



Annual Bondholders Report

April 2020



**GAWCOTT FIELDS
COMMUNITY
SOLAR**



Foreword

In these challenging times our thoughts are with those facing hardship due to the Coronavirus outbreak and key workers and volunteers getting our communities through the crisis. Our community solar farm continues to generate electricity from the sun and our operations contractors are continuing near-normal operations.

In the first week of the lockdown, Gawcott Solar mobilized a **£14,000** Corona Crisis Fund to support local community organisations helping those facing hardship due to the Coronavirus outbreak and shutdown.

We have made 2 donations in the first week of the shutdown:

- **£2,500 to Buckingham Food Bank to help provide emergency food to local families in crisis**
- **£747 to YC2 Buckingham & Winslow Young Carers towards gift vouchers to cheer up 55 young carers looking after family members at home**

National Energy Foundation, which manages our Bee Warm energy advice service, is focusing its efforts on helping local households in financial hardship to deal with energy company issues, including offering pre-pay meter vouchers.

“We are so grateful to Gawcott Community Solar for their amazing donation. This will ensure the elderly and vulnerable as well as others in crisis as a result of this epidemic can be provided with emergency food parcels when needed.”

- Keith Croxton, Buckingham Food Bank.

**LOCAL
POWER**

Welcome

The Directors of Gawcott Fields Community Solar Project CIC (“Gawcott Solar CIC”) are pleased to present our third annual report to bondholders.

The Gawcott Fields community solar farm has been generating electricity and income from the sun since June 2016 and this report covers the year to end December 2019. The annual accounts to the last year end (June 2019) are attached.



About Gawcott Solar CIC

Gawcott Solar CIC is a Community Interest Company which owns a community solar farm at Gawcott Fields Farm, between Gawcott and Buckingham.

The 4.17MWp solar Farm generates over 4 million kWh of renewable electricity each year, equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of around 1,000 homes. Gawcott Solar CIC is professionally managed by Communities for Renewables CIC.

Surplus income generated by the solar farm (after operating and finance costs, including payments to bondholders) is used to support community organisations and projects in the local area, and to help local people struggling with energy debt and fuel poverty.

Financing

Gawcott Solar CIC's finance structure is summarised below.

Finance source	Initial loan size	Balance at end Dec '19
Senior loan from Santander Bank <i>10-year loan with 15yr amortization</i>	£3,180,000	£2,800,000
Junior loan from Social and Sustainable Capital (SASC) <i>Originally a 2-year loan, refinanced in 2019 to a 15-year loan at a reduced interest rate</i>	£575,000	£425,000
Gawcott Solar CIC bond offer <i>As per December 2016 Bond Offer Document</i>	£419,000	£419,000
Harper Solar Grid Share Loan	£354,000	£354,000
Total	£4,528,000	£3,998,000

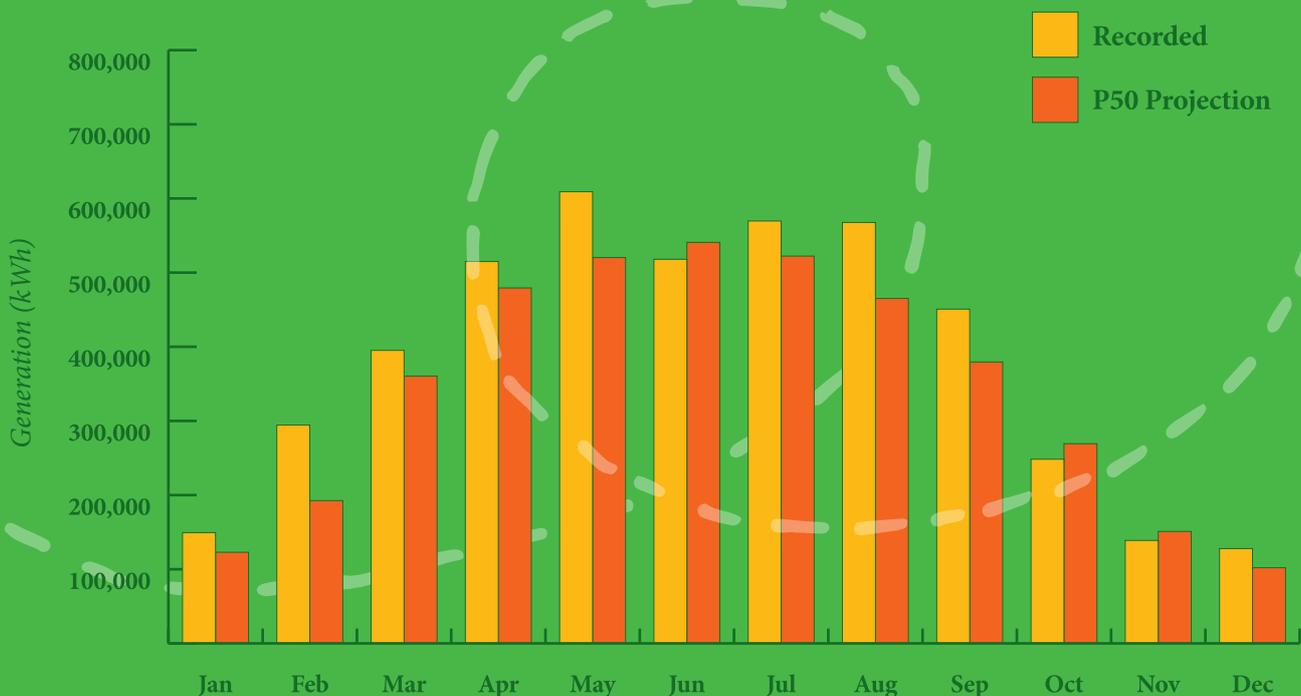


Solar farm performance

From January to December 2019 the solar farm generated 4,584 MWh of electricity. This was 12% higher than the P50 generation forecast of 4,106 MWh for this period.

