

COMMUNITY ENERGY NEWS



Community Energy Scotland
Cumhachd Coimhearsnachd na h-Alba

Issue Twelve SPRING / SUMMER 2010

Community Energy Scotland is Scotland's community energy development charity. Our aims are to build confidence, resilience and wealth at community level across Scotland through sustainable energy development. We deliver:

- the Scottish Government's *Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES)* for community projects across Scotland
- HIE's *Communities Renewable Energy Support Programme (CRESP)* for Highlands and Islands communities developing energy projects designed to generate income
- support to community energy applicants to Big Lottery's *Growing Community Assets (GCA)* fund

EIGG ON A ROLL | TAPPING WATER POWER | BOWLED OVER AT ROTHENORMAN

Green energy on the crest of a wave



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Read all about the Tall Ship's revolutionary new heating system, a world first according to the Clyde Maritime Trust (see Page 3)

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www.communityenergyscotland.org.uk

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES



Welcome!

Welcome to our spring / summer issue of **Community Energy News**. The first year of the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme has given a tremendous boost to community energy projects across Scotland. You'll see in this issue that the Community Energy Scotland team have been busy helping many communities across the length and breadth of Scotland to discover for themselves the benefits of getting involved in renewable energy projects. Some of these projects are based in truly magnificent and iconic settings, such as Rosslyn Chapel where we've been supporting the Chapel Trust to install a biomass heating system, a complex process given the architectural and spiritual nature of the site. We even have a quote from Hollywood! Other projects are remarkable in their scale, such as Barony College in Dumfriesshire where our staff helped the college to secure a CARES grant of £200,000 towards their woodchip boiler and district heating network. Small is beautiful too, the bowlers at Rothienorman's community bowling club will soon feel the benefit of their new biomass heating system. Just as crucial is our support to Housing Associations, such as Loreburn and Servite Housing Associations where heat recovery and wood pellet boilers ensure warm comfortable homes with affordable heating costs for their tenants. In conjunction with our members, we have responded to three recent consultations, summaries of which you can find on Page 16. We were delighted to hear that 6 of the community projects we were working closely with were successful in securing Big Lottery funding of over £2m. Community Energy Scotland staff have worked hard to help the groups put together their Big Lottery applications and it's a great result for these groups. One of the biggest news stories of recent months has been final completion of the Tiree community wind turbine which is now beginning to generate a significant income for the island community. What an incredible achievement for a small island community! We wish the islanders a fair wind ahead and all the best for the official switch-on which promises to be the biggest community celebration on the island this year.

Who we are

Community Energy Scotland is Scotland's community energy development charity.

How we can help

We build community confidence, resilience and wealth through development of sustainable energy projects. We are dedicated to helping community and voluntary groups harness the potential of renewable energy for the benefit of all in their community, by:

- ◆ providing free technical advice and securing financial support for voluntary, non-profit groups to develop projects
- ◆ supporting groups to interact and transfer knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm through our growing membership
- ◆ making the case locally and nationally for a policy environment which helps community energy projects to succeed.

How you can help us

- ◆ If you are a community organisation

Join our national Community Energy Network as Members of Community Energy Scotland.

- ◆ If you are a business, agency, local authority or individual

Join us as an Associate Member or help by sponsoring us (or both!). We are keen to work in partnership with any organisation that shares our aims and can complement our skills and experience and help us continue this vital community support service.

To find out more visit www.communityenergyscotland.org.uk/members or contact

Marion O'Hara on 01463 860122.

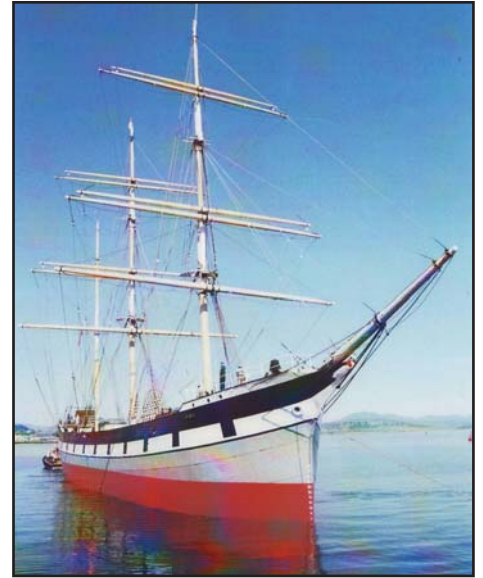




On the crest of a wave

The Tall Ship Glenlee, one of the oldest Clydebuilt vessels still afloat, will soon generate heat from the river water using a revolutionary new system that will work even in very cold temperatures. The Glenlee is one of the first sailing ships to employ this technology which is expected to cut the museum's annual heating bills by 75%. The heat will be extracted from the river distributed via onboard radiators and water heaters. Funding for the heat pump was provided through a CARES grant of £150,000, and by private firm Rock Wool Insulation, which donated £68,000 worth of insulation to improve efficiency. Dr

Christopher Mason, chairman of the Clyde Maritime Trust, described the move as "Another first for Scotland. I believe Glenlee will be the first floating museum ship in the world to be heated with renewable energy resources. This innovative heating system complements The Tall Ship's ethos and provides an educational message about the benefits of using nature's power." The new heating system is part of a wider £1.5m refurbishment project that will make essential improvements to the Glenlee in time for her move alongside the new Riverside Museum in March 2011 and will help secure the long-term future of the ship.



Community Energy Scotland has another link to the Tall Ship Glenlee. Hamish Hardie, father of Community Energy Scotland board member Angus Hardie was responsible for going out to Spain to buy the vessel from the Spanish Navy. Angus said "My father was one of a group of enthusiasts who formed the Clyde Maritime Trust because they felt the Clyde's maritime history needed to be preserved. Formerly used by the Spanish Navy as a training vessel until 1981, the Glenlee lay largely forgotten in a Seville harbour until 1992 (see photo left courtesy of Hamish Hardie) when my father went out to Spain to buy her at auction. She was towed back to the Clyde by tug where she was refurbished to her former glory."

Making power - is it a breeze?

Speakers at a recent training event on the Tall Ship presented a range of topics taking delegates from the spark of an idea to full construction of a wind or hydro turbine. The training, set up by Community Energy Scotland, attracted 78 delegates from over 50 community groups across Scotland. Eager community activists who spent two days aboard sharing their knowledge and experience, hearing from industry experts and

creating new ideas to bring an income for their communities. The training covered the full reality of taking on a multi-million pound, long term project but helped to instill confidence. Although a daunting prospect, with a bit of support communities can still achieve full development of their project. One group said they found "useful contacts and loads of further info. Reality check of what is involved - very useful", while another group mentioned that it "highlighted things that we hadn't even considered". Groups learnt of the benefits such projects can bring, transforming their local community. Delegates also heard of the range and complexities of issues relevant to larger scale projects from financing and funding, feasibility and resource measurement, implementation of community development plans as well as issues around spending the income



they can generate. The recently announced Feed In Tariffs were also discussed. The support and enthusiasm amongst the delegates was very encouraging and many left the training event truly inspired and brimming with ideas for the future. All presentations are on Community Energy Scotland website in the presentations folder at www.communityenergyscotland.org.uk/library.asp





Decoding biomass at Rosslyn

Rosslyn Chapel, a 15th Century listed building in Midlothian, is currently undergoing a £9 million conservation and site improvement project. The Chapel, a stunning 4 star visitor attraction, attracts a high number of visitors (around 130,000 each year) many due to publicity following the filming there of the blockbuster movie "The Da Vinci Code" in 2005. However the Chapel also maintains an ongoing service to the local community. The previous heating system in the Chapel was inadequate and with the threat of potential degradation of the building, a system needed to be designed which would protect the fabric of the building but crucially also fit in with the Chapel's historic nature. Following an energy appraisal, the Rosslyn Chapel Trust decided that a biomass boiler would be the best system to meet the heating and hot water requirements for both the Chapel and the extended visitor centre. The Trust were awarded a CARES grant of £102,253 through Community Energy Scotland towards the new heating scheme. Due to limited space, planning restrictions and the presence of consecrated land, the boiler house needed to be located around 200 metres from the visitor centre and Chapel. It is also being built underground which will aid fuel delivery, with lorries able to tip the woodchip directly into the storage hopper. Work is ongoing on the new heating channels under the floor of the Chapel which will hold the heating pipes that run from the biomass boiler to the Chapel. The new system will keep the building at a constant temperature of around 12-14 degrees and the Chapel



The Trust will make reference to the sustainable heating as part of their guided tour. There will also be a meter in the new visitor centre showing how much CO2 the system is saving.

