

Energy Local Crickhowell

First meeting
25 September 2018

Outline of meeting



Introductions

1. What is Energy Local?

Timescales for switching and joining the Club

2. Joining the Energy Local Crickhowell Club

3. Relationships

Questions for Coop Energy

4. The Club

People



Andrew Fryer
Peter Blood

Chair, Llangattock Green Valleys
Director, Llangattock Green Valleys

Gareth Ellis

Project Facilitator, The Green Valleys

Mary Gillie

Energy Local CIC

Richard Chavasse

Co-operative Energy, via video phone-in

Energy Local is a small Community Interest Company (CIC) which developed the *Energy Local* model.

Llangattock Green Valleys is a Community Interest Company which is providing the effort to establish the Energy Local Crickhowell Club.

Once established the Energy Local Club members elect their own Board.

1 What is Energy Local?



Energy Local
Crickhowell

Share locally generated renewable electricity:

- Support local generators
- Keep money within the local community
- Reduce the electricity cost to consumers



Achieved through an ENERGY LOCAL CLUB

- Anyone can take part, as consumers or larger generators
- A community activity: A Co-operative

First Club is operating in Bethesda

Next: Crickhowell

How does it work?



Energy Local
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1. When renewable electricity is available:

- Its cost is shared equally between households using power in each 30 min time interval
- Tariff for this electricity less than normal, all goes to the generator (more than normal export tariff)

WIN-WIN

2. When insufficient renewable electricity for all users:

- Supplied from the grid
- Energy Local Time of Use Tariff

Cooperative Energy is the supplier for Energy Local schemes.
All Club members connected to Crickhowell sub-station.
Scheme complies with OFGEM regulations.

Example of Time of Use Tariff



Savings by moving electricity use to lower cost periods, eg washing machine, dishwasher, immersion heater.

Tariff for local renewable electricity in region of 8 p per kWh



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Generators



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There is an optimum number of households to provide attractive gains for the generator and savings for consumers. This depends on the generating capacity in the Club.

One generator is being switched to Cooperative Energy.
Located at Cwm Gu, a community scheme operated by Llangattock Green Valleys.

Plan to add more generators, then more consumers.



Notes

In response to various questions:

The renewable generator tariff is only available to consumers when power is available from the local renewable generator.

Initially the scheme will start with just one hydro generator. It is desirable to have some solar generation also, but at the present time only large scale PV justifies the metering costs involved.

All addresses have been checked against the Western Power Distribution map which shows electricity supply to individual properties. Those supplied from the Crickhowell sub station are “matched” to this supply area. All matched registrants have been invited to the meeting.

Timescales for switching



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- ✓ You are all supplied from the Crickhowell Substation (Matched)
- ✓ You have registered interest in joining Energy Local Crickhowell

Next: switching to Coop Energy Local tariff and joining the club.

Mary Gillie Energy Local

Notes

Mary explained that the Energy Local model is a very new idea and as the Crickhowell Club is only the second to be established there is still work to be done to develop smooth processes.

Energy Local and Coop Energy are preparing the systems to switch consumers to Coop Energy as their supplier, and will be reviewing progress in about a month's time. Matched registrants of the Crickhowell Club will be sent an update on plans for switching toward the end of October.

One of the difficulties is around the smart meters which are used by Energy Local Clubs. These are not the same meters as those currently being used in the national roll-out; they provide more information. They communicate via the mobile network or broadband and in rural areas where these services are not available a radio network is used. Security is probably better than the national network.

Meters are installed free of charge. However some existing meters are in locations with poor access (particularly in older buildings) and it may be necessary for the householder to have some changes made to enable a smart meter to be fitted. Similarly very old wiring to the meter may need to be replaced. It was suggested that consumers check accessibility of their meter so that possible difficulties can be promptly assessed.

Notes

Q: What does a smart meter do?

A: A smart meter will tell you how much power you are using every half an hour. This is done automatically and the readings are also relayed daily to the supplier, but it's necessary for Coop Energy to have the permission of consumers to do this.

Consumers will have access to the data and there'll also be renewable energy generation predictions based on the weather forecast.

You will be able to see how much power you've used every half an hour, the day after it's been used.

