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Digester Performance

Current productivity for the last quarter from Dec 19 to Feb 2019 is running at

98.6%

The overall output on the meter reading this quarter is **538,506 kWh** of renewable electricity.

Overall value of green electricity produced this quarter is **approximately £86,150**

(NB This is the approximate gross income before running costs)

Chairman's Report



The digester has run at an all-time record for the last quarter from September to December. We have averaged 98.6% generation, which unless we could have persuaded the 2G engineer to try changing the plugs and oil with the engine still running, we will have a hard task to better!

This next quarter will not be quite as good; we have had an issue with a filter blockage in the gas line. 2G took nearly three weeks to identify the problem, meaning that the engine was having to suck very hard for gas, reducing output from 250Kwh to 200Kwh.

Between Christmas and New Year, we had another problem with the loading pump gearbox failing. Gas production or electricity generation was not reduced due to this, but myself and the farm staff had to work overtime for several days through the holiday period, by feeding the digester using the farm vacci tanker and tractor.

The board have suggested that we fit a second loading pump, to work in tandem, so that in future we will always have a second pump in situ, should one fail.

Directors' report

The Board continue to hold regular meetings and receive reports from the Chairman, the Secretary, the Finance Director and the Communications Director to ensure that all aspects of the Co-operative's business are updated and discussed.

Recent developments include the possibility of purchasing a second pump to ensure any maintenance issues can be addressed without loss of production. The Board learned about the impact of stones, the blocking of a gauze filter and the quality of carbon at the last meeting, which is an illustration of the level of detail and insight provided during the meetings.

Finances are as expected with a planned first repayment of capital being finalised for later in the year. Members will be aware of the work that has been done to improve the website and Curtis has been thanked for his efforts to ensure there is access to documents and updates. The Board were delighted to note that all remaining shares have been sold.

The format of the AGM has also been debated and you may wish to make a note that the date will be Tuesday, 03 September at 7.00pm. Further details to follow.

Jan was wearing a medal at the last Board meeting and fellow directors congratulated her after winning her category in the Ruthin 10k race the previous day.

Finally Tony Griffiths has retired from the board and we are very grateful for his contribution to LPF Co-op



Well, we have to mention the weather, in the same month that we had the "Beast from the East" last year, we are in short sleeves at the sea-side enjoying the hottest February on record. Global warming is the wrong description; extreme weather occurrences seems to be what we should expect from climate change. If you are a LPF co-op member reading this newsletter, you have already done your bit to help combat Co2 emissions by your significant investment in renewable energy generation.

You are also helping to support sustainable food production. For those of you that don't already know, Organic farming is all about maintaining healthy soil, healthy soil not only produces safe nutritious food for humans and livestock, but it is also the best medium to capture Carbon from the atmosphere and utilise it to grow more food. There is only so much carbon on our planet.

The problem is: there is now, too much carbon in the atmosphere and not enough in the soil/earth. This is mostly down to increasing fossil fuel usage but also intensive farming practices. Farmers are constantly being encouraged by successful governments and powerful agro chemical companies to produce more and more food.

Deep soil cultivation and synthetic fertilizer and chemical manufacture uses huge amounts of fossil fuel, while at the same time killing soil biology and releasing valuable soil carbon into the atmosphere. The irony is that society is being focused on protecting endangered species while ignoring the fact that "all life on earth derives from soil". Healthy soil is by far our most valuable resource. Conventional farmers are beginning to better understand and respect soil biology instead of embracing chemistry. It is the soils amazing eco-system that will ultimately repair the damage that we have done to our planet's "earth"!



Financial update

Please note that your next payment is due in May 2019 and this will be the first capital repayment for all members with over £1,000 invested.

Members with £1,000 or less will not have the capital repaid until the end of the project to ensure they maintain enough qualifying investment in the cooperative. Therefore **please ensure that we have your up to date address details** to post your cheque to!

Save the date

The next AGM for Lower Park Farm Co-operative will be held on Tuesday 3rd September 2019 at 7.00pm

Formal details will be sent nearer the time

Renewable update - Chancellors spring statement

The chancellor said: "We must apply the creativity of the marketplace to deliver the solutions to one of the most complex problems of our times: climate change; and build sustainability into the heart of our economic model".

"The UK is already leading the world, reducing the carbon intensity of our economy faster than any other G20 country with ambitious and legally binding targets for the future."

He also intends to accelerate the decarbonisation of the UK's gas supplies by increasing the proportion of green gas in the grid. A consultation will be launched later this year on the appropriate mechanism needed to deliver on the commitment and reduce the nation's dependence on burning natural gas to heat homes.

Charlotte Morton, Chief Executive of the Anaerobic Digestion & Bioresources Association, agreed that the proportion of green gas in the grid needed to be increased in order to decarbonise the UK's heat supply.

She noted: "As the Chancellor rightly said in his statement, we need to reduce our dependence on burning natural gas for heating our homes in order to meet our climate targets and the only way we can do this whilst making use of the existing gas grid is to increase the amount of green gas in the grid.

Mrs Morton also said the UK's anaerobic digestion industry stands ready to produce green gas from the organic waste frequently sent to incineration or landfill but stressed the industry needs a favourable policy environment from government to help it to deliver this.

Additional Member Benefits

As members of the co-operative you are also entitled to the following extra benefits

Free Digestate*

10% off Calon-Wen produce**

- For the free digestate contact Sadie Tomlinson on 07811 960254 to arrange collection from Lower Park Farm.
- Please bring your own containers / bags to carry the digestate.

** for the 10% off Calon-Wen claim a refund or order on-line @ <https://calonwen-cymru.com>

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