Actor Tom Hanks, who shot part of the film at the Chapel, has made a generous donation towards the restoration project and said "My fondness for dear Rosslyn Chapel, that dear little piece of history. Few locations in film are so delightful and few destinations live up to their billing but Rosslyn Chapel was all one could imagine or hope for."



Colin Glynne-Percy, director of the Rosslyn Chapel Trust said of the new biomass system "An economical and sustainable heating system is central to the long term conservation strategy for the Chapel, eliminating the current temperature fluctuations and the damaging effects of condensation on the stonework. We are very grateful to Community Energy Scotland for their support which will help us achieve this."

MET MASTS SEEK NEW HOME

Barra and Vatersay Community Limited has a 40m high met mast which is around 6-7 years old. It was used for 4 years in Aberdeenshire and then went to Barra following a refurbishment of the monitoring equipment and replacement of guy wires. It has been on the present site for 2 years. The mast has anemometers at 20m, 30m, and 40m and has wind vanes at 18m and 38m. The mast employs a Campbell Scientific, CR510, data logger which is currently configured for storage of data on a card, but which could be adapted to use mobile networks for downloading data. The data logger is powered by a solar panel mounted on the control box at the base of the mast. Interested parties would need to replace the guys and would need to have the anemometers serviced and calibrated. Any group interested in obtaining either of these two met masts, please get in touch with Kathleen MacDonald of Community Energy Scotland on 01851 707333.



Horshader Community Development Limited

on the west side of Lewis has a 50 Metre Chillwind mast with 3 anemometers, 2 wind vanes, 1 datalogger c/w mobile communication and temperature probe. Instruments are with Chillwind for safe keeping so they will need to be refurbished and calibrated before re-installation. The mast was previously used by North Harris Trust and was on site from February 2008 to May 2009. It is currently palletised at the Horshader site, ready for transportation. There are also bird diverters attached to the old guy ropes but the ropes will need to be replaced. Plans and elevations are available on request.





Eigg on a roll, winning Big Green Challenge

Congratulations to the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust, who won an amazing £300,000 prize through the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) *Big Green Challenge*. Community Energy Scotland (and its predecessor, the Highlands and Islands Community Energy Company) has worked with the Trust over many years, providing assistance and grant funding towards the electrification scheme. In addition, Community Energy Scotland also provided assistance for activities and renewable installations associated with Eigg's successful winning entry. The Eigg Heritage Trust committed themselves to finding practical and creative ways to cut their energy use and increase local resilience. A range of projects took place on the island, such as installing solar panels on houses and public buildings, insulating houses, increasing the number of bicycles on the island, an increase in lift sharing and the Giant Green Footsteps Festival. Future plans for the island include more home insulation work, solar thermal panels on houses, a new eco-house for volunteers, additional solar PV panels for the grid system, an island wood fuel business and an electric community vehicle.



Photo shows John Hutchison, Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust, (left) and Lucy Conway, Eigg volunteer (right), with Community Energy Officer Jamie Adam.

More yield per field

As reported in the last issue of *Community Energy News*, one of Fyne Futures developments Bute Produce Garden Project received CARES funding for a 6kW grid connected wind turbine. This scheme offers volunteering and training opportunities for both children and adults, giving the community the opportunity to improve their horticultural skills, and to provide fresh local affordable produce for the community. The community turbine is now installed and operational. The electricity generated by the turbine is exported to the grid and the group will receive payments as green energy producers. The turbine is the first on the island of Bute and has received a lot of positive attention from the local community.



Photo shows the turbine being installed.

The art of spin

The Udney Community Trust in Aberdeenshire is developing its own community turbine. The turbine is expected to generate around £50,000 annually and once the initial bank loan is paid off, the annual income may rise to over £150,000. These funds will be used by the Udney Community Trust to improve the quality of life for all Udney residents by supporting a wide range of development activities. The project has had a massive boost through securing planning consent in December 2009, an award of CARES funding and the award of a Big Lottery Fund grant in February. Garth Entwistle, chairman of Udney Community Turbine Group, said "We – the community and especially the "famous five" who have made all of this happen – are very happy with how things are now turning out. Since 2006, we have secured a grid connection, planning permission and now have started discussions with bankers, negotiated a lease, won £137,000 from CARES funding and now £269,000 from the Big Lottery. Kevin Dickson of Community Energy Scotland has helped us jump over the hurdles as they appeared, he has encouraged us all and directed us down paths we didn't know existed. We couldn't have done it without him and the rest of Community Energy Scotland team". Udney's "famous five" are Garth Entwistle, Chairman, Matt Kaye, Treasurer, Brian McDougal, problem solver, Mike McDonald, chief negotiator and David Murray, chief encourager! The photo shows children in the two primary schools building 3-D models of their communities in preparation for Planning For Real, a community consultation event which was well attended and gave overwhelming support for the project's planning application.



Group effort in Sleat

Plans for developing a community wind project by Sleat Community Trust on the Isle of Skye have been boosted by a CARES grant of £61,643. Some of the funding has already gone towards installing an anemometer mast at the top of A'Mhaoile on the Sleat peninsula. This is a significant step forward for the Sleat community wind project and early readings on wind data show a healthy wind resource. Donald MacGregor, chair of Sleat Renewables Limited thanked Community Energy Scotland for their help with the CARES funding process and also for the practical support of local Community Energy Scotland project manager Rab Lees. Through its Clean Sleat project the Trust also recently held a community renewable energy event North West Energy 2010. The conference provided opportunities to meet suppliers and other groups developing similar projects.



Photos show a good turnout at North West Energy community event



Historic Mill - what's the yarn?

Knockando Wool Mill is the only working district wool mill in the United Kingdom. It is set in a scenic area by the River Spey, high in the Banffshire hills. Woollen cloth has been produced on the site continuously for over 200 years. After years of fundraising, the cash required to restore the Mill is finally all in place, thanks to a CARES grant of £96,000. The restored mill will have three wood pellet boilers, providing a modern, controllable heating system run on locally-produced wood pellets. The new heating installation will keep the Mill and workshop warm, and supply all the hot water needs of both staff and visitors. The project is providing an immediate boost for local jobs, with local firms involved in the construction and restoration work over a two-year period. The wood pellet boiler system is also being installed and maintained by a local firm. The next two years will see intensive work to carefully conserve the site and its buildings. Since appearing on the BBC TV programme 'Restoration' in 2004, the project has won over £3.5million of support from public and private funds. Jana Hutt, Chair of the Trust said 'The TV programme was a great springboard for us. It showed so many people of the treasure we have here and its potential for future generations. It will stay a working mill and there will be interpretation for school groups and training for weavers. The whole site will be re-born. Green energy was always part of the plan, and wood pellet heating will be our main source of heat for the Mill, workshop and visitor centre.' Dr Hutt continued "It was local water power that led to the site being a mill in the first place, and soon we will be turning again. Power from the millwheel will be incorporated in the energy system as soon as we can."



Just what the doctor ordered

Kilchoan Community Centre (KCC) in West Ardnamurchan is a tearoom and visitor centre, well-used for social and educational functions. The centre also includes a medical room used by the local doctor and nurses. Previously the costs of heating and lighting the building were considerable. Thanks to CARES funding, KCC has improved insulation levels throughout the centre and comments from the nursing staff have been positive. "We have never been so cosy and this greatly improves the comfort levels for our patients too". Mary Khan, chair of KCC, added "We also received CARES funding towards installing two wind turbines. This will really cut down our heating costs and will enable KCC to continue to operate successfully. Community Energy Scotland has also funded a monitoring system which will allow local primary school children to see how power is generated, how it is used internally in the centre and then any surplus exported to the grid". Photo shows the newly installed Evance Iskra 5kW turbines. It should generate around 18,000kWh a year, saving them around £2,000 a year in electricity, and earning them around £4,300 a year from FiTs.

This project is one of the first CARES-funded projects in this area, one of the first projects to go through Community Energy Scotland's framework agreement and one of the first CARES projects to install Evance Iskra turbines. This project was also the first mainland wind2heat system.



