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Digester Performance

Average performance for the last quarter from July 20 to September 20 is running at

97%

The average amount of green electricity produced per quarter is

536,730 kWh

The average value per quarter of green electricity produced allowing for an electricity price decrease is **approximately**

£80,509 (NB This is the approximate gross income before running costs)



Chairman's Report

The digester has run really well since our last edition of the digest back in July. Electricity output is well above budget at 97%; an output that thankfully does not seem to be adversely affected by the Covid 19 pandemic.

Our CHP engine has just undergone a scheduled rebuild at 30,000 hours, (if it were in a car this would be equivalent to 1.2 million miles) This service involved replacing all of the wearing parts including pistons, shells, cylinder heads, bearings etc. The engine was off line for four days while the work took place, so myself and a local engineer took the opportunity to service

the gas mixing valves on the post store. We had known for some time that some of the gas pipes were blocked, but did not want to stop the engine and vent the gas dome in order to mend them. The engine rebuild shut down was the perfect opportunity to get both jobs done at once.

After some trial and error we eventually managed to hydraulic the pipes clear using a pressure washer and a clever valve arrangement. In all the plant was off line for 6 days, but it was time well spent and we are now back up to full power.

Thank you to those members who attended our first virtual AGM back in September. We have had very positive feedback from all attendees and I would like to thank our Communications Director Curtis Morgan for all of his hard work in setting up and hosting the event along with my fellow board members.

Directors' report

"You are never too old to learn," is an apt phrase in the prevailing times of social distancing and our Communications Director, Curtis Morgan, encouraged the Directors to up their game in the run up to the AGM last month. The result of his excellent preparation was an e-meeting which featured supporting slides and voting took place via electronic polls. The electronic votes were added to the votes previously received by post and e-mail, from LPFC members who were unable to attend and contribute to the annual formalities and receive updates from the Executive Directors.

Re-elected directors are Sadie Tomlinson and Jan Green. The resolutions put forward were all agreed and will be reflected in an updated version of the rules which will be posted on the website when complete. One change is to cease making payments via cheque, wherever possible, from the end of 2020 and process payments electronically. Please refer to the separate article about providing your bank details in a secure manner to enable this cost-effective change to be completed in a timely manner.

We will be joined at future meetings by David Carter, a probationary Director for the next 12-months. David has a background in technology, scrutiny and compliance and is a keen supporter of environmental causes. We look forward to his contributions.

As reported at the AGM, the focus throughout the Autumn will be the audit of the Co-operative accounts and ensuring there is a sound financial base as the project moves through the middle phase. The next payment is scheduled for the end of November. Not unexpectedly, working parts of the digester having been showing signs of wear and excessive consumption of oil resulting in an engine rebuild, which is covered by existing maintenance policies. This took place in early October, resulting in a six-day shut down and subsequent loss of production.

Completing our review of contingency issues, Sadie was formally elected as Vice-Chairperson, effective from October 2020.





On the 10th September Lower Parks Farm was delighted to host Wrexham MP Sarah Atherton and Rani Jayawardena; the Minister of International Trade. The purpose of their visit was to support the government's initiative 'Keep Britain farming' where ministers were encouraged to visit a farm and have their photograph taken.

Both Sarah and Rani were very impressed with the how an organic dairy farm produces renewable energy through the process of anaerobic digestion to satisfy the farm energy requirements. The fact that the anaerobic digester is Cooperative owned was of particular interest, especially as the Co op is the only direct crowd funded cooperative in the UK.

Our guests also toured the other facilities on the farm during their visit. I'm sure you will realise we had some lively and interesting discussions!

Further information of the visit <https://leaderlive.co.uk/news/18712588>

Calon Wen have launched two amazing new products.



Financial update - next interest payment

LPF Co-op is going to make its third **interest payment** to our members at the end of November.

You will all be receiving a cheque in the post so **if you have moved house** since purchasing your shares, please ensure that we have your new address asap by email. The board have opted to send out hand written cheques, but with your cheque will be instructions for you to switch to secure electronic banking for the future payments. We will continue to make annual payments, the interest payment in November and a capital repayment in May.

Meet your Board - Susie Hoesli

Susie is Company Secretary for the Co-operative, and as such is responsible for the glue in the company, organising and completing the documentation of the Co-operative.

Her early career was in buying for a major department store group, followed by running a company with her mother, specialising in the promotional and marketing areas.

Having moved to Chester in the late 70's as a result of getting married, the family moved to Rossett in 1988. Susie has a daughter and son, plus the blessing of two grandchildren that she is delighted to spend time with.

When the opportunity arose to invest in the digester project, she leapt at the chance and also offered her services to join the board. Being part of such an environmentally worthwhile project was just too tempting to pass by.

Susie loves travelling (hopefully to be resumed before too long), sailing and skiing and gardening. Rugby is also a passion, having spent many hours at Twickenham when her family lived in Surrey.



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**

Unfortunately the digestate is not available at the moment as the contact on the farm needs to be kept to an absolute minimum during the coronavirus pandemic.

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

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