

# fact sheet for members

The Schools' Energy Co-operative Limited

August 2019 update



**STOP PRESS:** On the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019, solar PV provided over a quarter of UK electricity\*

*Since 2014 The Schools' Energy Co-operative has installed solar PV systems on 56 schools from Poole to Teesside, with more expected soon. This has been funded by £2.2 million raised from our 524 members. We expect to save more than 800 tonnes\*\* of carbon dioxide each year, for at least the next 20 years.*

As predicted in our October 2017 fact sheet, our total capacity now exceeds 2 megawatts, and the installations are expected to produce around 1.9 gigawatt-hours of electricity each year. This is enough to power around 500 typical UK homes, or to make nearly 30 million cups of tea!



Glenleigh Park Primary Academy, our first school

Our success had been recognised by three new awards. We were recognised as "Community Energy Organisation of the year" by Community Energy England in October 2018, "Co-operative of the year" by the Co-operatives Congress in June 2019, and "Local Energy project of the year" by Suffolk County Council in July 2019.



## Goodbye to coal (almost!) with your help.

In 2014, coal provided nearly 30% of UK electricity. In 2019, this is expected to fall to about 3%. Solar now provides nearly 4% of our electricity each year, and along with other renewables and demand reduction, it helped to reduce overall fossil fuels use for electricity by more than one third between 2013 and 2019.



\* <https://www.current-news.co.uk/news/uk-power-records-continue-to-fall-as-solar-sets-new-generation-high>

\*\* compared to generation from gas

The feed-in-tariff (FiT) subsidy, which is guaranteed for 20 years from each installation date, was closed to new installations in March 2019. As a community organisation, we were able to "pre-register" sites, giving us a further year to implement. We pre-registered 58 sites, and have so far installed PV systems on 5 of them. This includes one school in Ealing, where our collaboration with Ealing Transition and the local council has resulted in 12 schools, and four in Harrow with the support of Harrow council – with more expected to follow.

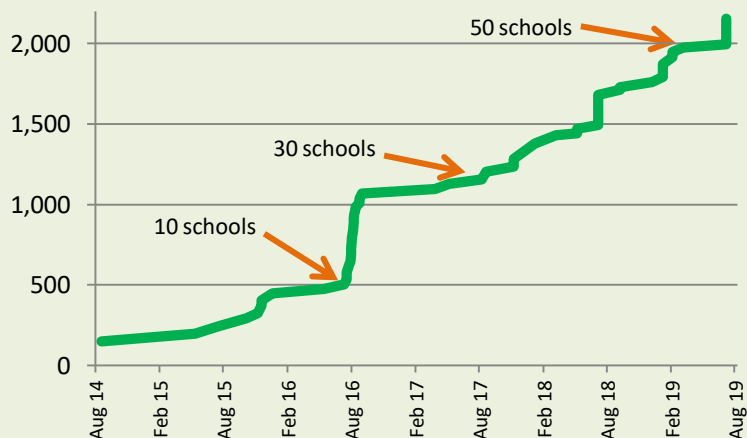
Even without the FiT, systems on some schools can still be viable. We have already installed PV on one school without the subsidy, and are looking at other ways to raise funds. We are also exploring ways to help schools save energy by switching to LED lighting, and have installed LEDs in one school so far.



Perivale Primary School, Ealing, our 50<sup>th</sup> school

*Our members funded this amazing growth.* Our first share issue was in 2014, and our fourth in 2018/9 raised nearly £950,000.

## Our development, and growth in installed capacity (kW)



*The schools themselves use most of the energy generated* by the PV panels, and any excess is exported to the electricity grid. As we own the systems, the schools pay us for the power they use, at a discount to their normal electricity cost.

On our existing systems, we also get the FiT, and payment for any energy exported. These income streams fund our operating costs, and payments to our shareholders. We retain some money for the future, and everything left is paid to the schools.



Westfield Primary Academy