Beating winter blues

Perth and Kinross Council received a £62,000 CARES grant from Community Energy Scotland for 30% of the costs of a containerised wood chip boiler system at Alyth Primary School in Perthshire. The 300kW Veto woodboiler is fed from the adjacent fuel store and district heating pipes carry the hot water from the boilerhouse to the school building. The system is now commissioned and has performed well even in the extreme winter weather. Photo shows Jamie Adam, Community Energy Scotland local development officer for Perth, Kinross and Stirlingshire.



Greening the Black Isle

Community Energy Scotland were joint award winners for their involvement in the "Greening the Black Isle" project under the Highland Council's Protecting and Developing the Environment. At the ceremony at the Town House, Inverness the award was received by Melanie MacRae (second right), development officer for Community Energy Scotland; Di Agnew, Ward Manager for the Black Isle; Liz Whiteford, LEADER Development Officer and Findon Hall's Les Robinson who have all been involved in the project. Our photo shows the group receiving the award along with BBC political correspondent Brian Taylor.



The project involves 14 community groups and their facilities in the Black Isle. Each of the groups has taken an active part in 'future-proofing' their community buildings from energy price rises and working to protect their vital community facilities.

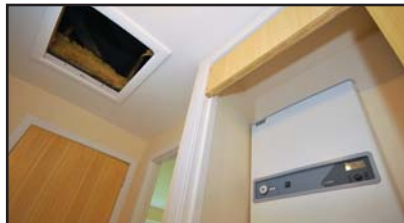
Melanie MacRae who had helped develop this joint approach said "Since we began this project a year ago, there has been an additional six groups join the Black Isle Community Buildings Energy Study Group. This group meets regularly to visit and learn about renewable energy installations in community buildings. It is great to see such an active interest amongst the group in making their community facilities more sustainable". The project will be used as a model in other parts of the Highland area and is currently being rolled out in East Sutherland, North & West Sutherland and Dingwall & Seaforth. (photo left shows some of the Black Isle group)



Something in the air

Loreburn Housing Association is a registered social landlord providing quality affordable housing throughout Dumfries and Galloway. Due to planning changes and continued dissatisfaction from tenants regarding their heating systems, Loreburn decided to use its development at Boyach Terrace, Isle of Whithorn, as a pilot scheme for a more efficient, low carbon and cost effective heating system with CARES support from Community Energy Scotland.

In partnership with Community Energy Scotland and Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd building contractors, they installed 16 exhaust air heat recovery units to provide hot water and heating for the properties. The system is estimated to save more than a tonne of CO₂ per household each year and significantly reduces energy bills for tenants. The project has been so successful to date that Loreburn are now installing 10 more units at their latest development, All Souls in Wigtown. As well as installing heat pumps at these two developments, all Loreburn properties are insulated to the highest standard, designed to maximise passive heat gain where possible, and all tenants are provided with energy saving light bulbs when they move in. Alison Parker, Investment Officer for Loreburn Housing Association, who co-ordinated the Isle of Whithorn project said: "We are delighted that the initial feedback from tenants has been so positive, particularly when we have experienced one of the coldest winters in Scotland for 25 years. We're grateful of the support from CARES through Community Energy Scotland, without which we could not have gone ahead with that choice of heating." Loreburn's tenants have also been satisfied with their new heating systems. Mr Leigh of Boyach Terrace, Isle of Whithorn commented "I find it absolutely brilliant. I've never lived in a house that's so warm. We have hot water and heating 24/7, absolutely superb."



RNLI flies green flag

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) has received a CARES grant of £6,931 for solar thermal panels and electrical efficiency work in its Scottish Headquarters in Perth. The building houses a fundraising, operations, maintenance and support team for the whole of the lifesaving charity's operations around the coast of Scotland. The installation of flat-plate solar thermal panels is complete and the solar panels are expected to produce 1300kWh of heat a year, saving around 275kg of CO₂ emissions. The electrical efficiency work replaced the old striplights throughout most of the building with the more efficient T5 type, which use 36% less power and will help further reduce costs and result in carbon savings. The site already uses air source heat pump units for heating. Divisional General Manager Alan Stewart commented "The RNLI is delighted to have installed the system before summer and we are grateful for the CARES support, as more money can be diverted from annual energy bills into frontline life-saving work. Even on a cold March day with the air temperature just above freezing, the solar panels were already producing plenty of heat in the winter sunshine." This charity has also benefited from a CARES grant for a pilot wind turbine scheme based in Aith, Shetland. It is expected that the turbine will generate annually around 40,000kWh of electricity.



Moffat CAN!

Moffat CAN is a community-owned organisation working for carbon reduction in the Upper Annandale district of Dumfries and Galloway. CAN (Carbon Approaching Neutral) has been doing a doorstep energy use survey, encouraging take-up of insulation measures, and is about to start a major new project which will link recycling and food production. In April 2010 the local council is to end all doorstep recycling. CAN has funding from the Climate Challenge Fund to start a local recycling collection service. CAN has also persuaded the Council to sell it a disused and semi-derelict church with an acre of waste land attached. CAN will convert the building into a centre for recycling operations, while the land becomes a local allotment site and community market garden. Volunteering opportunities will be available, particularly using raised beds for those not able to kneel or dig. Waste from the gardens and the recycling collections is to be turned into nutrition for food production. CAN wants its operations to be as low carbon as possible, so intends to create a zero carbon building, using heat from ground source heat pump, powered by an array of PV panels, and a solar thermal panel on the large roof, and is applying for CARES funding. The aim is to use the grid as a battery, feeding in during the summer months and taking out during the winter, and to create a display to show that PV is effective in the west of Scotland. Development Officer Chris Ballance said "I've been really impressed by how helpful Keith Bale, our local CARES officer, has been and how straightforward the CARES application process is. Having advocated the advantages of renewables for over 30 years, I'm excited that CARES gives us the chance to put theory into practice and provide something which will I hope encourage others to follow."



Bowled over by biomass

Rothienorman Community Bowling Club is in the process of constructing a new building to create a community resource for use by the bowling club and a wide range of other local groups. The building replaces an aged asbestos prefabricated building well past its design life and will provide all the facilities necessary to satisfy the demands of sporting and social groups within the growing Rothienorman community. These needs became focused in 2002 following a well attended and productive Planning for Real meeting amongst the community, organised by the Rothienorman Community Association. The community group leading the construction process have decided on a biomass heating system for the new facility and were successful in securing CARES funding towards the cost of the new system. Installation of the pellet boiler is now in the final stages of completion. The plant was installed by Glendevon Energy.



Photo shows Alan Beedie, Community Energy Scotland Development Officer North East Scotland.

Biomass - cream of the crop



Barony College, near Dumfries in South West Scotland, specialises in vocational training for land-based and animal care industries. The 228 hectare campus includes dairy, beef, sheep, cereals, trout, red deer, forestry and horticulture commercial activities, which gives students hands-on training in real working environments. Since a major campus development in 1992 the College had relied on oil and electric boilers as it has no access to mains gas. In 2008 the College took the decision to replace these aging boilers with a renewable energy source - a biomass boiler. Following

consultation with their local Community Energy Scotland development officer and extensive design and planning work, a central woodchip boiler and associated district heating network was designed to link into the existing heat distribution network throughout the campus. CARES funding through Community Energy Scotland contributed £200,000 towards project costs. The boiler and system were installed during the summer and autumn of 2009 and commissioned in November 2009. The boiler supports not only the main teaching buildings but also the student residential facilities and has connected a wide range of buildings successfully. Expectations are that cost savings will be £50,000 plus per annum, giving a payback of just over 10 years and the boiler will make a significant contribution to the College's ambitious

carbon management targets. College Principal Russell Marchant said: "This project has been a great leap forward for the College and wouldn't have been possible without the support of Community Energy Scotland - they have enabled us to make a very positive step towards significant reductions in our carbon footprint." Barony College are now planning another ambitious project to develop an Anaerobic Digestion plant in collaboration with local farmers.

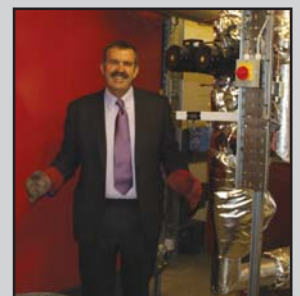
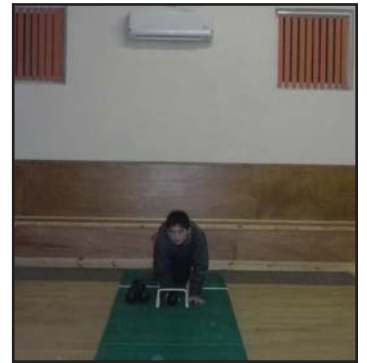


Photo shows Russell Marchant College Principal at the boiler



Lagging behind helped Bowlers Hall

The Trustees of the Bowlers Hall is a voluntary organisation with a long standing tradition in Castle Douglas having been established in 1900. The hall was gifted to the community by Adam Rae in 1906. The club recently installed new flooring in the hall, only to discover shortly after that this was being badly damaged by the cold conditions and lack of proper heating. Club secretary Davy McMath contacted Community Energy Scotland just before Christmas to find out if any help was available, and was relieved to hear that Community Energy Scotland could fund 85% of an air source heat pump installation, along with roof insulation, enabling the club to dramatically reduce their carbon footprint and heating bills, and perhaps most importantly, preventing any further damage to the floor so they could continue bowling! Amazingly it took the club just 3 weeks to obtain quotes, be approved for funding and have the installation carried out, proving that community projects can be carried out quickly with the right motivation and organisation. The club have been delighted with the performance of the heat pumps so far, as confirmed by Davy McMath: *"We are extremely grateful to Community Energy Scotland, who provided excellent advice and support on the project. The installation of the air source heat pumps has provided an excellent source of heating within the hall and, along with the roof insulation, will help significantly reduce our energy bills and further enhance the facility for community use."*



Small community, bold vision

Eskdalemuir is a small remote community high in the hills northeast of Lockerbie. Its isolated location, social needs and the lack of community facilities have been drivers for looking for new ideas to support its long term future. The closure of the primary school galvanised the community into action. The Upper Eskdale Development Group was set up and bought the school from the local authority



and is now being developed as a Community Hub to serve a range of social and community activities. When considering the best low carbon solution for heating the centre, the group settled on wood fuel. UEDG Chairman Nick Jennings said *"We are living in one of the most heavily forested parts of the UK and surrounded by mature commercial plantations. We just have to link up the need for heat and the renewable resources of the forestry with a simple effective local wood fuel processing and supply chain"*. The group is now aiming to provide renewable wood-powered energy to local residents, groups and commercial customers in the local community, offering a locally grown energy source. Initially the project will build a wood yard with a facility for air-drying split logs and a hardstanding area to site processing machinery. Wood will be purchased from the Forestry Commission and other growers and then processed on site before being delivered to the local community. The group plans to assist householders with the installation of wood burning systems and develop an energy supply company to supply heat to the world famous Samye Ling Tibetan Monastery. The project will also create new employment opportunities in the area, reduce fuel costs and enable the community to work together with the environment for a sustainable future. Keith Bale Community Energy Scotland's development officer for South West Scotland is providing support. Nick Jennings said *"Keith is advising us on all energy aspects of our project and his help is invaluable to achieving what is a pretty bold vision for a pretty small community. Keith provides the support and advice which we don't have locally"*. They also hope to be the successful Scottish village in the BBC/Big Lottery Fund scheme Village SOS.



Healthier homes

Lucky tenants in a new 32-home development at West Heather Road in Inverness are expected to pay less than £600 a year for all their heating and hot water, thanks to a new district heating scheme. Part of a healthcare village development, Servite Housing Association has built 28 flats and 4 cottages aimed at older people. The innovative communal heating system really boosted these homes' sustainability rating and helped achieve a BREEM 'Excellent' award for the development. Three Okofen wood pellet boilers provide heat and hot water to all the homes via a heat exchanger in each property. The fully automated system uses a vacuum feed for the wood pellets and was installed by Inverness-based woodfuel specialists Fraser and Sun. The heating system was assisted with a CARES grant of £60,000. Steven Watson, the local Community Energy Scotland development officer who supported the project said *"Servite deserve praise for incorporating a communal woodfuel heating system in this development. These new homes really raise the standard of sustainability to new levels."*





Early learning on Isle of Mull

Work has now started on the new Pre-5 unit at Tobermory High School on Mull. This will include the first pellet biomass boiler to be installed in an Argyll and Bute Council building and its first 'A' rated building. The facility will provide nursery places for 23 children and will be completed by summer 2010. Among its other more striking features is the sheeps' wool insulation to the floors, recycled newspaper insulation in the walls, a heat recovery ventilation unit to pre-heat incoming air and the use of eco-paints on internal surfaces. The boiler, heat recovery unit and insulation have been partly funded through CARES. The Tobermory building will also feature untreated home grown Scottish larch cladding throughout. Councillor Isobel Strong, of Argyll and Bute Council's Education and Lifelong Learning, said she was delighted that the construction is progressing. "This is a much-needed facility for the Tobermory area and I know how much the local parents and children are looking forward to seeing it open," she added. "The fact that the building is going to achieve several 'firsts' for the Council in terms of its energy efficiency and sustainability makes it particularly exciting."



Out of the Blue and into the green

Out of the Blue Arts and Education Trust provides studio and production space for Edinburgh's cultural community at the Out of the Blue Drill Hall. Previously used by the Territorial Army, the Drill Hall lacked adequate insulation and it proved



difficult to maintain a regular temperature throughout the building. Phase 3 of a refurbishment project of the hall is now underway to transform the building, once heated by fossil fuels, into an inspirational example of environmental sustainability. The new spaces will be created for community participation, namely studios, workshop space, and community café extension. The community café is run as a training project for helping young folk get into work and after the refurbishment, there is likely to be up to 16 trainees at the café. The Trust received CARES funding towards a renewable energy heating system as part of the refurbishment works. The installation of two evacuated tube solar collectors on the flat roof will provide ample hot water in the summer months and make a significant contribution during the winter. A cylinder will be connected to the existing boiler and a timer installed to allow separate control of the hot water. Destratification fans will provide relief in the summer by cooling the hot air around the large glass roof and moving the air over a wide area. This will remove the need for any air conditioning unit and will maintain a comfortable working temperature. Rosie Lewis, Carbon Reduction Officer at out of the Blue said "The installation of these features gives us a fantastic opportunity to promote renewable energy technologies to the public; we are planning to give tours of the building which may well include a chance to get up on the roof and see the solar panels - for those with a head for heights!"

Moray Energy Fair

Moray Council recently hosted the first Moray Energy Fair aimed at local residents, businesses and community organisations. Elgin Town Hall was busy all day and into the evening with folk keen to see how renewable energy and energy efficiency could help them heat their homes more sustainably. Steven Watson, Community Energy Scotland development officer for Moray and East Highland said "The fair was well-publicised and people from the four corners of Moray attended. There is a great impetus in east Moray for sustainability. The Findhorn Foundation and the Transition Town activities are great examples of community action. Inland, sustaining community life in Scout halls and community sports facilities are local priorities. Elgin's Tesco store has now consent for its own small vertical axis wind turbine too.' Moray is not short of renewable energy resources. It has more windfarms for its area than any other part of Scotland. It has rivers suitable for small hydro schemes and an abundance of forestry suitable for woodfuel. Exhibitors included AES solar, the only solar panel manufacturer in Scotland, which is based in Forres. Local MCS accredited solar, heat pump and woodfuel installers from across the North East were in attendance, along with Moray Council planning officers, Forestry Commission and Energy Saving Trust staff. Our photo shows Fiona Limbrey, development officer with Moray Council, who was part of the organising team, along with Steven.



HIE'S COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPORT PROGRAMME (CRESP) PROJECTS



Consultation responses

Community Energy Scotland has responded to three recent policy consultations. The full text of all three responses is at www.communityenergyscotland.org.uk/consultation-responses.asp

Unlocking the grid

Improving Grid Access – Department of Energy and Climate Change

In order to ensure the UK meets its climate change targets and ensure security of supply, large amounts of renewable and other low carbon generation need to be able to connect to the UK electricity networks. The Government recognised that uncertainty around current grid access arrangements may delay or stop these

investments and published this consultation to seek views on the options for grid access reform. The Government will consider the responses to this consultation when drafting proposals for changes to industry licences and codes. These proposals will affect community renewables projects and therefore

Community Energy Scotland prepared a response to the consultation. The consultation largely looked at how the necessary upgrades to the UK electricity networks would be paid for. Community Energy Scotland's response commented on the impact the Connect and Manage models would have on community projects.

