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Members' Bulletin - June 2016

Bulletin from Scotland's only national charity dedicated to supporting communities to develop their own renewable energy projects.

Foreword

Dear Member,

Orkney's naval past is very much in the spotlight at the moment. However its future as a local hydrogen economy is also firmly in focus, with the recent launch of the '**BIG HIT**' hydrogen project. This major EU-funded project builds on the CES-led Surf 'n'Turf project which is creating an opportunity for the community-owned wind turbine on Eday to generate power which would otherwise be impossible owing to the constraints on the Orkney grid. BIG HIT extends this idea to include local members [Shapinsay Development Trust](#) along with existing partners [EMEC](#), ITM Power, Orkney Islands Council and Orkney College and new partners from elsewhere in Europe. Surf 'n' Turf, funded through the Scottish Government's Local Energy Challenge Fund is progressing well. Our other LECF project, ACCESS, in partnership with [Mull and Iona Community Trust](#) in Argyll, is similarly enabling the Garnony Hydro to meet its generating potential in a grid-constrained area by linking output directly to local heating requirements. We've also just launched a new partnership project in Edinburgh, '**Tower Power**', with our local charity partner, [Comas](#), More on this soon! Whilst there is continuing uncertainty on support for renewables at UK level, our community partnership model is working well and is helping communities to find new routes to developing their energy projects. Community Energy Scotland plays a key role in helping set up these partnerships and we are keen to continue to bring community

and industry partners together for the benefit of community projects. Read more below.

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Members' News

BIG HIT for Orkney hydrogen!

The BIG HIT project in Orkney stands for *'Building Innovative Green Hydrogen Systems in an Isolated Territory'* and is an EU-funded [Horizon 2020](#) joint project. The project, led by Aragon Hydrogen Foundation in Spain, sees us partner community member, Shapinsay Development Trust, and other partners, EMEC, Orkney Islands Council, as well as [Scottish Hydrogen Fuel Cell Association](#), ITM (UK) and a number of international partners. The BIG HIT launch took place in Kirkwall recently and welcomed partners from seven European countries, meeting face-to-face for the first time and hearing how community-owned renewables can

produce clean hydrogen for road transport and heating public buildings. BIG HIT is funded through €5m (around £4m) from the European Commission's [Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking](#). Its aim is to install and demonstrate the viability of a supply chain for hydrogen in an island territory. Many of the technical challenges in making hydrogen from renewable electricity have already been overcome by [Surf 'n' Turf](#), a project in which CES is leading, and has already attracted Scottish Government investment of £1.2m.



Local and international partners attend the BIG HIT project launch event in Kirkwall



Packed room for the community meeting on Shapinsay to hear about the BIG HIT project



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All Energy 2016

Our team was out in full force at the SECC Glasgow for [All Energy 2016](#) in April where we led a lively session on Local Energy Economies. Over the two days, staff were on hand at our exhibition stand to discuss our ongoing work and explore new opportunities to support communities in Scotland.

We also held a raffle in support of our visitors from Community Energy Malawi, an organisation which we helped set up in 2014. We had some great prizes on offer, donated by [Triodos Bank](#), [Hilton Coylumbridge](#), [Bruce Stevenson Insurance](#)

[Brokers](#), Judith Patten of [All Energy](#), [Scotland Malawi Partnership](#) and community company [Storas Uibhist](#). All in all, we raised a total of £1000 which will allow Community Energy Malawi to buy and distribute a large batch of solar lanterns to rural areas of the country where the lighting systems are most needed. We wish to formally thank all of those who donated prizes, as well as all our members and delegates who bought raffle tickets.



Community Energy Scotland staff with delegates from our sister organisation, Community Energy Malawi at All Energy 2016.

Below, Andy Maybury meets delegates at the CES stand, and Morton Kaunda of Community Energy Malawi presents luxury food hamper to raffle prizewinner, Jennifer Ramsay of Local Energy Scotland.



A Malawi-Scotland "Eigg's-change"

Thanks to the Arkleton Trust, Morton Kaunda, Edgar Bayani and Harriet Chiwaula from [Community Energy Malawi](#) spent a week in Scotland on a learning exchange visit. Georgy Davis from Community Energy Scotland and Steve Evison, board member of the Arkleton Trust joined them on their visit.

The main focus of their trip was to learn from the community-owned and operated mini-grid on the Isle of Eigg. Renewable energy systems, such as Eigg's, have huge potential in a country such as Malawi, where less than 10% of the population have access to mains electricity.

They visited Eigg Primary school, twinned with a school in Malawi, where they met staff and pupils. The Malawi school has recently been affected by severe flooding and so Eigg Primary pupils are currently raising funds to allow the school in Malawi to buy food. The pupils had lots of interesting questions for the Malawian delegation and were even treated to a rendition of the national anthem of Malawi!

The visitors also met Maggie Fyffe of Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust's and John Booth who managed the island electrification project and were taken round to see the wind, solar and hydro developments, together with Eddie who is part of Eigg Electrics maintenance team.



