**WCA Energy Topic Group Meeting**

**Agenda – 7pm 16th December 2020**

**20 attendees**

Andy Duffin from Lightgroup Holdings Ltd (thesolarpeople.co.uk) installs battery systems with solar panels on mainly domestic properties. They use Enphase inverters to change the DC to AC which have a 25-year guarantee. The meters on this system show exports, consumption and imports and Andy showed the group the meter website’s graphs for this. The batteries can be used to store electricity at cheap rate times if there is no PV but do work well at storing energy produced by solar during the day. There was lots of discussion over the technicalities of how this worked, problems with DNO permissions, cost and size of batteries.

Alan Maryon-Davis and Maggie Paul from Nadder Community Energy’s Electric Car Club pilot explained their scheme which is due to launch on January 9th. Catherine Allinson, the project manager also gave details of insurance, why they didn’t work with CoCars and installation of chargers in Tisbury. The Tisbury cars are second hand so the range is limited. Tisbury are looking at expanding the model in the future to include other car clubs to help cover back office costs and the inclusion of electric bikes. The possibility of hiring an EV could mean people may be able to get rid of second cars.

Tim Trimble from Bradford on Avon group are looking at an electric car club and asked for any information the group’s members may have about this.

Christian Lange asked about the car’s alternative use as a mobile battery/generator for outdoor events and issues with electricity going out as well as into the car battery.

Catherine mentioned that one of the things they want to do is address rural transport poverty. Bill Jarvis commented that Wiltshire Council could get involved with this and provide a subsidy and even add local authority vehicles.

Adam asked the team to report back in March 2021 on how the club is going. There will be “Learning Briefs” available to other groups interested in the model, showing what has been learnt in the process.

With EV charge points going in now everywhere they will become the norm and it was mentioned that battery storage at charge sites may be a good idea.

It was mentioned that the Dept of Transport have an open consultation on the future of rural transport.

Louisa Haines from Wiltshire Council’s Carbon reduction team was asked to comment. There is a discussion paper on climate strategy being released which will go to cabinet but will be available to look at. Wiltshire Council are continuing to deliver on the green homes grants and will be releasing a climate update in January.

Martin Smith asked if anyone had experience of renewables on church buildings, schools and community buildings. An analysis tool called “Energy Sparks” was recommended, Salix funding for schools and local authorities for renewable energy, RCEF grants for feasibility studies and community grants from groups like Bath and West Community Energy and Severn and Wye Energy Agency.

Sophy Fearnley-Wittingstall mentioned that West Berkshire Council had crowdfunded with investment financiers “Abundance” to put PV on local schools.

A meeting is to be arranged for mid-January. Adam wished everyone a merry Christmas and thanked them for coming.