Time to link up

Transmission Access Review – Enhanced Transmission Investment Incentives: Initial Proposals (Ofgem)

This consultation looked at critical investments in the UK grid infrastructure needed to meet current and future demand. This consultation was of particular importance to communities developing renewables

projects which depend on new infrastructure being built or the upgrading of existing infrastructure. Community Energy Scotland argued strongly in favour of those infrastructure investments which would

directly benefit community projects, in particular the Western Isles HVDC link, as the consultation questioned the need for the link and its scope. Several community projects are dependent on this HVDC link.

FiT to ROC on

Consultation on Renewable Electricity Financial Incentives

The UK Government brought out the Renewables Obligation (RO) in Scotland in 2002 to incentivise the generation of electricity from eligible renewable sources. The RO places an obligation on licensed electricity suppliers to source an increasing proportion of electricity from renewable sources. Those generating green electricity receive a Renewable Obligation Certificate (ROC) for every Megawatt hour of electricity they produce and these certificates have trading value. The Renewables Obligation is focussed on larger generators and therefore the Government introduced a separate incentive for generators under 5MW called **Feed-in Tariffs** to encourage smaller projects with a simpler system and more predictable returns.

Three main areas of concern that were

covered in our response were:

Generators off the electricity grid being eligible for FITs – Community Energy Scotland argued strongly in favour of off-grid generators being eligible for FITs as a number of communities in the Highlands and Islands are looking to take forward district heating schemes powered by large turbines. This is a particularly good solution for communities taking forward a revenue-generating wind or hydro project where the grid is too weak to connect a significantly sized generator to.

The tariff levels determining the price a generator receives depending on its size – Community Energy Scotland argued strongly that the tariff levels would lead to perverse incentives and that the suggested depression rates were set to be implemented too soon, not giving enough



time for the FIT scheme to bed in.

Access to FITs being conditional upon repayment of any central Government grant received – Community Energy Scotland argued strongly against this, as accessing match funding for some of the grants Community Energy Scotland coordinates is proving to be a challenging task. If current grant schemes are to be clawed back it will undoubtedly result in many communities being unable to progress with current projects that could be beneficial.



HIE'S COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPORT PROGRAMME (CRESP) PROJECTS



Tilley the Tiree turbine now turning

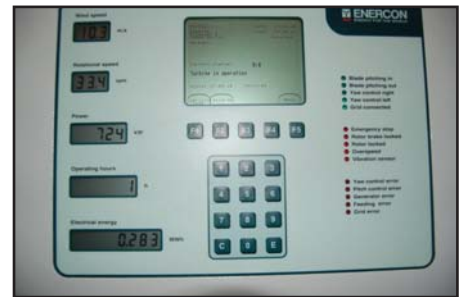
Tiree Renewable Energy Company Limited (TREL) is pleased to announce that after being put through a number of energising and commissioning tests, Tilley the Tiree Turbine began generating power at the end of March.

The project to build a turbine for the community of Tiree started over four years ago. The voluntary directors of TREL have worked tirelessly, and overcome many hurdles during this time to reach this day.

The turbine is now operational and has started to generate an income stream which will benefit the community of Tiree for the next 25 years. This income will be gift aided by TREL to Tiree Community Development Trust and used to support a variety of future community projects. TREL expects to distribute details of the Tiree Windfall Fund to the community soon. The official opening ceremony is on Saturday 24th April at 2pm, followed by a family dance in the evening, which will be open to all in the local community. TREL are keen to pass on congratulations to all who have helped in any way to make this project a success. HICEC, Community Energy Scotland's predecessor, supported

the Tiree wind project over many years with funding from Highlands and Islands Enterprise. Community Energy Scotland has continued this support in recent years and the team are delighted that the turbine is now finally operational and will bring significant revenue into the local community.

The meter on the right shows that the turbine is now connected and exporting to the grid and showing 0.283 MWh of energy produced in the first hour of operating - a real milestone for the community project. Community Energy Scotland sends congratulations to the Tiree group for their incredible achievement!



The Generation Game

The plan for the local community to own and run its own wind turbine on a small windfarm planned for land above Drumnadrochit was boosted by a CRESP grant. Soirbheas Limited, set up by the steering group, will be carrying out consultations with residents around Drumnadrochit and Cannich and produce the documents required for the planning application. The CRESP grant of £40,000 will cover legal costs, accountancy, community engagement, technical advice and bird studies for the five-turbine project. Erik Trefler, local resident and director of Soirbheas Ltd, commented "We are keen to see the community earn money from the wind resource we have here. We have an arrangement with local developers Corrimony Energy and plan to have our own single turbine beside their four turbines. The income generated will fund community projects in Glen Urquhart and Strathglass. The grant will be spent on making sure we have a viable project that is capable of making money to help our communities for the coming 25 years. We want to make sure that residents know what is proposed and that they are happy to support the idea". He added "Communities on the islands of Tiree, Westray and Gigha have all got their own wind turbines producing an income to help them and we want to do the same here."



Photo shows committee members Anne Macdonald, Mary Brook and Erik Trefler

One more tool

The Renewable Energy Toolkit for Communities produced by Community Energy Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government has been substantially updated to include many more topics. Section 6 now contains guidance of a range of new topics, from financing projects which generate revenue, legal contracts which require to be in place, technical considerations and management of the project following construction. Information contained in this new section can also be complemented by the presentations from the Community Energy Scotland training event at the Tall Ship and available on the website. The update was funded jointly by GCA and HIE's CRESP programme.



COMMUNITY powerdown

Community Energy Scotland co-ordinates the Community Powerdown programme

Community Energy Scotland conceived Community Powerdown as a way of helping communities to detach their development from fossil fuel use. Community Energy Scotland was successful in applying to the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund to appoint a Community

Powerdown officer in 26 communities across Scotland and they are all now working hard to develop their community's Powerdown plans.



Ecodrama takes centre stage

Three schools in Lewis got a taste of how to lower their carbon footprint, the benefits of renewable energy and the importance of recycling from the *Isle of Egg Show* and *Eco Gadgets* or *Recycling Heroes* workshops. The week was co-funded and organised by Galson Estate Trust (through Community Powerdown), Community Energy Scotland and The Energy Advisory Service. Eco Drama was set up in 2008 as a response to the environmental issues that have arisen on both a local and global level. They visited schools at Airidhantium, Barvas and Lionel in Ness. A pupil at Airidhantium said: "They showed us lots of ways to save energy. They showed us a car powered by water, a boat powered by steam and a windmill powered by solar panels. They were really funny! They even made an invention called the sci-cycle! They told us about the Isle of Egg where their ferry was damaged in a storm and they had to find ways of not using oil by turning the lights off to save energy. They then built solar panels and generators to keep their electricity going. It was very clever of such a small island to do this. They worked as a team." The whole week was a great success. The schools, the organisers and the drama group all enjoyed the visits and it also helped the schools to reach their Eco School targets.

Energy at home

LLCCDC (Latheron, Lybster & Clyth Community Development Company) in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust carried out a Home Energy Campaign for the village of Lybster. A mailshot was organised and posters were prominently displayed. Community Powerdown Officer Anne Sutherland assisted householders in completing the Home Energy Campaign forms and so helped improve the quality of the responses by advising householders. The follow up resulted in 34 loft insulations and 11 cavity wall insulations. Preparations are taking place to expand this activity to the wider area. At the Clyth Christmas Fayre Anne Sutherland of LLCCDC teamed up with the Highland Council Waste Management Team to promote waste reduction and encouraging people to reduce, reuse, re-cycle. Many items and suggestions on how to have an eco-friendly Christmas were displayed with demonstrations on how to recycle Christmas cards. (Photograph from the Fayre)



South Kintyre Development Trust's (SKDT)

Community Powerdown project is in full swing in 2010. With 65 tons of CO₂ saved so far, 2010 will be a transition year for the area. Late 2009, saw the announcement from the Climate Challenge Fund of funding for a pilot biodiesel project, to be operated by Kintyre Recycling, a local recycling social enterprise that employs people with disabilities and people who are long term unemployed. The project will run from January 2010 until March 2011 and will establish a biodiesel reprocessing facility in Campbeltown. The biodiesel produced will be used to run the kerbside collection vehicles, saving over 22 tons of CO₂ per annum. February also saw the start of an insulation campaign jointly run with the Energy Saving Scotland Advice Centre. Nearly 3000 homes in South Kintyre will be given a home energy check to determine what they can do to reduce their energy bills. Those who return the home energy check form will be offered free or subsidised insulation to help reduce their energy bills.



