



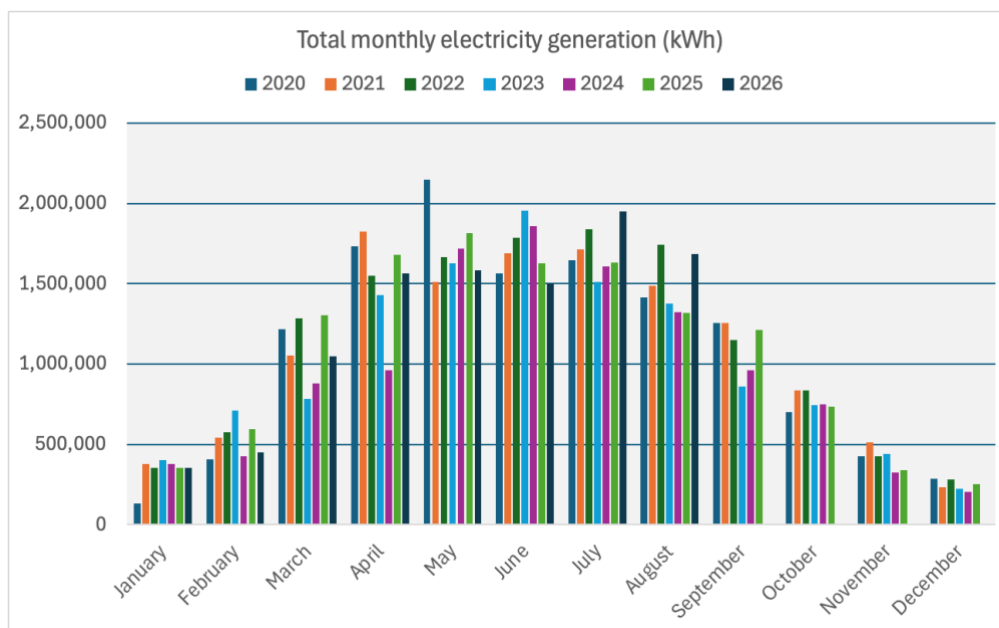
Autumn Newsletter: October 2026

Dear YCE member

A lot has been going on at YCE over the past few late Summer and Early Autumn months, and this newsletter is to keep you informed. Please read to the end, where we ask for some feedback on a project proposal.

Electricity production at our solar farms

Both July and August had many hours of sunshine, resulting in record or near record electricity production despite some minor technical issues with inverters taking the edge off. Generation up to the end of August was 10,133,751 kWh, a lot more than the 6,500,000 kWh recorded for the first six months of the year.



Negotiations of future energy price

Our income is the product of the amount of electricity generated and the price per unit. The past weeks have seen a hectic round of negotiations with retail energy providers for the electricity produced by YCE over the period April 2027 to March 2028. The word 'hectic' is perhaps an understatement, but this is anything but a simple process. Prices are influenced by political actions, by considerations of the balance of demand over production, and the

growing requirement of the UK to import electricity through interconnectors. Around 1 in every 8 units of electricity used in the UK now comes from generation in Norway, France, or Holland, and there are increasing concerns about the safety of that supply.

On top of that bids encompass a range of issues to be considered and typically arrive without much warning and with a short window for action.

But we ended up in a good place, with EDF Energy paying a good price for our future output, much better than that achieved for the current year.

Great British Energy (GBE) grant application

You may be becoming familiar with Great British Energy. It is the publicly owned energy investment company sponsored by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and established by the Great British Energy Act of May 2025. GBE invests in and co-develops clean energy and energy storage projects, and support community energy and related supply chains. GBE is currently offering a £20 million Community Fund and a £5 million Partnerships Grant to support local and community-owned clean energy projects, with an application deadline of 12 November 2026.

YCE is currently preparing an application for Stage 1 Feasibility grant funding (up to £40,000) from the Community Fund. YCE wants to establish whether co-located wind generation and battery storage could be possible at our Newton Downs solar farm, and whether local supply mechanisms could be established to maximize local carbon reduction, tackle energy bills, and improve overall return on investment.

Thus far at least three groups have been approached to quote for the technical work to answer these questions. We are seeking expert technical, legal, and financial analysis for these distinct but linked aims.

- **Co-Located Wind Generation:** Planning constraints for the South Devon National Landscape (formerly AONB) would mean only a relatively small (250 kW) turbine would be allowed, if any. The supply of smaller turbines is limited, cost-effectiveness is not a given, and getting large turbine blades down narrow Devon lanes can be next to impossible. Which is why a feasibility study before action is an absolute requirement.
- **Virtual Energy Local Market Scheme:** What might make a smaller turbine worthwhile is if it could feed into the local low tension network (11,000 volt). This would allow locally generated electricity to be sold to local consumers, in partnership with a licensed supplier partner. Again, not straightforward, but well worth evaluation.
- **Battery Energy Storage System (BESS):** Batteries allow solar power generated during the day to be released during times of high consumption (and substantially higher prices). But there are many constraints, including: size, operational integration, and revenue stacking (arbitrage, time-shifting, and grid balancing) operating alongside the site's Generator Constraint Panel (GCP) and South West Operational Tripping Scheme.

These are the earliest of early days, but I wanted members to know that YCE is taking the opportunities on offer to do the best for members and the community.

Members are likely be in contact if they have any thoughts on this, and to make it easy we have created a short online poll (<https://forms.gle/JmyqRecdC7Pi5rdz9>). If this link doesn't take you directly to the form, just copy and paste into your browser.

Best wishes

Andrew Moore, Chairman