(l-r) CES Manager, Georgy Davis, Norah Jones of Earth Connections, Neil from Eigg Organics, Morton, Edgar and Harriet from Community Energy Malawi and Steve Evison of Arkleton Trust on visit to Eigg.



(l-r) Georgy, Morton, Edgar and Harriet visiting Isle of Eigg Primary School

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We're launching our new Energy Monitoring Service

We have previously been involved in two energy monitoring projects, one in partnership with CES member, Hebridean Housing Partnership, and the other in partnership with Albyn Housing Association, both funded through the Scottish Federation of Housing Association's (SFHA) Energy Ideas Fund.

Using lessons learnt from these projects, we are now able to offer an **Energy Monitoring** package, tailored to the needs of each community group. Key work items involved in this package may include sourcing project funding, engaging your community, specifying sensor hardware and installation, collecting and analysing data and providing individual reports, as well as tailored energy advice or signposting to other relevant organisations.

We have developed this tool to automatically generate household reports from a specific set of data and this can be downloaded [free from our website](#). Although the tool was developed to suit the specific requirements of the projects we carried out, we can adapt as required for different projects. To find out more about this service, please contact [Kirsten Macdonald](#).

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Good attendance at OWL school

CES staff, Kirsten Macdonald and Ian Garman, ran a successful 'OWL School', taking community members, Barra & Vatersay Community group through the process of how to install and set up the energy monitoring devices. The meters,

funded through CARES IIF, will measure electricity use in houses in Vatersay over the coming months and enable local residents to better understand their electricity use, helping them to reduce their bills where possible, or to see how their energy could be used more efficiently. The training was successfully delivered remotely to the Barra & Vatersay group via Skype, with Ian instructing from Orkney and Kirsten in Stornoway.



The OWL meter training was delivered by Skype, guiding BVCL through the process of installing the energy monitoring devices.

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CARES IIF now open

The Scottish Government's CARES Infrastructure and Innovation fund is now open for applications. Grant funding is now available to develop projects that link local energy generation with local energy use, as well as for projects seeking to develop innovative distribution and storage solutions. The deadline for submitting applications to this fund is 15 July 2016. More details [here](#).

Our work on your behalf

Members' Policy Group

Some of our Members' Policy group met recently to discuss recent policy developments and to identify the major issues and opportunities for community energy projects. Felix Wight, Head of Development, provided members with an update on UK and Scottish Government energy policy, grid connections and electricity supply and how these can directly affect community energy projects. If you are interested in joining our Members' Policy Group, want us to highlight an issue or wish to get a copy of this policy update note, please email marion.ohara@communityenergyscotland.org.uk.

Other news

Hoprigshiels: laying foundations for our future

Progress on our own trading arm's joint venture wind project with Berwickshire Housing is continuing apace. A joint site visit by the boards of the two partners took place recently to the windfarm site in the Borders. Norrie Cruickshank, Triodos Bank, the main project funder, also attended. After a safety briefing and update from the site agent, board members could see that access roads, parking bays and turning heads were largely complete, along with foundation excavations at the two turbine sites. Work was also progressing on the main substation building with the roof almost complete. The turbine delivery date was confirmed

for early September and, subject to weather conditions, the turbines should be complete and ready to connect by early November. The plan is to have the turbines in operation before the year end.



Foundation reinforcement cage - the bright metal strip is part of the earthing cabling for lightning conductor.

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CES team get-together

After year-end pressure and with staff dispersed in offices from Benbecula to Jedburgh, it's important that our team gets a chance to meet together and reconnect once in a while. We all met up recently in Aviemore and it was a great opportunity for team-building and strengthening our role for the coming year. Rona's 6-month old baby Connie kept everyone in order. As well as a good session on agreeing the charity's strategic priorities for the coming year, and as befits our highly competitive team, the get-together inevitably involved some outdoor challenges, including wild swimming, skiing and snowboarding.



Community Energy Scotland team all set for another busy year ahead leading community energy.

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Welcome to our New Members this month

Community Members

- [Alloa Community Enterprises](#), Clackmannanshire
- [Garioch Sports Trust](#), Aberdeenshire
- Stoneyburn & Bents Future Vision Group, West Lothian
- [Tweedsmuir Community Company](#), Biggar

Associate Members

- [Eneco UK Limited](#), Warwick
- [Hydroplan](#), Dorset
- [Regen SW](#), Exeter

Thanks also to all our Associate Members who recently renewed their membership. We value your continued support.

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Notices

Events

- 14 June: [Volunteer Management Training](#), Edinburgh
training@talkaction.org
- 21 June: [Demonstrate impact and value to funders](#), Glasgow
www.scvo.org.uk
- 29 June: [Onshore Wind Conference](#), Glasgow Scottish Renewables
- 21 July: [Tackling Fuel Poverty Together](#), Home Energy Scotland, Edinburgh

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