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Member's Bulletin - October 2016

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

Foreword

Dear Member,

It's harvest season and many of our projects are reaping the rewards of the hard work they've sown. Edinburgh's new Tower Power scheme is progressing well, with new staff and offices to support the Dumbiedykes development. The turbines are going up at the Hoprigshiels wind farm in the Borders (wind allowing!), and exciting projects are underway across the Uists with plans for low-carbon vehicles and water source heat pumps. Also in this bulletin: community energy highlights from our latest Policy Digest for Highlands and Islands Enterprise, possible funding opportunities, and an introduction to the new members of the CES team.

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Members' News

Tower Power

The Tower Power project aims to put Edinburgh's Dumbiedykes community in control of their energy with collective bargaining power, equal tariffs, an end to the inequalities of using pre-paid meters, and solar PV installations to further reduce energy costs.

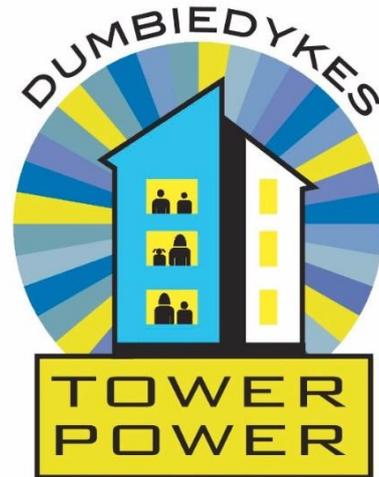
The CES Tower Power team is now complete, following a successful recruitment process. Felicity Sargent has joined as Development Officer, and Jon Clarke as Innovation Officer and both are settling in well to the new CES offices in Edinburgh.

The rate of progress is encouraging. Comas, CES' community partner, is currently engaging with Dumbiedykes residents to promote the project and seek out volunteers to form a Community Board. Following a competitive tender process, Campbell & Kennedy have been selected to install the solar PV panels. Finally, Future Energy have been selected as the energy supply partner for the project.

As always with innovative projects, there are challenges. Work is underway to determine the appropriate metering solutions and tariffs for the project, as well as to overcome the technical challenges of aggregating pre-payment demand – something that has never been done before. More on this in next month's bulletin.



The Edinburgh Tower Power Team settle in to their new offices next to the Meadows



New project logo is unveiled

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Winds of Change

Members of the CES Board paid a visit to the [Hoprigshiels wind farm](#) last week to see for themselves how well the construction is progressing. This 3-turbine scheme is being constructed near Cockburnspath in the Scottish Borders, as a joint project between CES and the Berwickshire Housing Association.

Following the successful delivery of all components earlier this month, construction is now underway. The first tower, T1, has been successfully installed, as have the first two sections of T2. Somewhat ironically, the completion of T2 has been hindered by high winds, though it will hopefully be completed soon so that construction can begin on T3, the base tower section of which is ready to be lifted at the crane pad there.

Should everything go according to plan, power generation will begin before the year is out and we look forward to reporting on further progress in November's Bulletin.



CES Board Member, David Newman, at the foot of Hoprigshiels Turbine 3, with T1 in the background

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Exciting Times in the Uists

Various exciting projects are on the go across the Uists.

In the South, Cothrom Ltd., CES, and the Uist Economic Taskforce have partnered for the Energy in Motion project. This aims to simultaneously tackle fuel and grid issues across the Uists through the introduction of electric vehicles. To this end, a tender was released for consultants to carry out a feasibility study into creating a low-carbon travel and transport hub and the creation of a Development Plan for Uist to actively increase the number of ultra-low emission vehicles. There's been a good response to this, with numerous applications received.



The old Lochmaddy Hospital building, closed since 2000.

In North Uist, the recently created An Torc community group is hoping to buy and rejuvenate the derelict hospital building in Lochmaddy. The group is looking to reduce projected energy costs by using renewable sources and, with the help of CES and the North Uist Development Company, have begun to look into the possibility of a water source heat project.

Feedback from consultants has been really positive. The nearby sea, freshwater and saline lochs all have potential, and there is hope that the Lochmaddy project could lead to a district heating scheme in the local village, to the benefit of both domestic and commercial customers. Robin Curtis, an expert in the technology, recently participated in a community consultation and Scottish Natural Heritage is providing support as the project is scoped. We'll keep you updated as developments happen.

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Our work on your behalf

HIE Policy Digest

On behalf of [Highlands and Islands Enterprise](#), CES produces a [quarterly policy digest](#), highlighting the main changes in Scottish, UK, and European policy relevant to community energy.

Of particular interest to Members may be:

- Potential support for island community wind projects from the next Contracts-for-Difference (CfD) auction. An 'Emerging Technologies' element is expected, with a specific auction for 'Remote Island Wind'. That being said, the announcement of the next CfD round has been delayed, possibly until early next year.
- Funding and support are available to community groups through the Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme ([LCITP](#)) and Scotland's Energy Efficiency Programme ([SEEP](#)), though groups are required to partner with a Local Authority to apply for SEEP.
- For the immediate future, it appears that the Renewable Heat Incentive is here to stay. On top of this, Scottish current and future policy initiatives mean that communities can apply for further grant funding, especially for innovative projects involving heat pumps.

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Other news

Climate Challenge Fund Invites Applications for 2017/18 Projects

Further funding for the Scottish Government's [Climate Challenge Fund](#) (CCF) has been announced, covering projects from **April 2017 through to March 2018**. All manner of projects will be considered, from energy saving to sustainable transport, waste prevention to local food production. Priority will be given to those projects that promise to deliver the greatest reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and which support Scotland's most deprived communities.

Click [here](#) for more details and for how to apply.

New Faces and New Spaces

Community Energy Scotland has welcomed [six new staff](#) to its ranks, coinciding with the move of the now four-strong Edinburgh team to new offices in Causewayside.



From left: Ailsa (Orkney), Brad, Gerry, Kitty (all Inverness), and Jon (Edinburgh)
Not pictured: Felicity (Edinburgh)

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Welcome to our New Members

Community Members

- [Portpatrick Community Council](#) - Dumfries and Galloway
- [Urras Sgìre Oighreachd Bharabhais Community Company](#) - Shawbost,

Western Isles

- [Edinburgh Community Solar Ltd.](#) - Edinburgh

Associate Members

- [Naturesave Insurance & The Naturesave Trust](#) - Totnes, Devon

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Events and Notices

Events

- ['Renewable district heating - small local grids and cooperative utilities'](#), free webinar on Wednesday 26th October
- [Fuel Poverty Matters conference](#) in Glasgow on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th November
- ['Restore Warmth to your Historical Home'](#) event in Edinburgh on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 16th November
- [Community Shares Scotland free training event](#) in Dundee on Tuesday 15th November 2016
- [SR Introduction to the Renewable Heat Incentive CPD Seminar](#) in Glasgow on 22 November
- [Carbon Literacy for Communities](#) in Edinburgh on Wednesday 30th November

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