



BusinessGreen Leaders Awards 2014



Sheffield Solar have been shortlisted for not one, but two BusinessGreen Leaders Awards! The categories are 'Green IT Project of the Year' and 'Young Sustainability Executive of the Year' (for Dr Lisa Clark). Wish us luck at the glitzy award ceremony in London on the 2nd July. You can view the full shortlist [here](#).

Little Box Challenge

Internet search giant Google has pledged US\$1 million in an open competition to invent smaller, cheaper power inverters for use with solar PV. The competition is part of the company's commitment to reducing their own environmental impact whilst also growing the renewable energy industry as a whole. Details are being made available via a [dedicated website](#). Read more about Google's efforts [here](#). Fellow tech giant Apple have also been investing heavily in environmental responsibility - this month's featured image shows the company's 20 MW PV array which powers their Maiden iCloud Data Center in North Carolina, USA. Read more about Apple's commitment [here](#).



Npower Fined £125,000 Over FIT Blunder

Ofgem, the company tasked by the Government to administer the Feed-In-Tariff (FIT) and Renewable Obligation (RO) incentive schemes, has fined energy supplier npower £125,000 over mistakes made in their reporting. Ofgem relies on energy suppliers to report accurate data on how much energy they supply in order to establish how much they need to contribute to the FITs payments fund (which is based on market share). The figures are also used to determine the suppliers obligation under the RO scheme. Npower identified the error to Ofgem themselves, revealing that they had under reported their supply by 0.08% in 2010-

11 and by 0.28% in 2011-12, but then fixed the issue such that the error was not repeated in 2012/13. Read the original story [here](#).

Workshop at Sheffield Solar HQ

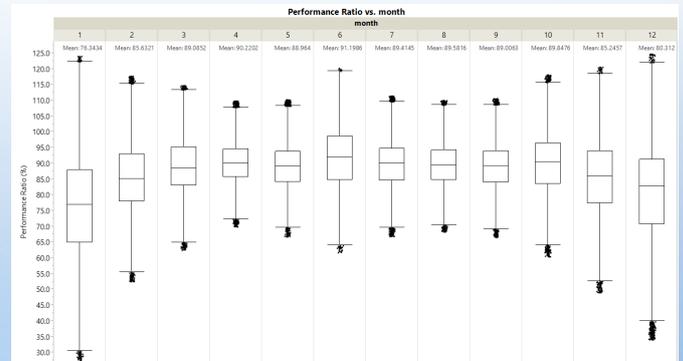
We're in the process of organising a workshop here at Sheffield University. We'll be discussing various topics including

- Realtime PV monitoring
- Latest in new technologies and applications
- A view of the dark side of Sheffield Solar and the Microgeneration Database

If you're interested in attending, you can find out more, and even have a say on the date and topics via this [forum thread](#).

What do we do with all that data?

This month Jamie looked at the distribution of calculated performance ratios by month across the UK. The results, to be published in a paper which is currently under review, are important in assessing the accuracy of our in-house algorithm for calculation of PR, whereby we calculate the irradiance in a given location by interpolating from fixed Met Office weather stations.



The mean PR across all months comes out as 87%, which is slightly higher than that observed by others. Jamie will now investigate whether factors such as geographical location, distance to weather stations and/or coastal microclimates could be affecting the PR calculation and account for this shift.



Apple's solar PV arrays in Maiden, North Carolina which form part of their commitment to [environmental responsibility](#).

