

## Outer Hebrides Community Energy Fund Case Study – Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn Hydro Feasibility Study

### Background

Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn is the Trust set up to manage the community-owned Galson Estate in the north of the Isle of Lewis. The Trust aims to promote rural regeneration and sustainable development for the benefit of the community.



### Details of Work Carried Out

The Trust applied to OHCEF for funding for a feasibility study of the potential for hydroelectric generation on the estate. The feasibility study was split into three phases – the first phase involved a site visit and an initial indication of whether or not there was the potential for a hydro scheme at the proposed sites, the second phase went into a little more technical detail on the hydro scheme, and the third phase gave an indication of how to progress a project to planning. Another three groups, who were also interested in a hydro feasibility study, all progressed their projects at the same time and with the same consultant which meant that a cost saving could be realised.

### Cost and Funding

Work	Total Project Cost	OHCEF Amount
Hydro Feasibility Study	£7,066.00	£5,894.40



### Results and Local Impact

The work has left the group with more information on the potential for a hydro-electric scheme on their land as well as information on how to progress such a scheme.

### Comments and Lessons Learned

There have been plans for some time to explore the potential of hydro-electric generation on the estate. There was some anecdotal information, but a feasibility study was essential to analyse the possibilities. It is apparent from the study that there are limited opportunities and a scheme would not prove particularly economical at

present, unless external factors change. The reports prepared as part of the study are helpful in organisational planning and the funding provided has supported us to explore a possible project. If there are changes to restrictions or subsidies then we would look to revisit the project and reassess the economic viability.

### Contact Details

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