</i>				

**Motion 4: To disapply the obligation of the Co-operative to appoint auditors pursuant to Section 84 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 so that an audit of the accounts of the Co-operative shall not take place for the Co-operative's year of account ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.**

*Proposer:* Mike Smyth

*Seconder:* Wendi Lethbridge

Results of voting as below:

<b>Votes Cast</b>	<b>At AGM</b>	<b>Online/Postal</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>In Favour</i>	20	25	6	51
<i>Abstain</i>	1	2	0	3
<i>Against</i>	1	2	0	3
<i>Motion carried</i>				

**Motion 5: To re-appoint Melville & Co, Chartered Accountants.**

*Proposer:* Mike Smyth

*Seconder:* Peter Robinson

Results of voting as below:

<b>Votes Cast</b>	<b>At AGM</b>	<b>Online/Postal</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>In Favour</i>	19	28	6	53
<i>Abstain</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Against</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Motion carried</i>				

**Election of Directors:**

**Motion 6: To re-elect Alan Simpson as a director of the Co-operative.**

*Proposer:* Mike Smyth

*Seconder:* Trevor Brook

Results of voting as below:

<b>Votes Cast</b>	<b>At AGM</b>	<b>Online/Postal</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>In Favour</i>	22	27	6	55
<i>Abstain</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Against</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Motion carried</i>				

**Motion 7: To re-elect Richard Watson as a director of the Co-operative.**

*Proposer:* Mike Smyth

*Seconder:* Cathy Smyth

Results of voting as below:

<b>Votes Cast</b>	<b>At AGM</b>	<b>Online/Postal</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>In Favour</i>	21	26	6	53
<i>Abstain</i>	1	1	0	2
<i>Against</i>	0	2	0	2
<i>Motion carried</i>				

**Motion 8: To appoint Rob Kay as a director of the Co-operative.***Proposer:* Mike Smyth*Seconder:* Laura Moreno

Results of voting as below:

<b>Votes Cast</b>	<b>At AGM</b>	<b>Online/Postal</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>In Favour</i>	13	22	6	41
<i>Abstain</i>	7	3	0	10
<i>Against</i>	2	4	0	6
<i>Motion carried</i>				

**Motion 9: To consider the future interest rate policy of the Co-operative.**

Due to the energy market at present Mike did not propose this motion. It will be discussed in the future when things have settled down.

**Motion 10: To extend the area of operation of the Co-operative to include South West England including Devon and Cornwall.***Proposer:* Mike Smyth*Seconder:* Tim Moseley

Results of voting as below:

<b>Votes Cast</b>	<b>At AGM</b>	<b>Online/Postal</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>In Favour</i>	17	24	6	47
<i>Abstain</i>	3	2	0	5
<i>Against</i>	2	3	0	5
<i>Motion carried</i>				

**6. Questions**

Q. Would we be willing to extend our operation to South West England including Devon and Cornwall?

A. We are keen but we need schools to want to participate. We would need a contact within the school rather than cold calling.

Q. Is the co-op thinking about battery storage?

A. We are, there are 4 sites within Energy4All that have batteries in. They don't work amazingly well with solar just because we don't have excess to store on many of those days. Long-term trying to offer grid services from the batteries is probably where the advantage of having a battery is going to be.

Q. Who are the main people you are connected with?

A. Nearly all are with Octopus Energy.

Mike thanked all members for attending and participating in the meeting.

Meeting closed at 7:21pm.

Mike Smyth (Chair)

The Schools' Energy Co-operative