Tapping into water power

The community of Northmavine in Shetland is looking to micro-hydro for their future energy supply.

"Northmavine has a huge resource of water power which is completely untapped", says Community Powerdown Officer Colin Dickie, "Hydro has many advantages over wind, it has much less impact on the environment, is much more stable and predictable. A major problem with renewables in Shetland is the grid constraints which means it is often difficult to manage rapidly fluctuating devices like wind turbines.

Hydro turbines have the advantage that they are much more stable and can be controlled, therefore helping to stabilise the grid." Colin has been working closely with Community Energy Scotland to arrange a feasibility study into micro-hydro and a consultant is expected to begin work very soon.



Community Powerdown's annual seminar

Despite the wintry weather a group of 31 delegates gathered in Inverness for the second Community Powerdown conference in late February. During the conference project officers and invited speakers covered a wide range of subjects. Community Powerdown officers Michelle Koster, REW and Hugh Hutchison, Catrine gave presentations on an Affordable Warmth programme and SNAP respectively. Ian Findlay gave a very thought provoking presentation "Framework for Strategic Development" introducing The Natural Step programme. Trella Javainen enthusiastically engaged her audience on the subject of "Energy Advice – Good Practice". Nicholas Gubbins of Community Energy Scotland gave an overview of the organisation and how it devised the Community Powerdown programme. Adrian Duffey gave a presentation on the organisation Keep Scotland Beautiful. Gwen from Knoydart said "Lots of activity and interest in Knoydart in carbon reduction – both through the CCF projects we are developing but also in finding other ways to achieve CO₂ reduction. It's amazing how much people "get on with it" given the support, encouragement, information and access to networks".

Latest round of awards

17 Community Powerdown groups have also been awarded funding in the latest round of the Climate Challenge Fund. The total grants awarded were £783,397. The smallest award of £1,368 was to Ullapool Community Trust for an awareness raising campaign and the largest award of £126,735 went to Isle of Jura Development Trust for energy efficiency, wood fuel and awareness raising projects. Commenting on the award to Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre, Michelle Koster the Community Powerdown officer said, "The new allotment site and a Community Garden will help develop the 3 islands' self-reliance for fruit and vegetables. It will save on carbon pollution associated with the forced growing of crops and transport to their final destinations. The gardens will provide a community venture, where home growing can be supported and encouraged and where those of us who are learning how to grow fruit and vegetables can come along and learn new ideas and answers from those who are more experienced." In Stronsay Marion Macleod was equally delighted to know that the Development's Trusts application to CCF had been successful. Marion commented "The project includes the erection of a communally shared poly greenhouse sited centrally on the island. The greenhouse will be divided into individual plots and will give residents a unique opportunity to grow out-of-season fruit and vegetables under cover and away from the harsh maritime climate that we sometimes have in Orkney. The produce will be for own use but also used for community events and other smaller food projects. It is hoped that this will increase the current supply of fruit and vegetables on Stronsay where it is almost impossible to grow produce outdoors. It will also extend the growing season and offer early and later crops."

Photo shows Michelle Koster addressing the group.





Board News

The Community Energy Scotland board was augmented in December by a further three directors co-opted by the current board. **Angus Hardie** established Development Trusts Association Scotland and served as its director. He is now a director of Local People Leading, an alliance of national community sector networks, formed to advance the community agenda in Scotland. **Craig Campbell** has a background in structured corporate financing and is currently Chief Executive of Social Investment Scotland. He was previously head of Community Banking with Bank of Scotland. **Pauline Gallacher**, with a background in architecture, planning and community participation, initiated Space to Live, an ambitious community-based public space campaign in her home town of Neilston. She later led on the Community Right to Buy of the former Clydesdale Bank in the village, and plays a central role in the development of the Neilston Development Trust, (NDT) the successor to Space to Live. NDT has been a key partner in Neilston's development as the first Scottish Renaissance Town.

Two board meetings have taken place since the last newsletter was published. At the December board meeting, the board were given a presentation on Community Energy Scotland's role in urban areas and the different approach required compared to support for rural communities. Community Energy Scotland members had also been invited to highlight any areas they wanted examined in future strategy and these comments were relayed to the board for discussion. Following this theme, the February board meeting included a wide discussion on a review of the organisation's business plan.



Angus Hardie



Craig Campbell



Pauline Gallacher

Community Energy Scotland (Trading)

Following a recent review of its business development strategy, Community Energy Scotland board has now activated its trading subsidiary "Community Energy Scotland (Trading)". Founding director John Shedden has now been joined by John Flett Brown as Chair, Colin Risbridger as Vice Chair and Craig Campbell as director. Jon Priddy, Community Energy Scotland area manager for North East, Highland and Moray, will also join the board and Robert Burnett, Community Energy Scotland finance officer, will serve as Company Secretary. At the inaugural meeting of the CES(T) board, a wide range of new business ideas were discussed and once fully explored, details of these new directions will be available will be made available.



John Shedden



John Flett Brown



Colin Risbridger



Craig Campbell



Jon Priddy



Robert Burnett

Winds of fortune

Six Scottish communities supported by Community Energy Scotland over several years have recently won a share in £2,230,513 from Big Lottery's Growing Community Assets scheme.

- **Foula Electricity Trust** were awarded £220,000 to build three small wind turbines, provide battery storage and backup generators as part of Phase 2 plan to stabilise supplies and connect the last three homes to mains electricity.
- **Udny Community Trust** in Aberdeenshire has been awarded £269,000 to build a wind turbine. (read more page 10). Four separate Orkney community wind projects were also each awarded around £435,000.
- **Rousay Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust** plan to build a wind turbine on Rousay, selling the energy to the National Grid, the profits going towards sustaining the three islands' communities.
- **Island of Hoy Development Trust** will also build a single wind turbine. The income will go towards building skills and training as well as a public transport initiative for the island.
- **Shapinsay Development Trust** received funding for a single wind turbine project which will feed into the National Grid. The profits will be used to support training and business development as well as introduction of a public transport scheme.
- **Stronsay Development Trust's** wind turbine will help safeguard Stronsay's long term future and will help provide training and jobs as well encouraging new businesses.

Making good society

Community Energy Scotland's work was recently highlighted in *Making Good Society*, the final report of the independent Carnegie Commission of Inquiry into the Future of Civil Society in the UK and Ireland. The Report examines the importance of civil society in a time of multiple crises:

- the financial crisis and its social and economic effects;
- the ecological crisis which has moved centre stage following the Copenhagen Summit;
- and a crisis of political confidence.

The Commission believes it is impossible to imagine plausible answers to these challenges without a widened role for civil society associations, including voluntary and community organisations, trade unions, faith-based organisations, co-operatives and mutuals and

informal citizen groups.

Taking four priority areas where it says civil society activity needs to grow and be supported, the Commission calls for:

- A more civil economy that is transparent, responsible and more pluralistic
- A rapid and just transition to a low-carbon economy
- A more democratic and pluralist news media
- A bigger role for civil society in complementing, challenging and enriching representative democracy.

Community Energy Scotland has also been hailed as a "trailblazing newcomer" in the RBS Social Enterprise 100 Index which charts social enterprises' growth and social impact reporting.





New Arrivals

Felix Wight

I have just taken over as Development Officer for Argyll. Originally from south of the border, I'm now doing my best to leave



the flat fenlands of my home county behind me. I've settled on the east side of Kintyre and wake up to views across Arran and Bute. I feel lucky indeed to find myself on Scottish shores. I am thrilled to be taking on this role for Community Energy Scotland as it draws together the disparate strands of my previous career experience in a stunning setting, with a friendly and knowledgeable team. In my past life I researched the social and behavioural impacts of community energy projects, worked as a consultant for 'Green Technology' venture capitalists, dabbled in off-grid solar and wind installations and helped run an events company which organised community forums on renewable energy. I also had the pleasure of running a solar powered mobile cinema around London and south east England, with occasional forays into Eastern Europe. For a long time I have believed in the good sense of community-owned energy assets. For once I can thank the poverty of English energy policy, as it is the lack of a Community Energy Scotland equivalent down south that led me up the road to my new home! I look forward to meeting with lots of community groups in my area and invite them to get in touch with me. (*contact details on back page*).