The P50 (50% probability) forecast is the long-term average on which the projections for the bond offer and community surplus income are based. The projections anticipate a degradation in panel performance which will result in a 0.4% reduction in generation each year.

As the chart below illustrates, seasonal fluctuations in generation were broadly as projected, with the monthly projection exceeded in 9 months and missed in 3 months



2019 Generation Summary

Financial performance

Overall, the financial performance of the Company from January to December has exceeded projections.

The table below summarises Gawcott Solar CIC's financials for the 2019 calendar year, based on management accounts. Annual accounts to 30th June 2019 have been provided separately.

	1st January 2019 to 31st December 2019
Accrued Revenue	£575,000
Operating costs	£121,000
Santander Loan interest	£108,000
Bond interest (inc. withheld tax)	£27,000
Harper Solar Loan interest	£21,000
Allocation to community benefit	£28,000





Bond interest payment

The Santander Bank loan covenant tests (at end December 2019) were passed and there were sufficient available funds to pay bond interest in full at 6.55% for the year to December 2019.

The interest payment was made on 20th March 2020 (Ref: GFS20 / Account name: Avenir Registrars) and bondholders should have received a notification email from our registrars Ethex on the same day.

Under withholding tax rules, interest payments are paid to bondholders net of tax at the basic rate for income tax (currently 20%).

If you have any queries regarding the payment please contact Ethex directly. Contact details are provided at the end of the report.





Community impact

Bee Warm energy advice service

A key part of Gawcott Solar CIC's community purpose is to help people in the local community who are struggling with energy debt and fuel poverty. Gawcott Solar CIC funds the 'Bee Warm' energy and fuel poverty advice service which was provided by the Milton Keynes-based charity National Energy Foundation (NEF) working with the local Citizens Advice.

Support provided by the Bee Warm service has included:

- **Support switching to a cheaper energy tariff**
- **Support dealing with energy supplier disputes and clearing debts**
- **Installation of small energy efficiency measures such as LED lighting, draft proofing and radiator reflectors**
- **Support obtaining grant funding for loft and cavity wall insulation and new boilers**
- **Helping people to obtain energy related benefit payments they are eligible for, and to get on the priority services register**
- **Helping people to understand how to heat and ventilate their homes efficiently to maintain a healthy living environment, and manage energy costs**



In 2019 the Bee Warm energy advice service supported 65 households to receive a home visit from an energy advisor and over 300 engagements via NEF's call centre. Energy advice drop-in sessions were also run at Buckingham Library and for local community groups. Energy and fuel poverty awareness training was provided to a number of organisations working with vulnerable households.

As a result of these engagements, the Bee Warm service helped secure £160,000 in new energy related benefits income for local residents. There were also savings of over £10,000 from helping people switch energy suppliers and install small energy efficiency measures. Small measures are items that can be given out and installed by the residents themselves or given out at a home visit. This includes items such as LED bulbs, radiator reflector foil, and secondary glazing and draught proofing around doors and windows. £11,000 of energy grant funding was secured to help 3 households with replacement heating systems and insulation.

WE

SAVED

**THE LOCAL
COMMUNITY**

OVER **£160,000!**

Community Fund

Gawcott Solar CIC launched its second community grant fund in the summer of 2019. The theme for this year was local youth projects with the fund split into two:

Firstly, the Bizzy Kids fund for local projects benefiting children under 7, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds. The fund's themes included: Healthy living; creating safe and child-centred places to play; providing child development opportunities which are not included in the curriculum and don't receive statutory funding (e.g. sport, drama, outdoor education, music, wildlife and farming, special needs); and, alternatives to car-based transport for young children.

Secondly, the Young Energy Champions fund for one or more local youth-led (under 18's) projects which support young people to develop and implement ideas to reduce carbon emissions in their community.

£5,149 was awarded from the Busy Kids Fund.

The beneficiaries were:

Akeley Parish Council

£1,800 for a playground Improvement Scheme

Gawcott Pre-School

£1,099 to purchase equipment for a sports and nature club

St. James and St. John C of E Primary School PTFA

£1,500 for imaginative play equipment

Swan Community Hub

£750 for Buckingham Summer Club

The Young Energy Champions fund was looking to support a climate change 'citizens assembly' within a local secondary school, but these plans have been put on hold due to the Corona outbreak.

The fund was managed by Heart of Bucks Community Foundation.





WE GAVE
OVER **£5,000**
TO LOCAL
COMMUNITY
PROJECTS!

Governance



The board of Gawcott Solar CIC is:

Jake Burnyeat (Chair)
Gabby Mallett
Ian Payne
Tom Cosgrove
Tony Ulph

Thanks to all our bondholders for their support and we look forward to another successful year of operation.

Jake Burnyeat
*on behalf of the board of Gawcott Fields
Community Solar Project CIC*



Jake



Gabby



Ian



Tony



Tom

For updates please keep an eye on Gawcott Solar CIC's website.

www.gawcottsolar.co.uk

In order to see further details about your interest payment, please log into the Online Ethex Registry Portal where you can view your Gawcott Fields investment, tax statements and update any personal information e.g. current home address or bank details. Please contact Ethex directly if you have any problems.

<https://registry.ethex.org.uk>
registry@ethex.org.uk
01865 403304

For general enquiries please contact Jake Burnyeat at Communities for Renewables CIC, who manage Gawcott Solar.

hello@gawcottsolar.co.uk
01209 705 423
www.cfrcic.co.uk



 /gawcottsolar

 @gawcottsolar

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