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## Member's Bulletin - November 2016

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

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### Foreword

Dear Member

One of our members, Huntly & District Development Trust, are this week celebrating the successful installation and commissioning of their community turbine, following six years of development work. The value of helping to foster greater links between our community members was much in evidence this month when our staff accompanied community members from Orkney to visit the ACCESS project on Mull. Both groups intend to maintain the strong links created through their visit. We have good news to report on our own joint 3-turbine development project in the Scottish Borders where installation is now complete. Check out the amazing drone footage of the installation work below. There's disappointment on the UK Government's further postponement of a decision on whether onshore wind projects in Scottish islands can compete for long-term contracts through Contracts for Difference (CfD). We welcome your input to our response on this important consultation. Read more news below.

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## Members' News

### **A major 'turning point' for Huntly & District's community turbine**

[Huntly & District Development Trust](#) (HDDT) in north east Scotland have successfully commissioned their community-owned turbine at Greenmyres near Huntly. Final commissioning tests were carried out earlier in the week and the turbine blades are now turning. This point marks a major milestone after 6 long years of hard work by the development team. The revenue from the turbine will now provide investment funds for the local area and will secure a firm financial future for the community. The turbine is expected to generate in the region of £2.5million for the local district communities over the project lifetime, as well as potentially displacing over 750 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually. Richard Hammock, chair of HDDT's trading arm, Greenmyres Renewable Energy, remarked "It's been a rollercoaster journey. The benefits this project will bring to our local area are huge. Community Energy Scotland stood by us when a 'conventional' grid connection seemed unattainable. The creativity and expertise they showed in seeking a viable alternative was a tremendous encouragement to us". CES in turn sends congratulations to all the Greenmyres project team for achieving such a significant milestone with their project.



Huntly & District's community-owned turbine being installed and now fully operational  
*(foreground)*

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### Orkney and Mull share the learning

This month some of our staff accompanied representatives from the Orkney island communities of Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre involved in the newly-launched [Heat Smart Orkney](#) (HSO) project on a visit to Mull. They visited and heard of Mull & Iona Community Trust's experiences through the [ACCESS](#) project. Both projects in Orkney and Mull aim to maximise the amount of renewable energy which can be used - in Orkney from Rousay's community-owned wind turbine and in Mull from

their Garmony hydro scheme. This is done by storing the energy in electric heating devices and using active network management to ensure that supply matches the local demand. Not only will this provide some welcomed additional heating, but it will also save money and help combat fuel poverty within the island communities involved in these projects. Diana Compton, Rousay's project officer reported "The exchange of information between us was great and has continued since the visit.

We are building a relationship with the Mull team which may prove beneficial to both of us in the months to come."



The Heat Smart Orkney team, CES staff and Mull & Iona Community Trust staff visit the community-owned Garmony Hydro on Mull

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### A new approach at Dumbiedykes

We're leading a project in the Dumbiedykes neighbourhood of Edinburgh which is helping local residents to reduce their household energy costs. [Tower Power](#) is an innovative community-led alternative to the standard customer and supplier relationship. Residents who sign up will have their old meters replaced with Smart pre-payment meters which can accurately measure demand at half-hourly

intervals. This data will then be used to negotiate a 'bulk' cheaper energy contract with their energy supplier. Solar PV panels are also being installed on the roofs to generate income for the community. The community development aspects are important to ensure that the community is involved and support is available at individual household level to sign up for cheaper electricity.

Progress has been good with a number of residents keen to become Energy Service Company board members and a new website is being developed. Pre-payment smart metering is a new concept and so, as with all innovation, there are challenges but a shortlist of suppliers has been identified and we're continuing to work to overcome these issues. This project is embedded in activity which is already tackling poverty in the Dumbiedykes area.



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## Surf 'n' Turf

[Surf 'n' Turf](#) is another very innovative community project located in Orkney. This project aims to generate hydrogen using surplus electricity from the island of Eday's community wind turbine and the tidal turbines at the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) to avoid local grid limitations and to supply important local demand, such as the inter-island ferries.

The project is rapidly approaching its operations phase, due to start early 2017. The secure compound for the hydrogen fuel cells has been designed and site works should be completed in January (weather permitting). The Mobile Storage Units for the fuel cell, expected to arrive in early February, are in the process of being certified to allow their use on UK roads and Orkney ferries. Late February should see the installation of the fuel cell in Kirkwall. The electrolyser being developed by EMEC will likely be operational by early Spring. Watch this space for further details on this community-led project at the cutting-edge of wind and tidal energy development.



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**..And we finally got there too!**

We are delighted to report that installation of our three wind turbines at the [Hoprigshiels Wind Farm](#) has now been completed! This joint venture development between Community Energy Scotland and Berwickshire Housing Association has not been short of challenges along the way, but the hard work is finally paying off.

There is still work to do but good progress is being made by Scottish Power and Excalon off-site on our grid connection, with all of the 33kV ducts in, except for a few very short sections. Although regular income from the turbine will not flow to CES until 2018, we are very delighted that as a small charity and social enterprise we have successfully developed a sustainable energy project which will help underpin our charitable work well into the future. You can check out some amazing drone footage of the final installation [here](#).

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## Our work on your behalf

### Representing you on policy issues

Over the past few months we have represented Members at a number of conferences and stakeholder events to ensure that community energy is high on the policy agenda and given more support. These events have included:

- Scottish Community Alliance: Angela Constance, MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities (August)
- Local Energy Systems in the UK (Edinburgh, September)
- Make Energy Systems in Scotland Affordable: Smart Grids, Smart Energy, Smart Consumers (Glasgow, September)
- Three industry fora hosted by the University of Strathclyde International Public Policy Institute's Centre for Industry (October to November)

It is important for us to ensure that those in power are made aware of the challenges faced by communities developing energy projects. We always welcome feedback on your own experiences.

