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# OnGen Newsletter

Autumn 2021

## OnGen Updates, Client Progress and Industry News

Welcome to OnGen's 14th newsletter. It has been a busy year for OnGen, with new clients and employees coming onboard along with impressive software updates. The lead up to and launch of the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow has put a spotlight on the energy transition. The climate emergency is now the single most important issue facing humanity as the world recovers from Covid 19.

The energy sector as a whole is under the spotlight following the unprecedented increase in wholesale energy prices precipitating the collapse of a swathe of energy suppliers. The UK's woeful lack of gas storage facilities and its reliance on overseas sources of energy, reinforces the important role onsite renewables have to play as a source of reliable green power and heat protected from these price fluctuations. It is important this is emphasised during and after COP26.

OnGen has continued to grow since its last newsletter with new employees, new projects and the company itself being nominated for various awards. Software updates include improved solar roof optimisation, the ability to pair roof mounted solar with a heat pump, improved reporting functionality and the addition of solar thermal as a new technology option.

### Awards and Events

OnGen has been delighted to be well represented at various award ceremonies throughout the past few months. Account Manager, Emma Carroll, and Senior Account Manager, Izzy Rich, were both nominated in the Scottish Renewables Young Professionals Green Energy Awards 2021, where Emma was nominated for the 'Innovator Award' and Izzy for the 'Professional Service Award'. Izzy also was shortlisted for BusinessGreen Leaders Awards 2021 Young Sustainability Executive of the Year Award, an amazing achievement. In June, OnGen was pleased to receive a shortlist nomination for a special award at the ADE's Decentralised Energy Awards 2020 for contribution to Net Zero.

Also in June, OnGen's Account Manager, Emma Carroll, pitched for investment at the Engage, Invest, Exploit 2021 (EIE21) event. At EIE21, Emma pitched to hundreds of Scottish and international investors. The Bayes Centre, the University of Edinburgh's innovation hub, did a great job of hosting the event and OnGen looks forward to participating again in future.



OnGen is also attending and exhibiting at the COP26 Climate Conference in Glasgow. This key event is an exciting opportunity to engage in a variety of climate related exhibitions, talks, demonstrations and screenings.

## COP26 arrives

OnGen is excited that COP26 has now launched in Glasgow. It is hoped that the long anticipated COP26 will shine a spotlight on the climate crisis. Five years on from the Paris Agreement being signed, COP26 is a chance for countries to show they have sufficiently planned and are now working towards a net-zero emissions future. If COP26 is a success, countries around the world that are part of the Paris Agreement will have suitable 'nationally determined contributions' plans in place to limit the temperature rising above 1.5 degrees Celsius. Support for less developed countries will also need to be honoured in Glasgow to meet these goals globally.

OnGen is dedicated to helping its clients reach net-zero energy with its award-winning software suite. OnGen will be attending the Green Zone at COP26 and is looking forward to contributing to the success of this pivotal event.



## Introducing OnSupply

As part of OnGen's holistic approach to helping customers reach net-zero energy, OnGen has released its latest software platform, OnSupply. OnSupply helps organisations find the cheapest green energy deal to offset the remaining energy required that is not generated onsite by renewables.

OnSupply facilitates a reverse auction where energy suppliers bid for the contract with their lowest price to provide energy to an organisation, ensuring that the organisation gets the best deal available. OnGen also guarantees that the renewable energy companies that are featured on the software are genuinely green - no greenwashing.

Want to find out more? Get in touch today for a demonstration of the service.



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## Software Developments

Over the past few months, OnGen has been busy adding new software developments. OnGen has decided to further develop the co-location of technologies within the OnGen Expert™ by adding the option to co-locate an air or ground source heat pump with roof mounted solar. The heat pumps use electricity to operate, therefore by sourcing energy that is generated onsite, this technology becomes more affordable and sustainable. After the non-domestic RHI ended in March this year, the option of co-locating these technologies help heat pumps to be a more financially feasible option.

Another development on the OnGen Expert™ is the ability for users to select one or more roof spaces they would like to combine and assess together. This feature is useful when assessing the feasibility of a site that has multiple roof spaces with varying characteristics such as orientation and slope. By developing this feature, OnGen is ensuring that every roof space can be included within the roof mounted solar assessment, leading to an even more accurate set of results.

The OnGen Expert™ report generator has also been improved by allowing the user to select which technology assessments are added to the report via selection boxes on the site summary page.

## Suppliers and the Price of Electricity

The UK's energy market is in crisis. Many energy firms have entered administration in the past few weeks and many more are thought to be at severe risk. Customers and organisations are facing a more than 100% increase in bills and an anxious wait to see if their supplier stays afloat. A big problem is that it is very hard to switch supplier as most are not taking on new customers. Ofgem's domestic price cap changes each October and April and experts are already warning that it will rise again to take into account the rising cost of electricity and gas. The hope is that the market calms down and wholesale prices return to normal, at which point consumer prices should also fall.

In OnGen's latest blog post, available [here](#), Chris Trigg explores how this situation highlights the UK's reliance on external sources to meet its energy demand and how factors outside the control of energy users and the Government influence the availability of gas and electricity and therefore its cost. What remains clear is that deploying onsite renewables can resolve over-reliance on external sources and reduce the cost of importing energy by generating it at the very place it is consumed. The recent energy crisis should encourage consumers to look for such alternatives and discover methods for reducing emissions while simultaneously saving costs.

## Welcoming Solar Thermal

OnGen is pleased to welcome solar thermal to the OnGen Expert™. Solar thermal will bring the number of technology options up to 10, allowing for an array of renewable technologies to be assessed. Solar thermal harnesses clean and free energy from the sun by converting it into hot water for buildings of all types. It is an ideal deployment for businesses and organisations wanting to reduce their carbon emissions and protect themselves from rising fuel costs when heating water. OnGen has worked with Building Research Solutions to develop this technology assessment. Solar thermal will be released during Q4 2021.

## Dynamic Containment

Dynamic containment is a new frequency response service launched by the National Grid ESO. The service offers a way for sites with generating capability, such as renewable technologies, to automatically help the national grid maintain a 50Hz balance while being commercially compensated for doing so. It will be used to balance the amount of electricity both into and consumed from the grid to prevent blackouts.

The service's design is beneficial for new technologies connected to the grid. For example, the speed and flexibility of batteries make them particularly well suited, allowing the national grid to operate at response times that are sub-second. OnGen recognises it is a great opportunity for other renewable technologies and anticipate a variety of generator and storage systems participating in the future. To find out more, contact the OnGen team to discuss how dynamic containment could benefit you.

## New Customers



HM Courts & Tribunals Service



The University of Nottingham



EMCOR UK



The Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba