

DCEP Annual Report 2024



Be the future.




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We Acknowledge.

DCEP and Plico acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land and the continuing culture and contribution they make to the life of this region.

A photograph of two men and a dog on a rooftop terrace. The man on the left is wearing a blue polo shirt with a 'Plico' logo, a blue baseball cap, and khaki pants. He is holding a tablet and looking at it. The man on the right is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt, light-colored pants, and glasses. He is sitting next to the first man and looking at the tablet. A brown and white dog is standing between them. They are sitting on a wooden bench. In the background, there are large windows and a small tree. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Plico brings people together to build a better world one rooftop at a time. We're enabling Aussies to **generate**, **access** and control their own clean energy and **be the future**.

We are a **community** of **change-makers** building the **clean energy** grid of **the future**.



From the Chair

Dear fellow Plico members,

Once again, it has been a privilege to be Chairperson of your DCEP Committee over the past 12 months in representing our growing membership and geographical presence in WA, and now also on the East Coast.

While all of us, as Plico members, are contributing personally towards the renewable energy agenda, we are also contributing to broader community sustainability objectives through DCEP.

It's been a pleasure to see how Plico members are making a real impact in our community.

DCEP supported six projects in 2023-2024 through our member contributions, ranging from a natural environment competition through to supporting a young person on their educational journey towards what will hopefully include leadership within our community.

We also directly supported six members through our Hardship Fund.

This fund provides limited support for members experiencing temporary financial difficulties. Sadly, it's clear that the increasing cost of living is placing financial strain on many people and our members are no exception.

The Hardship Fund is one of the real benefits that the current structure of our Plico Community allows us to help members when unexpected events occur.

This is no small effort, and I'd like to thank the DCEP Committee members for their efforts and support over the past 12 months.



This year, a Grants and Administration Officer role was created to assist managing the Community Fund and committee duties. This has led to a more streamlined grants process and has allowed the volunteer committee members to focus more on strategic planning and decision-making. Silke Rothkamm was appointed in the role and has proven to be an incredibly effective and positive non-voting member on the DCEP Committee.

I am looking forward to another year working with the passionate members of DCEP and delivering real outcomes for the environment, community and clean energy transition.

Neil Shipley, Chair



From the Co-Founder

Dear Plico members,

I am immensely proud of our community's growth and resilience over the past year. Our steadfast dedication to our values and overarching goals has helped shape the future we envisaged when Plico was founded.

We thank you for being the future.

It was almost two years ago when we first launched the Virtual Power Plant (VPP). This was and continues to be WA's largest privately-owned VPP. In 2023-2024, we provided a dual-service to help keep the WA grid stable during both peak and minimum energy demand. As a business, having the foresight, technical capabilities and network of clean energy systems enabled us to grasp these emerging opportunities and, importantly, provide financial benefits to our valued members.

Being a member of the VPP allows you to actively engage in the energy market, through Plico, and generate revenue from your Plico system on top of the savings on your energy bill. This is a significant benefit of being part of our community and one that I am very proud of.

We are leading the clean energy revolution.

We witnessed substantial growth in the past 12 months, despite challenges across the solar market which have been driven predominantly by rising living costs. In 2023-2024, our membership and battery capacity increased by 70% and continues to expand.

The solar revolution continues to forge ahead, with Australia's solar capacity approaching 25 GW. It has been encouraging to see solar batteries shift from being perceived as a luxury item to an essential component of modern, sustainable living. More Australian homeowners are choosing to take control of their energy and shield themselves from rising energy costs.

We were thrilled to launch into the Victorian market earlier this year, bringing our unique offering of affordable solar and battery systems to a new customer base and further advancing our collective clean energy mission.

Thank you for joining us on this clean energy journey, and special thanks to DCEP, our community arm, for allowing the benefits of Plico to go beyond the grid.

Brian Innes, Co-Founder of DCEP and Plico

“

***In 2023-2024,
we provided a dual-service
to help keep the WA grid
stable during both peak and
minimum energy demand***



DCEP Incorporated

Building resilient and sustainable communities.

A bit about DCEP Inc

All Plico members are members of DCEP Inc under Plico's unique membership model. The DCEP Committee is a group of Plico members responsible for making decisions about where Plico membership fees are invested.

DCEP Inc was established as the not-for-profit association that provides representation for Plico members under the community ownership model. This community ownership models means that all Plico members are also members of DCEP.

The purpose of DCEP is to represent and support members, as well as support projects that build healthier, more resilient and greener futures for the wider community through the Community Fund. Plico members' membership fees are invested in the Community Fund and a Hardship Fund to support members.

An aerial photograph of a beach scene. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, with white foam from waves breaking near the shore. A long, narrow stone pier or breakwater extends from the sandy beach into the water. Several people are visible swimming in the water, and a blue beach umbrella is on the sand near the pier. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

WHY IS IT CALLED DCEP?

Plico Energy was born from the Dunsborough Community Energy Project (DCEP). Since Plico expanded beyond the Dunsborough region, the Committee is now simply known as DCEP - a broader group not defined by a location.

DCEP Committee Members

2024

Neil Shipley, Chair

It has been a privilege to again hold the role of Chairperson of your Committee.

As an early adoptee of a Plico system, it has been a pleasure to watch our community grow and prosper and to be a part of such positive progress. As in past years, I have found it very rewarding and have thoroughly enjoyed reviewing and learning about the broad range of potential projects, each bringing their own unique identities to our committee.

I have enjoyed representing Plico and its members and look forward to continuing to make a positive impact in my capacity as Chair of DCEP Inc.



Jamie Ball, Deputy Chair

I put my hand up to join the DCEP Committee as I think it provides great opportunities to support community groups with their projects and I wanted to be part of it and give back to the community.



Sarah Molloy, Secretary

I take great pride in DCEP's accomplishments this year. With cost of living hitting hard I am most proud of how we've supported members in financial hardship. It's been a rewarding experience working alongside fellow passionate Plico members to benefit our membership, the wider community and the planet.



Robbie Campbell, Treasurer

I joined DCEP as Treasurer at the 2023 AGM because I wanted to be involved in the community outreach efforts of Plico and DCEP. The community ownership model of Plico enables us to contribute beyond reducing our personal carbon footprint, distinguishing our Plico community. As Treasurer of DCEP, I have applied my accounting skills and observed how our Plico membership fees positively impact the community. I wish the Committee success in the future.



Alie Smith, Member

I was one of the original members of Plico and DCEP back in Dunsborough and have been on the DCEP Committee since its inception. I am passionate about clean energy and supporting our community to make a change, both locally and in the broader sustainability space.



James Sitas, Member

At Plico it is great to go to work and feel you are contributing to positive change in the energy landscape. Shortly after starting at Plico, I put my money where my mouth is and put a system on my family house, this presented me with the opportunity to join DCEP as a general committee member. I like being a part of DCEP as it provides me with an avenue to further give back to the community through environmentally friendly projects.



John Riordan, Member

I live with my family in the Great Southern near the Tree Top Walk. I trained and worked as a scientist then progressed to setting up my own Mental Health Charity working with people journeying from suicide to being well via an outdoor recreation programme.

Where I can encourage community development and renewable energies I will with enthusiasm.



Roy Darch, Member

I am Head of Operations at Plico and a DCEP member with my own Alpha ESS system. I joined DCEP in March 2024. I enjoy working with the members and being able to collaborate with the other committee members on how to deliver DCEP funding to the community. I would love to see DCEP deliver some funding to some community battery and solar projects.



Daniel Newman, Member

I am passionate about community building and believe in leveraging my skills to create positive change. With a strong foundation in Government and Public Relations, I'm committed to giving back through volunteer work, supporting local initiatives, and driving projects that benefit the community. Whether in my professional life or personal endeavours, I strive to foster connections and promote sustainable growth, ensuring that my contributions have a lasting impact on the people and places I care about.



Silke Rothkamm, Grants and Support Officer

I am new to the DCEP team and love being part of an organisation that is committed to the environment and supportive of community initiatives and project as well as its members. Connecting with different community groups and watching ideas unfold and put into action has been exciting and rewarding.

COMMUNITY FUND

The Plico Community Fund supports projects that help build sustainable and resilient communities. Projects must align with DCEP's Strategic Objectives and advance sustainability, clean energy and/or environmental conservation.

Every member of Plico contributes to the Community Fund through their Plico membership fees. Each year, 75% of membership fees is invested into the Fund and an open grants program is managed by the DCEP Committee.

Community groups can apply for funding under three categories (in order of priority):

- Natural Environment
- Sustainable Future
- Community Enhancement & Wellbeing

Here is a snapshot of some of these projects:

01

Reclink Community Cup and Reclink 2024 programs

The 2024 Reclink Community Cup, held in October 2023, raised funds to mobilise several Reclink access programs across Perth. These programs are targeted to develop and deliver life-changing opportunities for people with disability, CaLD communities, Aboriginal people, people experiencing ill mental health, domestic violence, social isolation, addiction, homelessness, and long-term unemployment.



02

Southern Peaks 2023 Mountain Bike event

Southern Peaks is a community run and owned event that celebrates mountain biking in WA's beautiful Great Southern. The event has something for everyone from beginners to hardcore riders. It's a weekend full of challenges, thrills and fun for participants and spectators and showcases some of the most spectacular urban and country scenery WA has to offer, in the heart of the community of Albany.



COMMUNITY FUND

03 Dunsborough Street Party

This event was held in November 2023 and celebrated the newly upgraded Dunsborough town centre to promote community connection and support local businesses. The event drew thousands of people into the heart of town to celebrate together as a community.

'It brought together people of all ages and from all walks of life, mostly living in the Dunsborough community and created a feeling of connection and community in a fun atmosphere.' Jacque Happ – Cultural Development Officer, City of Busselton.



04 Murdoch University Taxonomy Tournament at Perth Children's Hospital

Patients, families and staff on the oncology ward at the Perth Children's Hospital took part in an online Taxonomy Tournament, identifying native and non-native WA flora and naming them in English and Noongar language. The project connected patients to the natural environment, increased their awareness about local flora, supporting their mental wellbeing while staying at the hospital and received lots of positive feedback.

05 Busselton-Dunsborough Environment Centre – St Mary MacKillop School Planting and Possum House Building Project (funds provided 2022 – 2023)

Students from Pre-primary, Years 1, 3 and 4 from St Mary MacKillop College in Busselton planted 750 native seedlings on the school grounds. Assisted by staff, parents, and other organisations the busy gardeners also made possum houses that were placed in various locations around the campus. This project was supported with unspent funds provided in the previous financial year.



06 Innovative Cluster – Future Founders

The Future Founders Youth Entrepreneurship Program helped to cultivate entrepreneurial skills and foster innovative thinking among young participants aged 16-25.

'The program was so incredible and really pushed me to turn my ideas into reality. By the end of the program my core business idea had stayed consistent, however, I was able to re-structure it in a way that would enable growth.' Coralie Sandor, participant.



COMMUNITY FUND

07 Daily Grind for Dementia

For fourteen days, participants of the Daily Grind Campaign led by DCEP Deputy Chair, Jamie Ball, ran an average of 55km a day from Albany WA to Port Coogee in Perth. The campaign raised money to support people living with younger onset dementia and their families.

'The primary aim of my run is to raise money for the Mike Ball Legacy Fund, so we can provide grants via the Dementia Support Network of WA so families can access the services of a Dementia Care Specialist (currently not available as a free service under our health system). It's also a way for me to continue my Dad's legacy, as he was someone always willing to help others.' Jamie Ball – DCEP Deputy Chair



