Energy Local Q&A (from Corris) DRAFT

Q: More details about the Advance Meter and options for how it communicates please. As a last resort, could it be plugged in to a wifi router?

A: The one we use currently is called EDM1 Mk7 but we may switch to Kyfa. They do not have a in house display supplied like the ones on the SMETS meters being used in the general roll out but they are better for the half hour metering communication options required for Energy Local. Much better than an inhouse display you will be able to see all your data and the club’s online at the online dashboard instead. We can also adapt this in future to your needs.

A breakdown of consumption is provided on the bills, broken down by tariff and whether it was from the local generator or from Coop Energy.

The default communication broadband (with wifi in the home) with LORA radio as a back up. However GSM (i.e. mobile phone signal) or zigbee are possible.

Potentially an Ethernet cable could be plugged into the meter instead of wifi but then your router would have to be next to your meter.

Q: Why is it not possible to use pre-payment meters? Is there such a thing as smart pre-payment meter? This is a big barrier to Energy Local’s aspiration to improve fuel poverty in the area.

A: At the moment we can not communicate with smartmeters that provide a prepayment function. We are working on a solution to allow us communicate with them. Its important that we get the data every few days at least, and be able to update the credit the meter for the savings made by using local renewable power (they can’t wait for a quarterly bill like those of us on direct debit).

Q: Could domestic PV systems join as Generators?

A: In theory yes, we still have not been able to put it into practice but it is on the to do list.

Q: What proportion of Coop Energy’s supply is from renewable sources?

A: 100% See <https://www.cooperativeenergy.coop/why-us/our-energy/our-energy-sources/>

Q: Is there a minimum contract period following switching?

A: Yes – 12 months

Q: Might I need to employ a local electrician?

A: It’s possible - for example if there is a problem with you wiring or the wires from you old meter are not long enough you will need to get an electrician to make the adjustments before a meter can be fitted.

Q: Can I join if I’m on a fixed term contract now?

A: Yes, but you may have to pay a penalty if you leave that contract early. Note you can exit a fixed term contract within the last 2 months without a penalty.

Register your interest anyway so as to keep in touch with the Club’s proposed dates for switching. You could switch to Coop Energy's cheapest fixed rate when yours ends, and they won’t charge you a penalty for switching to the Energy Local tariff later.