

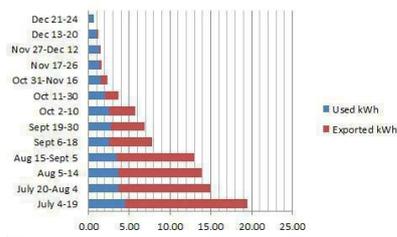


Merton Rule Upheld

A petition signed by over 50 Solar Companies urging communities and local government secretary, Eric Pickles, to retain the so-called **Merton Rule** following last year's Housing Standards Review has been heeded. The Rule, named after the London Borough of Merton where it was first developed, requires all new building developments to generate at least 10% of the energy they consume from on-site renewables. "This is great news for green jobs and skills in the sector", says Mike Landy of the **Renewable Energy Association**. Read the full story [here](#).

PV Energy Export

Recently, there have been **discussions** on the MgDb forum regarding the energy consumption patterns of domestic PV owners, and how much of that energy is used on site. Forum user *rogerhoward* describes how a smart meter enables him to **analyse** and optimise his self-use. Alongside generation data, we here at Sheffield Solar have also



been collecting a small sample of consumption/export data, but we haven't got enough to do any meaningful analysis just yet - if you're monitoring your export/consumption please email it to us and keep your eyes peeled for analysis of this type should we gather enough.

Chinese PV Manufacturers in Default

Two Chinese PV manufactures, first Chaori Solar and now Baoding Tianwei, have defaulted on interest payments on domestic bonds issued by the Chinese Government. The news is interpreted by some as a sign that China's bloated PV industry is struggling with overcapacity. Many investors assumed the Chinese Government would opt to bail out failing companies before they default, but this news is

evidence of the Government's intention to reduce support for the domestic PV industry. In January, the Chinese Government revealed it had excluded almost 80% of operating manufacturers, including Shunfeng and LDK Solar, from benefitting from domestic support measures.



Read more [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Judicial Review of Dorset Solar Farm

A judge has ordered a judicial review of the decision to grant planning permission for a 28MW solar farm in Dorset, following protests from a local resident. During planning the project was criticized by the **Campaign to Protect Rural England** despite the developer, Green Energy, offering a benefits package for the local community which included a community fund of at least £25,000 a year to help support local projects. Get the full story [here](#).

Japan to Subsidise Li-Ion Storage

This week Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) launched a scheme to subsidise grid connected Lithium Ion Batteries with a budget of ¥10 billion (roughly £59 million). It's hoped the technology will help manage peak supply/demand and stabilise the Country's power supply. Read the original article [here](#). Our own Li-Ion batteries here in Sheffield aren't doing too well of late, with one dying due to over-discharge.

More Donors Needed

If you know anyone with solar PV, please help spread the word about our project and services. The quality of our research and things like our predictor tool depend on the quality of our dataset. We collect data from both individuals and companies and can offer up our expertise in analyzing PV performance in return.



"Building Integrated" PV Roof Tiles - Picture uploaded by MgDb donor.

Upload your interesting images of PV to the [MgDb Gallery](#) to see them feature in future newsletters.