**Murdoch University
Taxonomy Tournament**

\$4,200.00

**Reclink
Reclink Community Cup
(Football Game)**

\$4,500.00

**Albany Bike Club
Southern Peaks Mountain Bike event**

\$5,000.00

Dunsborough Street Party

\$4,000.00

Daily Grind for Dementia

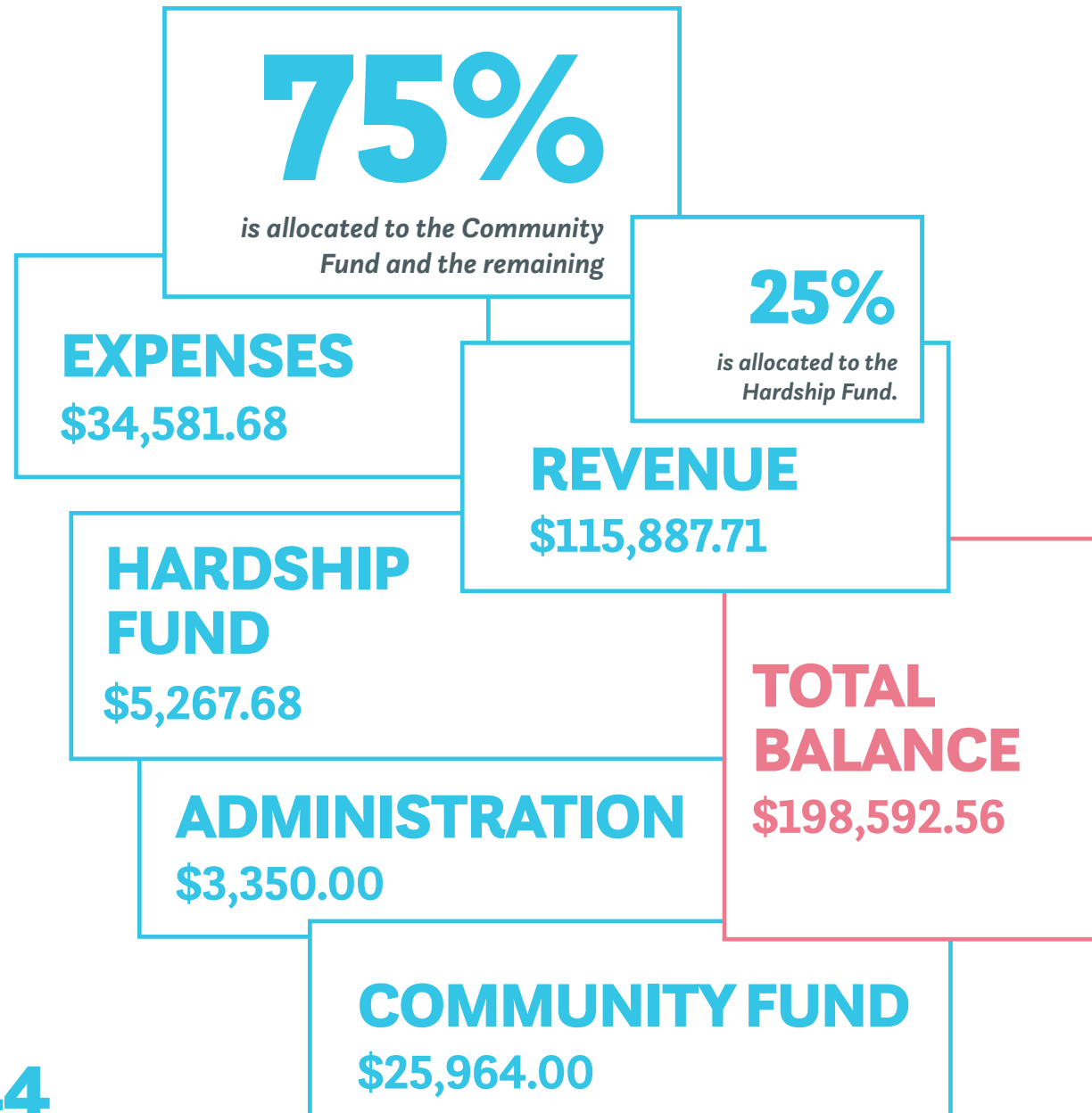
\$5,000.00

**Innovation Cluster (AgriStart)
Future Founders**

\$3,000.00

TREASURER'S REPORT

2023-2024



Stepping in as temporary Treasurer of DCEP, it's been my pleasure to witness how Plico members are having a positive impact on the community through both the Community Fund and the Hardship Fund. It's something that sets our community apart and I am extremely proud that this is part of our membership model.

The Community Fund receives 75% of Plico member membership fees to be invested in projects that deliver sustainability and community outcomes. The other 25% is placed into the Hardship Fund to support Plico members who face financial hardship. There was a significant increase in the number of Plico members facing hardship in 2023-2024, a reflection on the economic climate we find ourselves in. I am proud that Plico could lend a hand to members to support them through tough financial times.

Two Trust Accounts were established this year, totalling \$65,000, to enable interest to be generated. The revenue gained on these accounts will cover additional administration costs and may be reinvested in future trust accounts.

Financial Statement 2023 – 2024

DCEP received \$115,887.71 revenue from Starling Energy Group Pty Ltd.

