

Esk Energy Annual Report April 2024-March 2025

We have had another very good year for generation: steady rainfall kept the turbine turning well for much of the year. As a result we generated 132,843 kWh of electricity, well above our average for the second year running.

This has enabled us to complete paying off our loan from the National Park, which in turn leaves us in a healthy situation financially: the directors have again been able to approve a payment of 4% to Ordinary members on their share capital. We have to thank the volunteers on the operations team, who continue both to maintain the turbine, and to try to anticipate problems. In the last year, apart from routine maintenance, we replaced the hydraulic pressure cylinder that drives the penstock (technical information is available on the website). We will continue to keep funds in reserve for potential repairs – for example it is likely that at some point in the future, but nobody knows exactly when, we will need to replace the bottom bearing again, so we have a cash reserve which will cover the expense.

We again entertained students from the University of Hull last year, and gave tours of the site to other interested parties; our visitors always seem impressed, and it is an opportunity to promote community energy locally; we continue to do this at a wider level via our membership of Community Energy England, and by getting involved with local and national government consultations.

We continue to rely on our (excellent and enthusiastic) volunteers to maintain and operate the business. The directors continue to consider the long term future of the business, and have made the decision to outsource some of the secretarial and financial functions; our healthy financial situation now allows this. We may well decide to move on some other functions, but we will continue to need volunteers and will always welcome new ones.