



Summer Newsletter: August 2026

Dear YCE member

This is a longer than usual newsletter with items on our 2026 Community Benefit Fund, electricity production, our new O&M provider, and long term financial performance. Please read to the end as there is important information about your shares in the last item.

Community Benefit Fund

Yealm Community Energy is delighted to announce the recipients of the 2026 round of its Community Benefit Fund. The CBF awarded £17,800 to seven organisations for a range of projects involving energy generation and saving, low carbon transport, and environmental improvements aligned with the YCE aims. As has been the case in previous years, the CBF looks to the improvement and sustainability of community halls, which are so often the hub for communities.

Applications this year were of a high quality, and our judging panel expended considerable effort to 'get it right'; we are grateful for their expertise.

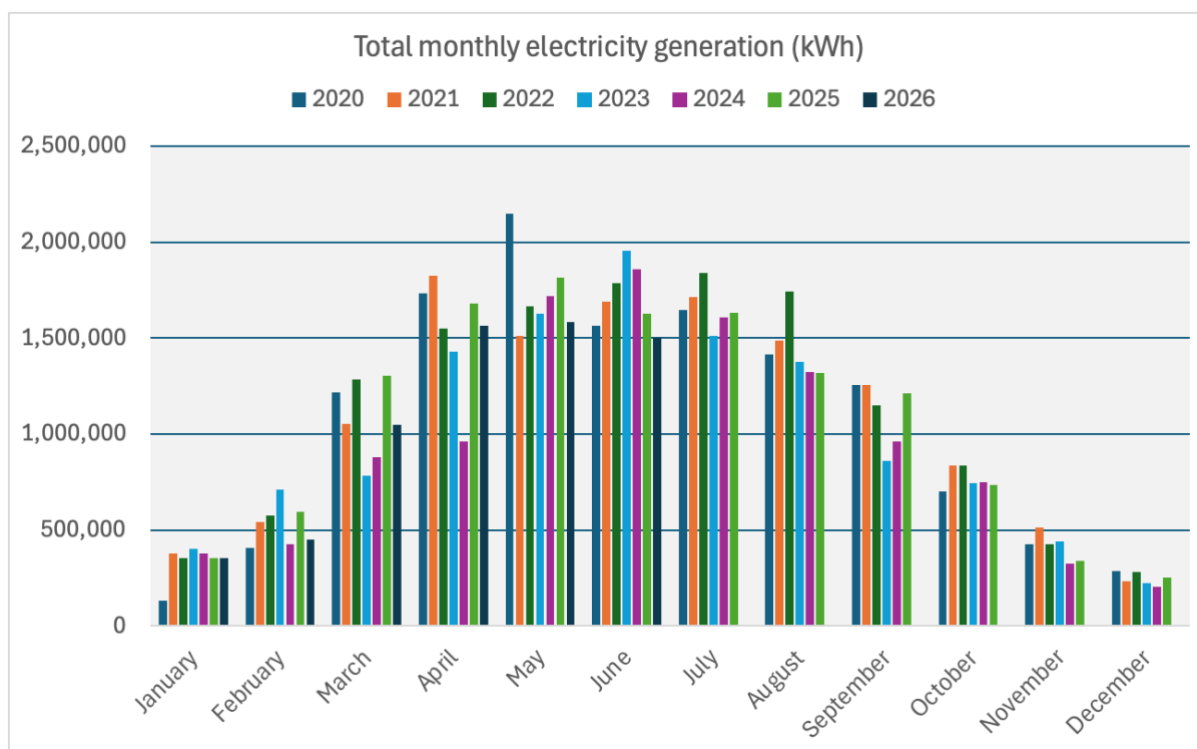
	Recipient	Project
1	Down Thomas Silver Jubilee Hall & Field	Solar panels and battery
2	Yealm Community Electric Transport (YCET)	Improvements to electric water taxi
3	Holbeton Players and hall	Install energy efficient lighting
4	Erme & Yealm Rivers Association (E&YRA)	Installation of fish trap on river Yealm to monitor and record fish species and length as part of ongoing remedial work.
5	Brixton, Yealmpton Silverbridge way footpath	Groundworks part of major upgrade of permissive path connecting two communities
6	YEM Ruby's wood	Support of educational study of unrestored woodland
7	Newton Ferrers Primary School PTFA	Install weather-protected bike racks