The combined balance of the Community Fund and Hardship Fund accounts was \$198,592.56 as of 30 June 2024.

A total of \$25,964.00 supported community projects in 2023 – 2024.

A total of \$3350.00 was used for administration expenses, which included the Annual Report and wages for Grants and Administration support. This was allocated from the Community Fund account.

A total of \$5267.68 supported six members seeking financial assistance.

Jamie Ball, Treasurer (temp)

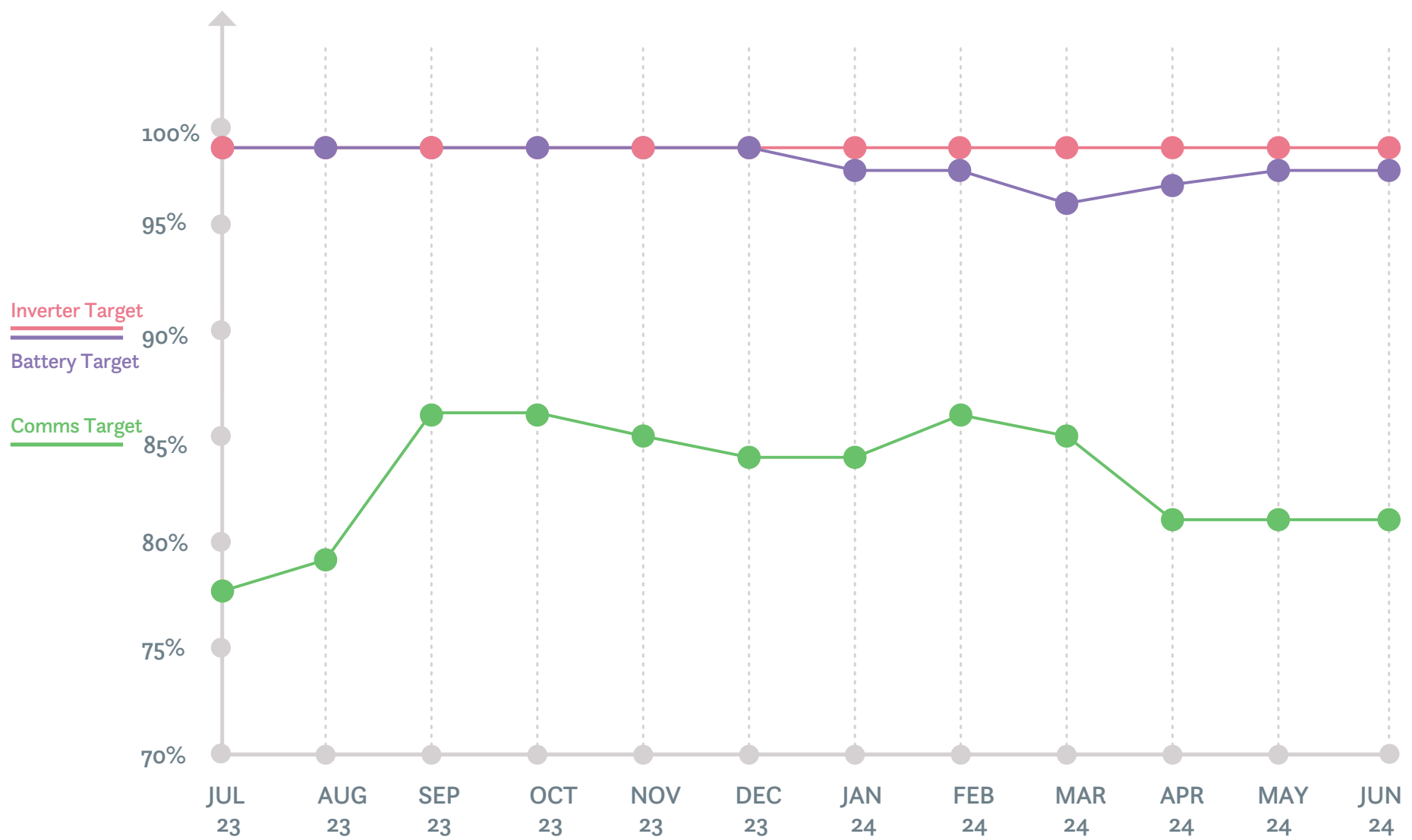
PLICO PERFORMANCE

KPI's

Inverter
UNIT % Uptime
the percentage of time the inverter is operating to invert solar panel generated direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC) in the form of electricity.