The transition between use of local hydro electricity and electricity from the grid is seamless: you won't know it's happening.

You may choose to switch both electricity and gas to Coop Energy but the Energy Local scheme only applies to electricity at the present time.

2. Joining the Club



Energy Local
Crickhowell

Next steps, in outline:

- Tariffs announced and posted on the Crickhowell segment of the EL portal
- Period of time to consider this and deal with questions.
- Email addresses of registrants in the area forwarded to Coop Energy.

- Email from Cooperative Energy to confirm details of their offer.
 - You have 14 days to consider this. If it does not meet your requirements you can withdraw from the process.
 - Reply to Cooperative Energy by email

Joining the Club



Energy Local
Crickhowell

- It takes about 35 days to switch
- Cooperative Energy arrange to fit your smart meter.
After switching, initially charged on a special single rate tariff until your smart meter has been fitted.
- Once smart meter fitted, Cooperative Energy use half-hourly data from the meter to calculate your bill according to the Club generator tariff and Time Of Use Tariff.
- You are a Club member when you are on the Energy Local tariff. We will send you a membership card and a welcome pack.
- Access the Energy Local dashboard to monitor use and savings.

3. Relationships



Energy Local
Crickhowell

Cooperative Energy is an approved electricity supplier.

Energy Local is underpinned by three relationships.

➤ **Supplier and generator contract.**

The generator is part of an Energy Local club, the supplier will pass on the 'matched price' for power used by the Energy Local Club when it is generated.

➤ **Supplier and consumer contract.**

If the household uses power when the Energy Local Club generators are operating, the household will receive a 'share' of this power and pay the agreed 'match price' for this power.

➤ **Members and the Club**

To participate in Energy Local all households and generators must be members of their Energy Local Club.



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Questions for Coop Energy

Notes

Q: What's in it for Coop?

A: Energy Local model is complex and substantial investment was needed at the beginning. A big part of the Coop is serving underserved markets and Coop is keen to test out this model and see if it accesses customers who are sometimes sidelined or ignored due to their rural or remote locations. It is hoped that an EL customer will stay longer with their supplier rather than switching frequently.

Q: What is the standing charge?

A: Can't confirm the actual financial amount at present. It covers all non-commodity costs e.g maintaining meters etc and will be competitive.

Q: In view of that what are the savings in Bethesda?

A: Average consumer in the club has seen a £35 discount on every quarterly bill. This is determined by level of consumer engagement and how proactive they are in using the dashboard, monitoring usage and using the Time of Use tariff to their advantage.

Consumers will be billed quarterly and no more estimated bills.

Customers are free to leave at any point. The meter Coop Energy supplies can be used by other suppliers.

Q: How long from going on the initial flat rate to getting on the Energy Local tariffs?

A: About a month for most customers.

Notes

Q: Please can you describe the meter? What will it look like? How big is it?

A: They are highly advanced EDM1 meters – the same size as a conventional meter.

EL portal offers far more info to consumers than is available to everyone else.

PB: 20cm high, 28cm wide, 12cm deep Photographs next slide.

Q: Coop Energy and the supply of gas. Will we still have to read our gas meters?