Ruth Evans

I have been working as the Schools Renewables Development Officer (SRDO) in south, central and north east Scotland and was seconded to Community Energy Scotland in January 2010. I've worked in this role since October 2008 with Energy Saving Trust in Edinburgh. I'm an engineering graduate, working for 14 years as a mechanical building services engineer and 7 years as a project manager with the facilities team at Sportscotland on projects with local authorities and community groups. I qualified as a primary teacher in 2008 just before taking up the SRDO post with EST. I'm now been working closely with Brid McKibben, Community Energy Scotland's Schools Renewables Development Officer in Highlands and Islands over the past 14 months.



Sarah MacDonald

I'm Sarah, joining the Dingwall office as Admin Assistant. I was very pleased to be offered the job at Community Energy Scotland and I am enjoying it very much so far. Everyone's keeping me busy. It's good to have such a lovely job so close to home. After leaving school I opted out of going to university in Glasgow. Hopefully this turns out to be a good move for me. In the future I hope to join the police force but for now I'm happy working at Community Energy Scotland. I look forward to meeting the rest of the team and getting to know everyone.



Alana Richards

Alana Richards is beginning a two month volunteering placement at Community Energy Scotland. Alana attended Alness Academy before going to Glasgow University to study Mechanical Design Engineering, and graduated last year with a masters degree. Alana previously worked as an events co-ordinator helping to organise events such as the First Monster Duathlon and Lochness Marathon in and about Inverness. She said "In 2008 I was lucky enough to get a placement with Engineers Without Borders in India and spent my summer researching how effective 'improved' cooking stoves were over traditional cooking stoves in rural areas for a solar lighting company. I hope that my placement with Community Energy Scotland is just the beginning of my career in the renewable sector and at some point I would love to incorporate this with working abroad."



And there's more...

The team ranks were further swelled with two younger members. Mo Cloonan gave birth to a little boy Hamish back in November and Daniel Portsmouth became proud dad to Rosie Louise in January. The whole Community Energy Scotland team are delighted to welcome the new junior arrivals! (*Photos right show Mo with Hamish on left and Rosie on the right*)





Global Links

In the late summer of the year 2002 a group of international Master students from Flensburg University in Germany stood on board the “MS Western Isles”, heading towards the peninsula of Knoydart. They came to study how the Knoydart community managed their small hydropower plant and to develop ideas on how this could be improved. The students stayed in Knoydart for three weeks, knocked on all doors, interviewed the community and finally came up with a report which they presented to the community. It was the final exercise of their course before the students left Europe for 3 months to collect data for their final thesis. The idea for this project was born in spring 2002 when a team from Flensburg University met Eric Dodd, then manager of HIE’s Community Energy Unit (forerunner of Community Energy Scotland) and Alison Boyle of Lochaber Enterprise. Both were immediately very enthusiastic to bring students from Africa, Asia and Latin America to Scotland to study energy issues in the Highlands and Islands communities.

Since that early meeting 8 groups, a total of 126 students from 35 countries, have spent their “International Class” in different parts of the Highlands and Islands. The topics have ranged from the use of wind energy for heating and cooling in Shetland and on the Isle of Barra to calculating the carbon footprint of the Sleat peninsula in Skye. Presently a group is staying in Orkney to study transport issues and their impact on living cost and carbon emissions on the smaller Orkney islands. In the past years the International Class has become one of the highlights of the course. This would not have been possible without the support of Community Energy Scotland and its predecessors and of course the communities. Fun is also on the agenda, or as Dechen, a student from Bhutan, put it: “The breath taking scenery, people’s hospitality and great dances all made for a great experience. I hope to come back one day!”



A school visit in Barra



Presenting the result of 4 weeks' work in Unst, Shetland



Visiting a primary school in Sleat



Photo below shows Fumi, a SESAM student from Indonesia and a talented singer at a Ceilidh in Sleat



Truc from Vietnam and Charles from Kenya, assessing the electricity demand of Barratlantic fish factory on the Isle of Barra

Running4Renewables

Some of the Community Energy Scotland team have committed to run the Edinburgh Marathon on 23rd May to help the Running4Renewables fundraising target of £35,000. The money raised will be donated to the Koru Foundation, more specifically to the Sierra Leone Village Solar Electrification Project and the Mozambique Micro-hydro project. If you want to find out more, please visit www.running4renewables.org.uk.



All Energy 2010



For the 8th year, Community Energy Scotland will once again be involved in presenting and exhibiting at All Energy, the UK’s largest renewable energy exhibition and conference in Aberdeen. All Energy 2010 takes place at Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre on 19/20 May and last year attracted over 5,500 delegates from over 60 countries. Community Energy Scotland will be exhibiting on **Stand H40** and so drop by and meet the team. We will lead a session on Wednesday morning on “Community Renewables – achievements and future potential across Scotland”. We also hope to lead a session on partnership projects, joint ventures between communities, landowners and developers. visit www.all-energy.co.uk

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Scottish Charity No. SC039673





Carin Schwartz
Treasurer, Transition Town Forres

View from our members

Q *Why was Transition Town Forres interested in becoming a member of Community Energy Scotland?*

A For all the support Community Energy Scotland offers, both in terms of information and practical advice.

Q *What have been the main challenges facing your group in developing your community projects?*

A Volunteers. How to encourage participation, keep volunteers and

get them to take any task seriously. To be a volunteer is not just about having fun for an hour when it suits them, it is about being part in a responsible way of a fun, engaging and fulfilling project. It is difficult to even get answers to emails, difficult to get them to attend meetings. A clear question is "Do we offer what they would like", and we keep asking that question.

Q *What role do you see Community Energy Scotland playing in supporting*

communities across Scotland to become more sustainable?

A Energy advice, preferably resulting in income generating energy projects. Every community project need to be self-financed eventually and energy is something we all use. If every community had a community energy company which generated some revenue to the community it would be a win-win situation, but the road there is long and rocky and that is where Community Energy Scotland can be helpful.



Andrew MacKenzie
Executive Director, Speyside Trust

Q *Why was the Speyside Trust interested in becoming a member of Community Energy Scotland?*

A Speyside Trust Badaguis Outdoor Centre is a not for profit residential centre for youth and community groups and people with disabilities to enjoy the outdoors. It has many buildings to heat. Energy conservation and price of the heating has been a top concern. The Trust is not able to fully

Q recoup these costs in fees. Fundraising is a major task each year to subsidise the charity in particular the respite holiday care service which provides a much needed break for families with a disabled child.

A *What have been the main challenges facing your group in developing your project?*

Support to carry out a feasibility study was the main challenge to help evaluate the different systems

and quantify potential benefits.

Q *What role do you see Community Energy Scotland playing in supporting communities across Scotland to become more sustainable?*

A Providing funding together with facilitating and supporting expert advice is essential in this specialist field to provide the confidence that community organisations need to make this kind of strategic investment.

Team Time Karen Paterson, Assistant Development Officer, Argyll, Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh.

Throughout the Rural Development course I studied, we looked at a range of subjects; from the theories of economics to environmental conservation. During the course I realised the importance of community development, at community level, and we often discussed renewable energy as a potential approach to development. I was very lucky to start work as an education officer for a local energy agency the week after I graduated! In that post I visited primary schools to carry out workshops with the pupils about sustainable energy. Whilst I did enjoy spending my days

playing games with the children, once I knew all the answers to the quizzes, I was keen to move on to find new challenges! I started working with Community Energy Scotland as assistant development officer over a year ago. Initially I was based in Oban, but have since moved to Fort William to cover Argyll, Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh, which is quite a large patch, but I enjoy exploring the area.

As part of the Community Energy Scotland team I feel very fortunate to be in a post that I enjoy in the highlands, in a supportive and enthusiastic team, in an

industry that I think will continue to grow. It's a pleasure working with passionate individuals who freely contribute their time to develop successful projects for the benefit of community. It's definitely the challenge I was looking for and it's very rewarding to see the results! Our photo shows Karen after taking part in The Edinburgh Moonwalk, an all-night marathon to raise cash for breast cancer charity.



COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANT APPROVALS OCTOBER 2009 – FEBRUARY 2010

	£		£
A' Mhaoile Sleat Renewables, Skye - wind turbine	61,643	Lister Housing, Edinburgh - phase 2 Solar	573
Abriachan Village Hall - energy efficiency	15,176	Loch Tay Big Shed - solar thermal / pellet boiler	35,095
Allt Dearg wind, Ardrishaig - technical	1,043	Melness and Tongue Community Wind - technical assistance	29,453
Applecross Community Company - hydro study	3,200	Midlothian Innovation and Technology Trust - biomass study	40,000
Atlantis Leisure Pool, Oban - renewable study	2,129	Moray Bio Energy Centre - woodfuel Project	11,050
Badaguish Speyside Trust - pellet boiler and solar thermal	86,640	Moray Waste Busters - wood to hot air	46,505
Balerno Village Trust - hydro study	6,084	Neilston Development Trust - hydro study	5,906
Banff Princess Royal Sports and Community Trust - wind study	8,815	Neilston The Bank - renewables study	3,496
Barra Children's Centre - air source heat pump	12,400	Newmill Hall, Keith - solar thermal and insulation	6,239
Barvas & Brue Community Centre, Lewis - wind & insulation	39,398	North & West Sutherland community facilities - energy efficiency	6,336
Bhaltos Trust, Lewis - Hydro project	2,757	North Harris Trust - small hydro project	14,974
Breasclate Centre, Lewis - Hydro projects	2,757	North Yell Community Wind, Shetland - risk assessment	11,028
Callander hydro - start-up funding	1,000	Northmavine Community, Shetland - hydro feasibility	2,500
Callanish Centre, Lewis - energy report	2,100	Orkney and Shetland biomass study visit	5,514
Canna, Small Isles - bird studies and anemometry	3,088	Our Lady and St Patrick's High School, Dunbarton - renewable study	3,360
Carolside Primary School, Clarkston - wind turbine	12,536		3,798
Carthannas Nis (Ness Charity Shop) Lewis - wind turbine	15,695	Out of the Blue Drill Hall, Edinburgh - solar & energy efficiency	
Castle Douglas Bowlers Hall - air source heat pump / insulation	9,635	Outward Bound Trust- Loch Eil Centre - energy study	34,980
Catrine Community - wind study	10,000	Pairc Trust, Isle of Lewis - hydro project	8,219
Clyde Maritime Trust Tall Ship Glenlee - water source heat pump	144,900	Perth College - solar thermal	8,271
Commonwealth Pool - solar water	150,000	Pulteneytown community centre, Wick - district heating	55,967
Comrie Development Trust, Perthshire - biomass feasibility	11,550	Quendale Water Mill, Shetland - heating	55,534
Crawfordjohn Public Hall, South Lanarkshire - ground source heat pump	69,316	Ravenspoint Centre, Lewis - wind and insulation	2,757
		RNLI Perth - solar thermal	56,576
Crianlarich Village Hall, Stirlingshire - insulation	964	Ropka Trust, Glenscorrodale - hydro	6,931
Dalmally Community Company - air source heat pump	54,368	Rosslyn Chapel Trust - biomass	14,379
Dingwall & Seaforth Ward - community buildings audit	7,823	Route 81 youth project, Garelochhead - ground source heat pump	102,253
Discovery Point, Dunee - wind turbine	26,128		50,975
Eday, Rousay, Shapinsay and Hoy - wind technical	146,800	Scaladale Centre, Isle of Harris - Solar water	
Edinburgh Council, Water of Leith - hydro study	6,084	Scottish Sculpture Workshop, Lumsden - biomass, solar, energy efficiency	16,798
Eildon Housing, Yarrowford, Selkirk - air source heat pump	17,260		78,917
Ellon Parish Church - Heat Pump	33,495	Scottish War Blinded, Linburn - ground source heat pump	
Energy Agency - Feed in Tarrif event	2,200	Sealladh na Beinne Moire, Uist - technical support	44,592
Fankerton Hall, Denny, Falkirk - insulation	24,287	Seaview Community House, Lybster - demonstration equipment	600
Fetlar Development, Shetland - hydro study	5,514	Seaview House, Lybster - energy efficiency	250
Fife Council - solar action area	40,125	Shetland Amenity Trust - hydro study	6,790
Fife Schools - energy awareness	10,000	Shetland Halls Association - community event	5,514
Northbay Garden, Isle of Barra - wind	31,088	Silver Birch, Scotland - electric vehicles appraisal	2,450
Gatehouse of Fleet Community Centre - Solar PV/air source heat pump	49,486	South Harris Communities - wind feasibility	10,468
Glencairn Memorial Hall, Dumfries - air source heat pump / insulation	14,796	Southern Uplands Partnership - energy conference	3,924
		St Brides Community Centre, Douglas - wood fuel district heating technical	14,402
Glenrothes YMCA /YWCA - renewables study	2,918		3,824
Govan Housing Association - housing renewable study	5,405	St Davids and Madderty Hall, Perthshire - air source heat pump	32,301
Greener Leith - hydro study	6,084	Staffin Community Hall, Skye - energy appraisal	600
Griminish Hall, Uist - wind turbine	25,100	Strachur Memorial Hall, Cairndow - biomass	38,832
Hanover Housing Association, Corpach - biomass	33,857	Strathspey Railway Association, Spey Lodge - biomass	29,309
Hebridean Housing St Brendan, Barra - air source heat pump	11,663	Taigh Chearsabhaigh, Uist - wind turbine	58,763
Hebridean Housing, Bridge Cottages - solar / wind	10,987	Tannahill Centre, Paisley - renewable appraisal	1,450
Hebridean Housing, Gearraidh Ghuirm - air source heat pump	35,667	Tenants First, Aboyne - biomass district heating	61,060
Invergordon Bowling Club - energy efficiency	2,067	Throsk Village Hall, Stirling - pellet boiler	43,061
Inverness Tennis and Squash Club - solar thermal	4,907	Tiree Development Trust - legal	15,000
Irvine Sports Club - energy assessment	3,995	Tobermory Pre-5s school- pellet boiler/ heat recovery	23,721
Isla Primary School, Ceres - solar thermal	2,800	Tong Hall, Lewis - solar thermal / energy efficiency	36,155
Island of Hoy - grid connection	40,857	Transition Town Forres - study visit Strathdon hydro	406
Kilmuir and Logie East community centre , Invergordon - ground source heat and solar thermal	39,488	Ullaspool Swimming Pool - solar phase 2	116,670
		Udny Community Council, Ellon - wind turbine	100,000
Kingdom Housing Association, Glenrothes - wind study	9,000	Waternish Village Hall, Skye - energy appraisal	600
Kirknewton Community Development Trust - hydro study	6,084	Weisdale Mill, Shetland - hydro feasibility	2,757
Knockando Wool Mill, Banffshire - pellet boilers	97,200	Western Isles Eco Drama Schools Project	2,126
Laidlaw Memorial Pool, Jedburgh - biomass	53,777	Wind mast anemometry	2,345
Lambhill Stables, Glasgow - pellet boiler / wind turbine procurement	5,082	Wind2heat multiple projects - inverter study	10,925
Langstane Housing Association, Burghead - air source heat pumps	16,989	Woodpark Primary School, Lesmahagow - wood chip boiler	25,813
Lauderdale Development Trust - hydro study			



Future events / Training

Social Enterprise Trade Fair, Edinburgh
21 April

Develop your social enterprise
Lochinver 22/23 April
www.theacademy-ssea.org

All-Energy Aberdeen 19/20 May
www.all-energy.co.uk

Report Writing Glasgow 4 May
www.scvo.org.uk

20:Twenty Leadership Nairn 4-7 June
www.theacademy-ssea.org

Document Links

Community Energy Scotland Feed in Tariff summary –
www.communityenergyscotland.org.uk/feed-in-tariff.asp

Community Energy Scotland consultation responses –
www.communityenergyscotland.org.uk/consultation-responses.asp

Community Renewable Energy Toolkit –
www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/03/20155542/0

Carnegie Trust *Making Good Society* –
democracy.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/civil_society

Websites

Soirbheas www.soirbheas.org

Clyde Maritime Trust
www.glenlee.co.uk

Northmavine Community Development Company www.northmavine.com

South Kintyre Development Trust
www.skdt.org

Barony College
www.barony.ac.uk

Running4renewables
www.running4renewables.org.uk

Clean Sleat
www.cleansleat.co.uk

Out of the Blue
www.outoftheblue.org.uk

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