Battery
UNIT % Uptime
the percentage of time the battery is operational to store energy generated or feed into household or grid.

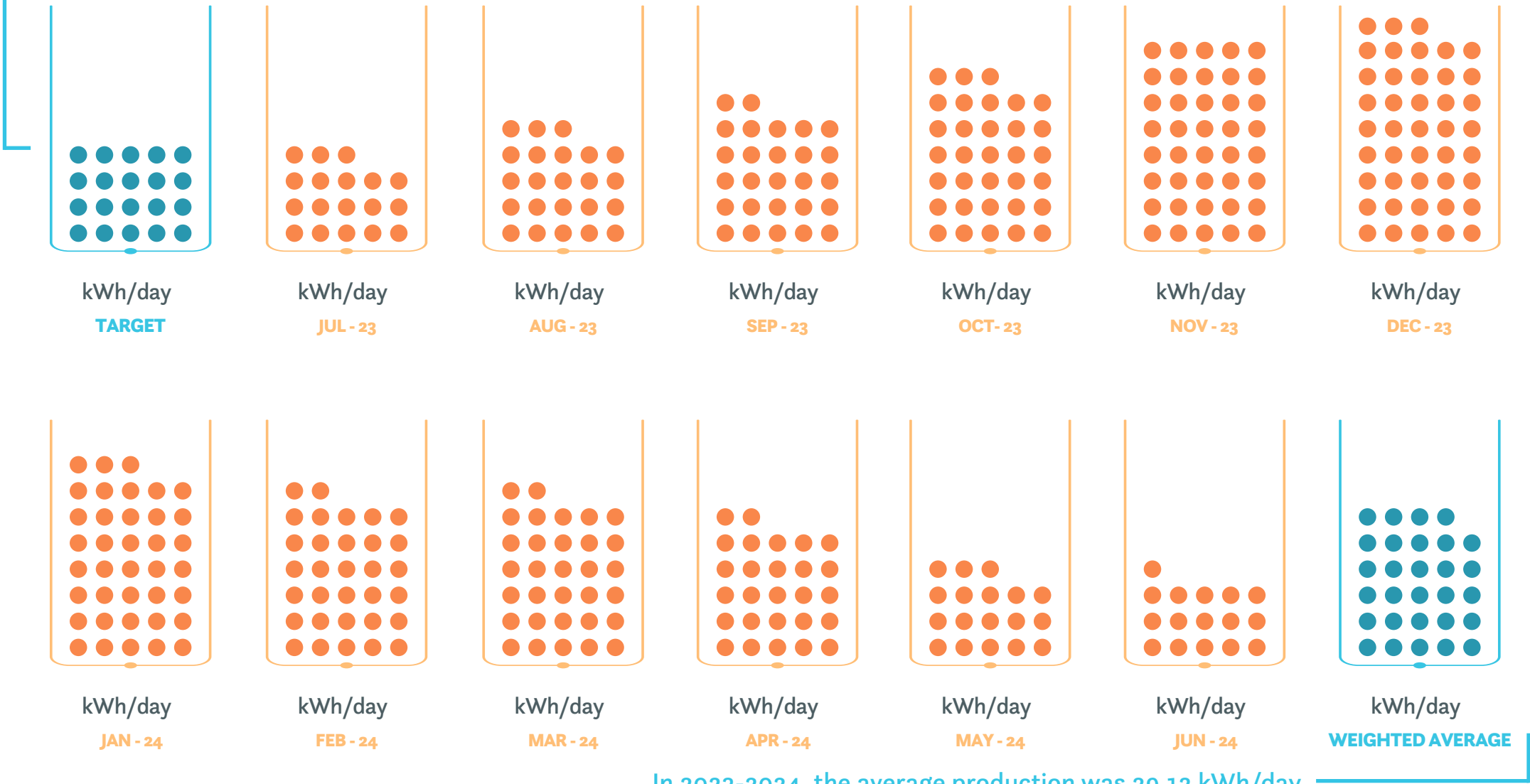
Comms
UNIT % Online
the percentage of time that systems are online and communicating back to Plico Energy, usually due to strength of internet connection.



