

Conversation 6 – Solar Power

Wednesday March 22, 2017

7 Bristo Square, University of Edinburgh EH8 9AL.

Aim

The aim of this event was to *“discuss what energy source will power our vehicles in 2050? How will Renewables be integrated into new housing developments? Where will Energy Storage best be located? How has the Edinburgh Community Solar Co-op fared in its first year of operation?”*

How Renewable Energy technologies are eclipsing fossil fuels and - as price of both PhotoVoltaic Solar Panels and Wind Turbines comes down and capacity increases - this ushers in a new era of distributed energy. Our speakers will introduce the topics and then we will explore all aspects of the emerging questions.

Speakers

Stephen Strachan Changeworks

Jestyn Davis, Moray Estates Garden District Project development plan with district heating.

Richard Witney, Edinburgh Community Solar Cooperative.

Michael Hale Better Energy Control and storage options

Robert Murphy, Edinburgh College Electric Vehicle Project

Summary of the outcomes of the discussions

- There was great input from invited guests but little peer to peer discussion. Participants contributed post-its of their suggestions for following up the input from the 5 speakers.
- Leaflets to inform general public on the rise in solar power on roofs, electric cars in Edinburgh and energy storage units. With webs/ emails to go to.
- Expand on the legislation aspects (the practical).
- Planners (CEC and Holyrood) should insist on renewables; Garden District must have district heating and solar PV, as in outline plan.
- Council to stipulate sustainable aspects of new builds.
- Shared roofs and how to install PV on them.
- Pushing for council policy reintegration of solar storage in new builds.
- Could solar coop be extended to commercial roofs eg supermarkets ?
- Create a working list of actions related to solar energy for the city of Edinburgh.
- Accelerate transition to a low carbon environment.
- Better advertising, more students, and local authority engagement.
- How can master planners specify responsibilities of builders of houses on the land- incorporate design?

- The concluded actions from conversations 3 and 6 can be found in the linked file.