**New Solar PV installation at Bristol Indoor Bowl Club**

In these worrying and difficult times, a good news story!

On 14th March a new solar photovoltaic installation went live at the Bowls Club. This is a collaboration with Bristol Energy Cooperative who have paid the full cost of the system and will continue to own and operate it over the next 20 years, at which point ownership passes to the Bowl Club. Installation was by local company 1WorldSolar.

The Bowls Club’s electricity bill is large, and this venture should reduce bills by several thousand pounds a year. Importantly the Club will also further improve its carbon footprint by substantially reducing the amount of electricity it uses from the Grid. And in addition, the export of solar generated electricity from its roof will contribute to reducing the carbon intensity of electricity in Bristol i.e. the Bowls Club is now a mini clean energy power station.

You may notice from photographs, or when you see the installation for yourself, that not all the enormous roof has been fitted with panels. The initial plan was to install an even larger array but unfortunately the local grid capacity was insufficient to allow this without expensive upgrade work. Nevertheless, this is still a big system 50 times larger than an average domestic installation, and it should generate more than 120,000 kwh (units) of electricity a year, the equivalent of the consumption of about 40 average homes or energy needed to boil water for 6 million cups of tea!

It is Bristol Energy Cooperative’s first unsubsidised scheme, that is without government Feed-in-Tariff subsidy. This has become possible because of falling solar panel prices and represents a landmark moment in the widespread roll-out of renewable energy solutions in the UK The Coop is a local not-for-profit social enterprise business working to accelerate transition to a more sustainable economy in the Bristol region by enabling projects like this to happen where there is roof space (or field space) but not the money to pay for the capital costs.

From now on average approximately half of the Bowls Club’s electricity will be solar generated electricity. And it is hoped this figure can be increased by the use of on-site energy battery or heat storage in the near future. The plan is to assess the viability of this after we have a year’s data of solar usage.

On the wall behind the reception desk there is a new display showing solar data where you will be able to see real time and cumulative performance output figures. If you are interested in more detail an on-line portal is accessible at [KIOSK VIEW](https://monitoringpublic.solaredge.com/solaredge-web/p/kiosk?guid=d802bd63-87ba-47dd-ae48-e2d3cd0c50e2) .

More information about the work of Bristol Energy Cooperative (not to be confused with Council’s energy supplier, Bristol Energy) can be found at <http://www.bristolenergy.coop/> .