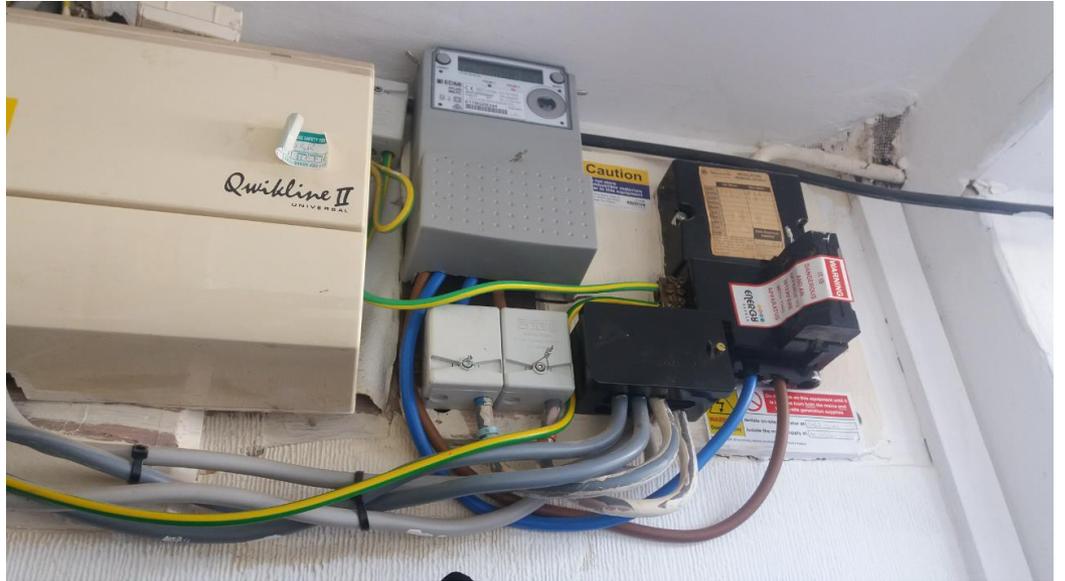
A: Yes. Coop will take you on as a dual fuel customer if you wish. Our best gas prices on offer are given to our dual fuel customers. With time, and in discussion with Mary Gillie, we are looking in to green gas supplies as a potential future project.

Q: My supply contract will terminate at the end of this year. What should I do?

A: There is a 49 day window before your contract expires when you are free to change supplier without incurring exit fees. Many of those in Bethesda who incurred charges felt the benefits of joining the club outweighed the exit fee.

Q: If Club didn't get going until January, and my current contract expires at end of December, what should I do in the interim? Should I join Coop Energy and wait?

A: Yes. One option would be swap to Coop Energy's standard tariff as an interim measure until the Club is up and running.



Notes

Gareth showed a Bethesda dashboard.

<https://cydynni.org.uk/bethesda?forecast>

You can't log in to see individual data but you can explore the dashboard, BUT, note that the time of use tariff prices for Crickhowell will not be the same as currently used in Bethesda.

Q: What happens if the hydro gets flooded?

A: The actual system is unlikely to get washed away, but this is another reason to get more generators involved to reduce the risk.

Q: When more generators join the club, will the number of consumers increase?

A: Everyone who receives electricity through the Crickhowell substation is eligible to join and with more generation the number of consumers will be increased within the range where benefits of joining the club are maintained.

4. The Club



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The Energy Local Club comprises consumer and generator members.

The Club is a Cooperative, members elect its directors.

Its principal functions are to:

- recruit members, generators and consumers
- agree the price paid to generators for locally generated electricity
- Help the members make the most of the match and Time of Use Tariffs, to reduce electricity costs

Small charge on members' bills provides for administrative expenses.

The Club is a member of the national Energy Local Hub which provides support (modelling, advice on regulatory matters).

Pays a small fee to the Hub

4. Club Membership



You support local renewable generators by being members of a community group.

Adapt your electricity use to maximise use of local renewables locally and shift to low cost time periods.

Elect Club officers from consumer and generator members who negotiate the generator tariff.

Any other Club activities are for the Club to decide.
For example: feedback on the collective performance of the Club, fraction of local renewables used, savings achieved.

Sharing good practice

Notes

Once households are on the Energy Local tariff the club can be formally established, and to do that it will be necessary to appoint officers of the club: consumer member, generator member(s), treasurer, secretary and chair.

Gareth suggested that any persons interested in becoming directors of the Energy Local Crickhowell cooperative should let him know at gareth.ellis@thegreenvalleys.org

Please put your MPAN number onto your entry in the portal database. It is a 13 digit number to be found on your bill. On PB's bill it is called the Supply Number.

Details of the contract, eg whether it is fixed term or indefinite, are given on PB's annual summary from the supplier.

Even though you can view your electricity use via the dashboard you will be sent a quarterly bill in the usual way.

If you already have a smart meter it will have to be changed to the Energy Local model.

Q: What about more potential members? Shall we spread the word?

A: Yes! We can take a few more consumers now and even when we reach the current limit, remaining registrants will be able to join, in date sequence, as we add more generation.