



LLANGATTOCK GREEN VALLEYS NEWSLETTER

Issue 59 - April 2015

ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS:

It's been a relatively quiet month on the hydro front. The intake of Cwm Gu scheme is now complete and, with dry weather forecast in the days ahead, TGV's contractor will be busy completing the trenching and laying the penstock pipe in the upper part of the scheme during the days ahead.

An encouraging meeting took place on site at Gargwy Fach with a representative of the forestry company which manages the area near the scheme, but we have yet to get a firm agreement that we can go ahead and build the scheme.

We are also exploring a number of big PV roof mounted schemes with the potential of another co-op being launched. We hope to include local schools and agricultural barns in the scheme, as well as large commercial buildings, village halls, chapels and churches. Anybody with a building with a large roof which meets the following criteria:

Size

- 30kWp+ (120 panels @ 250w panels)
- 220m² of area needed for 30kWp
- So 30-50kWp is your starting point and then you jump to 135-150kWp bracket then as your next sizing point for workable return figures
- Ideally single roof not multiple roofs as costs increase i.e. scaffolding, safety netting (if agri barns), cable runs etc

Electricity

- Split phase at the very least available at site but three phase needed above 35kWp sized scheme
- Good on site demand for electricity

Orientation

- Ideally south west through to south east orientation
- East/West orientation workable but need to have strong on site electricity demand to support workable return.

and who would like to explore either doing it at the same time for themselves, and so reducing their costs through the benefits of bulk buying, or leasing the roof to the co-operative, with a deal on cheap electricity, please get in contact with me: andrew@wernwatkin.fsnet.co.uk. Many thanks, Andrew

What does kilowatt peak (kWp) actually mean?

Kilowatt peak stands for peak power. This value specifies the output power achieved by a solar module under full solar radiation (under set Standard Test Conditions). Solar radiation of 1,000 watts per square meter is used to define standard conditions.

Peak power is also referred to as "nominal power" by most manufacturers. Since it is based on measurements under optimum conditions, the peak power is not the same as the power under actual radiation conditions. In practice, this will be approximately 15-20% lower due to the considerable heating of the solar cells.

Ref: [Solar is Future](#)

PLEASE ASK US!

If anybody would like to look at our finances or discuss our schemes, please contact us and we will be very happy to help. We are proud to be operating a transparent and successful Community Interest Company.

LGV VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE! CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for a number of people who would like to get involved at Director and non-Director level. Please get in touch with Andrew Fryer if you would like to explore the ways in which you can help: andrew@wernwatkin.fsnet.co.uk

LLANGATTOCK COMMUNITY WOODLANDS (LCW):



Community Woodlands have now installed a fence at Jarrett's which has been designed to deter future fly tipping from the lay by near Glangrwyney. If you have read earlier newsletters we showed you the

results of the 'Litter Pick Day' and the massive amount of historic fly tipping at this site. Even last week someone tried to put a bag of rubbish under the fence in a gap which has now been filled in. Our plan is to do more clean-up work in the future as there is still a lot of litter! We've planted some pesky hawthorn hedging which will give a pleasant bloom in the spring, fruit in the autumn and prickles for anyone trying to dump bags of rubbish. To make an attractive backdrop there are spindleberry trees which will be a great addition in this gap giving lovely colour when the berries arrive. Love to see new trees being planted.

Our activities in the Llangattock Community Woodlands will soon be expanding. We heard last month that Environment Wales will be supporting our application for a Management Grant to employ a Volunteer Manager who will also be responsible for project management and continuing to develop our sustainable model. The application was for a three year project but like so many activities supported by Government at the moment there is a review of funding for Environment Wales by the Welsh Government. So our three year application may only last for six months if the review is not favourable. However, we are confident that the Welsh Government will see the extraordinary work of Environment Wales as being good value for money. So watch this space for future activities to include Trees and Bees information and training, Green Craft work and our continued sustainable Woodland Management activities. The new post holder is due to start work soon.

LCW are also working with Canals and Rivers Trust to expand our woodland activity along the canal and of course we still have those 400 trees from the Woodland Trust to plant. Bad weather and other projects mean we might have a slight delay in planting and would have hoped to give you a date sometime this month. We still hope to do this but as yet no date has been set aside.

LCW Trustees are justly proud of the commitment and enthusiasm of all our volunteers. If you are interested in environmental management, green wood crafts or bee keeping then please do get in touch. Visit our website lcwg.btck.co.uk or email eric.gower@gmail.com for a membership form.

TY'R ASH MEADOW:

Unfortunately we have not heard back yet due to National Park Authority shortages.

