Energise Barnsley Limited AGM.

A report, “story”, from one of the community projects supported financially by the company.

Grimethorpe Community Farm have cared for 450 people over the last year. Working with deprived families, 4 people at a time. They have a bungalow. They help families and children with needs such as Asperger’s and Autism. The animals they have there include alpaca, rabbits and kids. We met an albino rabbit by the name of “Thumper”. They re-home pets like this rabbit.

They were a ‘Yorkshire in bloom’ winner.

Plans for development include providing a BTech course and apprenticeships.

A leasehold agreement would give them more security.

(The bungalow is now too small for the amount of work they want to do.)

Director’s report was presented:

The equipment is working slightly better than expected

The batteries have enabled even greater savings on the electricity bills of the tenants where they are fitted. More education in how best to use them is needed. Altering the time of day that appliances are used to reduce mains electric use seems to be the way to go.

The energy costs of the schools and other places where the panels are fitted are significantly lower. There is a ‘not for profit’ energy tariff.

There has been investment into ‘FairShare Yorkshire’ a leading charity in food redistribution. Training for a forklift truck driver to enable receipt of donations from Tesco.

The company is at the cutting edge of domestic battery use. The project at Oxspring is part of a study in implementation of “a residential demand side response model for participation in future flexible electricity markets.”

The application for the use of mineshafts for energy storage was “too early stage for the grantor”. [I think this plans to use the shafts as a drop into which tied weights can be lowered to generate power.]

Plans to use the flooded parts of the mines as a heat source for a heat pump are being investigated.

The LSE & Grantham Research Institute featured Energise Barnsley in a report on ‘Financing inclusive climate action in the UK’-‘An investor roadmap for the just transition’

There has also been international interest in the scheme. A resident of Oxpring interviewed on Australian programme.

The Solar Performance and O&M report [Operation & Maintenance]

Showed that of the 320 systems in situ only 6 of them are currently being repaired. Apparently this is the period of time when the ‘inverters’ \* are expected to fail. In anticipation of this a stock of these has been bought and there is a contingency fund establish for their replacement. (£24,000)

The yield from the residential plant is up by 4.67% on last year. The size of this increase is due in part to problems with very high temperatures the previous year that had reduced the efficiency of the solar panels. The commercial generators had not been affected in this way last year therefore the revenue increase from them was 2.27%. This correlates with the index linked increase in the feed in tariff (FIT) modified by the return to normal light levels in May this year and a dull June.

The financial statement was accepted by the AGM and the accountants David Rhodes Associates of Hertfordshire will be retained. The retention of the same accountant is due to their experience in dealing with this kind of business and the good working relationship already established.

‘Age UK’ are going to have their lighting replaced with LEDs largely funded by a grant from the council & Energise Barnsley.

A seminar is planned here in the town hall for the small towns and villages ‘low carbon projects.’ To encourage and enable applications to the £100M lottery fund available to support these.

Mr Healed proposed growing edible crops using hydroponics and LED lighting. This would enable use of places not normally associated with food production, such as old workshops, shipping containers and mine workings.

It is hoped to supply a community shop.

\* ‘Inverters’ the device needed in a circuit to change the direct current (DC) generated power from the solar panels into alternating current (AC) at the correct frequency.

Comments from Mr Heald

The residential inverters have a 5 year warranty with them, and are scheduled to be replaced on mass after 10 years, which is the expected lifetime. We have accrued an amount for the inverter replacement fund and will continue to do so, with a target of approximately £160,000 by year 10.

As inverters fail, and are replaced by warranty, we have purchased a few to have in a van, so that the inverter replacement can be fixed in one visit.

[https://www.gravitricity.com](https://www.gravitricity.com/)  The weight dropped down a mine shaft, we signed an agreement with to try and find suitable sites.