PLICO PERFORMANCE

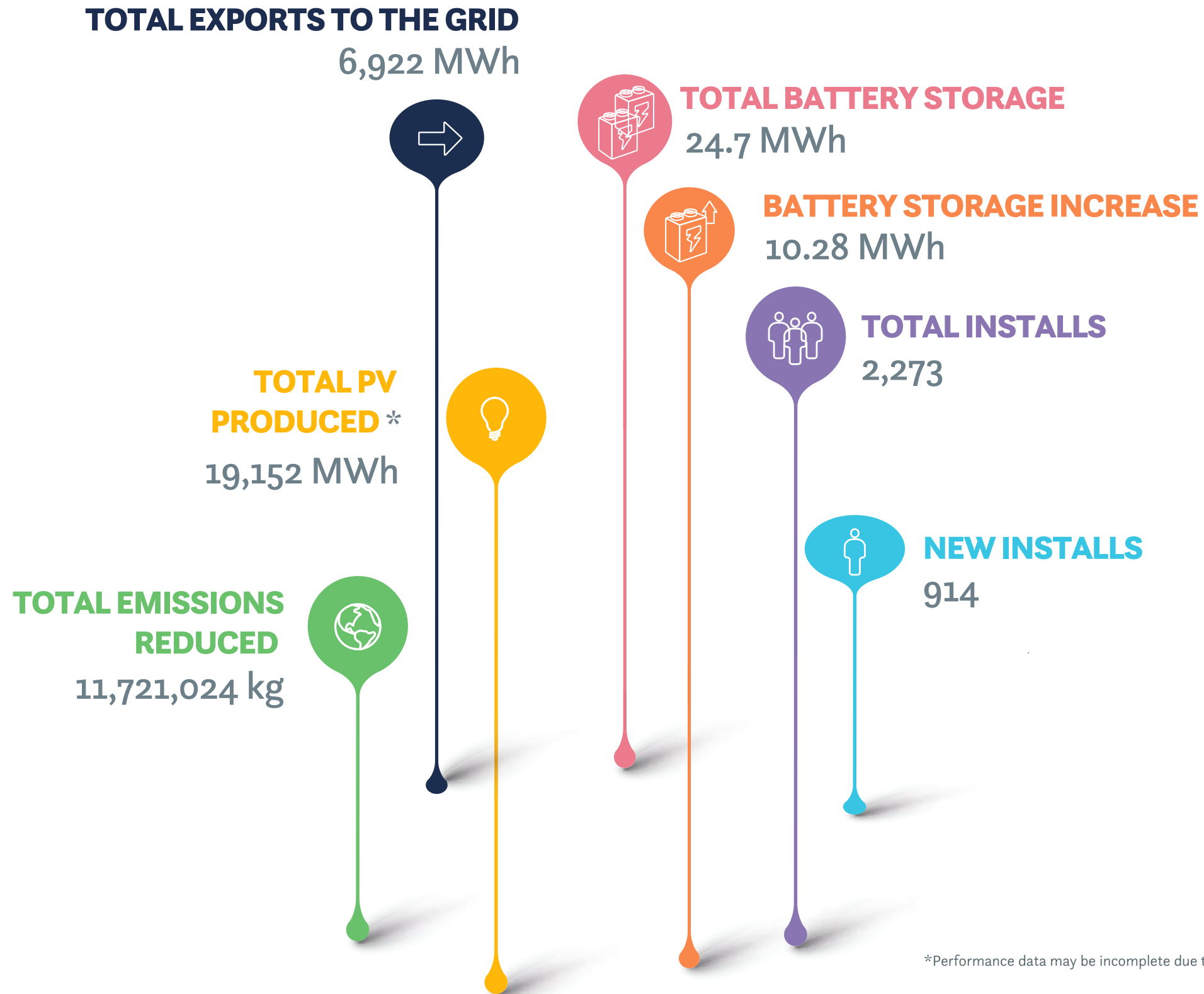
SOLAR GENERATION

Target for Plico Fleet of systems is 20 kWh/day



In 2023-2024, the average production was 29.12 kWh/day

PLICO PERFORMANCE



As of 30 June 2024
*Performance data may be incomplete due to offline inverters and outages.



Be the future.

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