If you want to find out more please do contact Jackie Charlton and she will be able to give you more information: jackiecharltonlqv@gmail.com

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT - LLANGATTOCK LITTER PICKERS:

March saw Llangattock Litter Pickers complete a 'full house or 'clean sweep" of picking; each and every mile of our 'patch' of 70+ miles was swept with 27 bags of litter picked from in and around the community with 50 volunteers hours deployed to achieve the results. April's Community Litter Pick saw 5 volunteers complete 7.6 miles of roadside verge picking resulting in 4 bags of litter being collected.

We are hoping to install the additional fourteen flower troughs into the community and plant the wild flower seeds this month; currently we are being held up by the Powys County Council's legal department re the necessary consents but we are on the case.

If anyone fancies a mid-week litter pick, and Saturdays are difficult for some people, we are out on the following days/times. Even an hour of your time can make a difference!

- Tuesday 14th April meeting at 9am at Park Drive - **Hafod Road**: Intermediate Road Junction (Brynmaur) - Gas Pumping Station (Hillside)
- Tuesday 21st April meeting at 9am at Park Drive - **Llangattock Mountain to Llangynidr (B4560)** T-Junction (Llangattock Mountain) to T-Junction (Llangynidr back road-B4558)
- Tuesday 28th April meeting at 9am at **Park Drive** - T-Junction (Llangattock Mountain) to Cattle Grid (Beaufort Road, Llangattock)
- Wednesday 29th April meeting at 2pm at **Park Drive** - Route TBC

LLANGATTOCK COMMUNITY HALL – ENERGY USE):

Following a recent comment in the Llangattock Community Council Newsletter that the utility bills are rising at Llangattock Community Hall, Llangattock Green Valleys (LGV) is happy to set the record straight and is pleased to report that energy usage has in fact been falling.

The British Gas Green Streets project enabled the installation of a number of energy efficiency improvements. LGV was involved with the Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) providing a source of renewable heating and loft insulation in the attic of the main hall and rooms at the Hall. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) LEAF project that LGV was also involved with, saw the installation of an electricity sub meter to monitor the overall electricity usage at Llangattock Community Hall and separate its usage from Llangattock School, from which the Hall receives its electricity supplies. The LEAF project also provided, thermal lining to the curtains, insulation to the eaves of the main hall and new energy efficient lighting throughout the building.

Please see the electricity usage figures below for your information:

- Electricity use for the Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) only at Llangattock Community Hall for 2014 (3,263kWh) reduced by 33% when compared to 2013 (4,874kWh) where 2012 saw 4,373kWh used.
- Electricity use for 2014 (6,632kWh) at Llangattock Community Hall (overall use) has reduced by 29% when compared to 2013 (9,363kWh)
- Electricity use for 2014 (3,369kWh) at Llangattock Community (excluding ASHP electricity use) reduced by 25% when compared to 2013 (4,489kWh)

NB/ Annual variance in weather conditions and the usage of Llangattock Community Hall over and above what Llangattock School use it for, can affect the above figures when comparing annual usage against previous years' usage.

Q&A – A NEW ADDITION TO THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER:

Continuing on from last month, here is some more information about Llangattock Green Valleys. If you have any specific questions or queries, please do send them to us!

Which community groups has LGV worked with?

Since its inception, LGV has been involved with a variety of local groups, acting as a channel for grants from both public bodies and private funders. These have included Llangattock Litter Pickers, Llangattock Allotments (LACAS), Llangattock Community Woodlands group, Llangattock School

and Llangattock Community Hall. These are all entirely separate and independent legal entities with their own governance arrangements, although LGV enables these groups to use its website and communication channels to circulate announcements and articles if they want to do so. LGV is willing to work with any organised group that is interested in activities which further the aims of the Community Interest Company. This includes local Community and Town Councils in the 5 councils' area. The CIC is not limited by public sector rules and is therefore able to be quite flexible in what it does compared to other public sector sources of funds.

What work did LGV do with Llangattock Community Hall and Llangattock School?

The objective was to improve the energy efficiency of Llangattock Community Hall and Llangattock School. To do this, LGV worked with Centrica, which is a Public Limited Company, and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, via its Sustainable Development Fund (SDF). There is a case study elsewhere in the newsletter on how successful this was.

MEMBERSHIP:

To find out more about joining please visit [Llangattock Green Valleys](http://www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org).

**For more information on all our activities
visit www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org**

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**Please forward this email to anyone
who might be interested.**

If you'd like to see your photographs in the next newsletter send them
to: admin@llangattockgreenvalleys.org