

## Website re-launch

Some of you will be aware that we are working to redevelop the Microgen Database web site. I'm sure that many of you will have been frustrated that there is not more functionality on the site, that it doesn't best represent the results of the data analysis, that it is slow and looks a bit clunky. We are of course also aware of this, so we have been working with our site developer, **Xoolon** to migrate the site to a new platform.

The new site platform will offer much more opportunity to develop the site to make it more interactive and to offer better and more simple reporting of analysed data.

The release date for the transfer has not been fixed yet, though it is likely to be in October. We are looking for testers for the new site, so if you are willing, please **email me**. Ideally we want to get testers with a variety of levels of IT experience, using different browsers and operating systems, so don't be put off if you have little computing knowledge, this makes you eminently qualified as a tester!

## Separation of Newsletter and Report

From this month this newsletter will no longer be released alongside the monthly report. There are a couple of reasons for this: firstly the data for analysis is not received on a regular basis; and secondly the new website will allow for better integration of data reporting, so there will be no need to have separate 'maps' and 'reporting' sections.

The newsletter will now be published at the end of each month.

## Test bed web site work

There has been some work done on the **Sheffield Solar web site test bed pages**. A new map has been created to link site users to the different modules on the roof. While this is work in progress, we would welcome feedback on further improvements to make the site more accessible or interesting.

If you have any thoughts, please **email me** your feedback.

## Awards and announcements

August was an auspicious month for solar research at the University of Sheffield with the winning of the Business Green 'Green IT Project of the Year' award and the announcement that it had developed a new technique for spray on solar cells.

The Business Green award was given to the Sheffield Solar project for your very own Microgen Database for its work on comparing real-world performance with predictions to help make the case for solar in the UK.

Dr Lisa Clarke **used the platform to explain** how data for generation by solar is held by the energy companies and not released to the public domain, so only estimates can be made of the impact of solar PV.

The second achievement was to do with spray on **perovskite solar PV technology**. It also involved members of Physics and Astronomy, alongside the Chemical and Biological Engineering departments. The technique involves very little wastage, and the "class of material offers the potential to combine the high performance of mature solar cell technologies with the low embedded energy costs of production of organic photovoltaics" said professor David Lidzey.

A combination which could see ultra low cost production processes which allow greater integration of PV into buildings, vehicles and flexible surfaces like clothes.

## Solar is ideal home improvement

A **survey by the Energy Saving Trust (EST)** has found that most respondents viewed home renewables such as solar PV systems to be the best home energy efficiency improvement if money were no object.

The survey of over 2000 people concluded that most people found their home to be cold, draughty mouldy and damp, and while men are more likely to want to use renewable energy technologies to solve their problems, women are more likely to go for double glazing.

A majority said that they would be more likely to buy a home with a renewable energy system installed.

The EST estimates that a huge £5 billion could be saved in the UK by home owners installing domestic energy saving and generating measures.