The YCE CBF has now provided £125,000 of sponsorship to community projects. Around £100,000 of the grants have supported community halls, environmental improvements, low carbon and energy saving transport, and education initiatives. Omitting the special

donations made to communities during covid, those four groups represent 93% of all sponsorship.

Electricity production at our solar farms

The generation results are in for the first six months of the year. Thus far our farms have generated just over 6,500,000 kWh of electricity, which is about the average we expect.



Since mid-June the Yealm areas has (by mid-August) had over 50 days of almost continuous sunshine. That's great for our solar farms, though the warm weather does come with the proviso that higher temperatures lead to reductions in panel efficiency. The ideal is full sunshine in the range 0°C to 25°C, and we have been well above that on many days this summer.

Our new O&M provider

As reported at the AGM, YCE solar farms moved to our new, Devon-based, operations and management provider Alt Energy at the end of May. This has resulted in a major improvement in the way YCE, Bright Renewables, and O&M work together, so that it now is looking like a coherent team. Colleagues have been active in making this change happen and in selecting the new provider.

Alt Energy is in the process of surveying our solar farms to check on their health. The issues that require attention are being worked through. It is likely that work will be needed to keep the solar farms running at peak production, and a plan is being formulated.

Long term financial performance

The purchase of solar farms by YCE and other community energy groups in 2023 was underpinned by a long-term financial model that predicted material repayment of a junior loan by about 2030, and quite large surpluses beyond that. The model was large, complex, and difficult to work with.

Community Energy Together consequently commissioned a new financial model that is now being examined by various interested parties. Some of my colleagues are playing an active role in this work, which is time consuming.

The new projections are looking less optimistic about the future, in the main due to changes to forecast electricity prices and the prices solar farms can capture as they compete with each other. The full consequences are carefully being assessed at this moment, but the uncertainty it generates has two immediate consequences for YCE and its members.

1. The board has decided not to proceed with a second share offer until more is known.
2. The board has decided to wholly and indefinitely suspend the right to withdraw shares by invoking paragraph (d) of [Society Rule 27](#), which determines the framework for share withdrawals.

“d) the Board may, at its sole discretion, reasonably exercised, suspend the right to withdraw either wholly or partially and either indefinitely or for a fixed period. The suspension shall extend and apply to all notices of withdrawal which have been received and remain unpaid at the time the Board suspends the right to withdraw. Where the suspension is for a fixed period, such period may be extended from time to time by the Board;”

Related to this, the board expects that in most if not all cases, during the period of suspension it will exercise its discretion not to allow withdrawals of shares of deceased members under Rule 27(e).

Taking this action to suspend is precautionary, as withdrawals were not expected to occur before the repayment of the junior loan in 2030 - see our share offer document of 2023. However, the suspension is indefinite because we do not want to set an arbitrary time limit while we are still working out the consequences of the new projections. We will of course keep the suspension under review and keep you informed.

Share transfer

Share transfers will be possible during the suspension and are supported by board, with costs of the transfers by Nevilles Registrars paid by the transferor.

In the first instance a request to transfer should be made to the company secretary (steveg@yealmenergy.co.uk). The request should contain:

- a. The name and address of the member or executors wishing to transfer shares.
- b. The name and address of the proposed transferee.
- c. Evidence that the qualify as a member (age over 16 years).
- d. A statement from the transferee that that they will accept all the conditions attached to the shares.
- e. A statement from transferor (executor) that they will bear the costs of the transfer.
- f. And the signature of both the transferor (or executor) and transferee.

And finally, please remember to put out some water for wildlife; hedgehogs and their friend need a drink in summer.

Best wishes

Andrew Moore, Chairman