We intend to continue with our Members' Policy Group meetings (by telephone) in the New Year and if you want to join this group and get your own views on these issues across, please email [marion.ohara@communityenergyscotland.org.uk](mailto:marion.ohara@communityenergyscotland.org.uk).

## Other news

### Disappointment at postponed decision on island CfD

The second Contracts for Difference (CfD) Allocation Round has finally been [announced](#) by the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (DBEIS) and will open April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017. Technologies covered include: Offshore Wind, Advanced Conversion Technologies (with or without CHP), Anaerobic Digestion (with or without CHP), Biomass with CHP, Wave, Tidal and Geothermal, with Onshore Wind and Solar PV no longer being eligible to participate.

Given the particular challenges of developing onshore wind projects on Scottish islands, it was hoped that an exception would be made for island CfD. However, frustratingly a decision on this was further postponed. DBEIS have now issued a [consultation](#), calling for new evidence and “strong justification” from respondents on this issue before the Government will allow onshore wind projects on Scottish islands to compete for long-term contracts. **The deadline for responses is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017.** Community Energy Scotland will be submitting a robust response and we warmly welcome input from our Members. You can either send us your responses to the consultation questions (to [marion.ohara@communityenergyscotland.org.uk](mailto:marion.ohara@communityenergyscotland.org.uk)) or you can submit your responses direct to DBEIS at [beiscontractsfordifference@beis.gov.uk](mailto:beiscontractsfordifference@beis.gov.uk).

### Government funding for workplace EV charging

The Department for Transport (DfT) is to launch a [£7.5 million scheme](#) this autumn to support the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in UK workplaces. This will be open to private and public sector workplaces to encourage greater uptake of EVs in fleets and for use by staff. This funding is being delivered

as part of the UK Government's commitment to invest £600 million in ultra-low emission vehicles by 2020, with Transport Minister John Hayes affirming the aim "for nearly all cars and vans on our roads to be zero emission by 2050". DfT has yet to reveal how the funding will be allocated or which organisations will be eligible, though a spokesperson claimed that more details will be published shortly.

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### **Calls for Evidence**

Calls for Evidence have recently been released on two issues which are very relevant for the community energy sector. Links to the notices below.

1. [Mandatory HHS Planning Consultation](#) Ofgem have released a consultation about the aims and timetable for reform regarding mandatory Half-Hourly Settlement. They are seeking views on proposed reform to be received by 6<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

2. [A Smart Flexible Energy System](#) UK Government in conjunction with Ofgem seeks evidence on how the national energy system could be more smart and flexible. They want evidence on policy/regulatory barriers, price signals for flexibility, meeting consumer needs, prospective roles of parties in the system, and identification of appropriate areas for innovation. The deadline for responding is 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

We will be submitting our responses to these Calls for Evidence and welcome Members' comments to feed into our responses on both these consultations. If you wish to comment, please submit your own responses direct or email either [gillian.hurding@communityenergyscotland.org.uk](mailto:gillian.hurding@communityenergyscotland.org.uk).

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**Welcome to our New Associate Member**  
**Associate Member**

[Campbell and Kennedy Ltd](#) – Clydebank, Glasgow. Campbell & Kennedy, solar PV installer and technology solutions experts, have been shortlisted again in the Fastest Growing Family Business Award and Customer Service Excellence Award categories. The company has installed 11 Megawatts of solar PV to date and has also been recognised in the Green Family Business of the Year for its innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact. The company is also on the shortlisted finalist for a Green Energy Award this year.

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### ...and also welcome new CES team members!

We held a full CES team get-together recently in Inverness and this gave our staff a chance to discuss and debate the future work of our charity in the years to come. We have recently welcomed six new members to our team and it was a great opportunity to introduce themselves to the wider CES team, as well as giving all staff the chance to catch-up with each other. This is a particularly important opportunity for our widely-dispersed team to get to know each other better and have a clear sense of CES' strategy for the future. You can find contact details for all our staff [here](#).



Community Energy Scotland team recent get-together in Inverness

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## Events and Notices

### Events

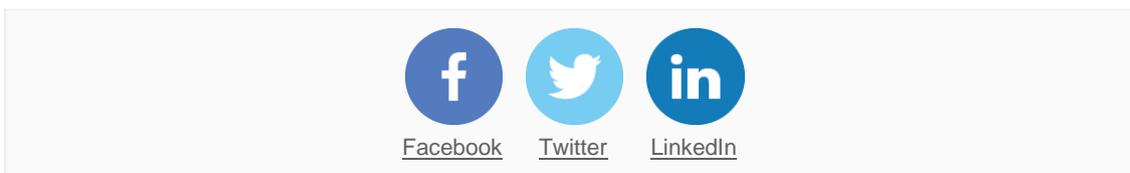
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- [Community Engagement and Resilience](#), Perth, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016, 10:00-16:00
- [How to submit a successful FiT application\\*](#), Webinar from the ROOFIT team at Ofgem, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016, 11:15-12:15
- We have recently issued a questionnaire on the provision of sleeving or aggregation services for electricity generation and supply in West Harris. If any supplier of these services, wishes to be included, please visit the notice on [Public Contracts Scotland](#) Closing date is 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016.
- [Scottish Renewables Introduction to the Renewable Heat Incentive CPD Seminar](#), Glasgow, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017

\*Information on how to attend will be provided via email following sign-up. Any questions regarding the webinar prior to signing-up should be sent to [ROOFIT@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:ROOFIT@ofgem.gov.uk)

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