

Messages from our Village Meetings

There were lots of reasons why people came:

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| Life has to change | To learn about how to save energy/money |
| Interested in new technology | Already have PV |
| Cheaper energy | What's in it for me? |
| Want local energy for local use | Unimpressed by Big 6 |
| How do we get maximum benefit? | Supporting local & co-operative initiatives |
| Possibility of cheaper energy in off-peak periods | General interest |
| Unimpressed by Big 6 | |

There were lots of questions and ideas:

We will give you information about your energy use and if you have PV, generation.

We would like a mix of people, those with gas and electric heating, with and without PV. We would like families, singles, young and old.

Energy Local has been set up to develop the idea 'on the ground' because its directors believe it is the right thing to do. Its aim is not to make profit and its articles state that any profit will be reinvested in promoting the concept for the benefit of communities.

More info at www.energylocal.co.uk





Schools benefit if they are involved. They get a better payback if they have PV and can engage students in science.

How local/regional can a group be? The energy market has 14 areas and it has to be within one of these, but immediate focus on is smaller, more cohesive groupings. Technically there are also benefits to localised groups. About a 100 homes is probably the smallest it can be in reality.

Energy Local is designed to improve the on payback for solar PV - to give householders with generation more than the export FIT of 4.7p/kWh. If you use excess PV generation to heat water you are only replacing gas that is cheaper than electricity. It is better to use the generation for purposes for which you cannot use gas (washing machines, dishwasher etc.)

At the moment we just looking at electricity. This is the starting point – we could include other forms of energy in future.

This is a trial, please do not expect to make a lot of money! This is just the first stage of getting things going.

There are benefits for suppliers in the Energy Local model and it should encourage competitive pricing. Cooperative Energy are working with us on this.

We are trying to make the equipment as easy to install as possible. However, it is a prototype and we may not be able to make it completely wireless.

How much you save will depend on how you change your behaviour and how much load can be switched automatically in your home.

We will invite those interested to smaller group meetings in the next few weeks to gather more details and provide energy measuring devices.

