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Member's Bulletin - September 2016

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

Foreword

Dear Member,

This summer sees a range of innovative and inspiring projects under development. The Surf 'n' Turf project in Orkney is progressing well with the recent delivery of the first hydrogen transport units. BroomPower in Ullapool have achieved a very ambitious target with their community share offer. We're involved in a really innovative development in Stornoway where waste from local fish hatcheries is being converted to biogas and helping create a truly circular economy. Our Western Isles and Orkney staff arranged a very successful learning exchange visit to Orkney where Western Isles and Orkney groups shared their experiences. Read more below.

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Members' News

Inter-island exchange on knowledge and ideas

Our members in the Western Isles have been sharing experiences with counterparts in Orkney on a knowledge exchange arranged by us. Five visitors from Lewis, Barra and Vatersay travelled east for the opportunity to see and hear about the challenges faced and responses of communities across Orkney.

Both regions have abundant wind energy but tidal turbines, traditional water mills, health and social issues, fuel poverty, military assets, energy storage, charitable aims were all among the diverse topics covered in tours and meetings. Funding from the [Scottish Community Alliance](#) covered much of the costs.

Carola Bell of Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn said, "It was so interesting to see the different ways that island communities on have distributed their 'turbine funds'. It was also very inspiring and made us think about what we could do here, now there is no more space for generation onto the Western Isles grid. "

Community Energy Scotland is also grateful to the many Orkney organisations who gave their time and help to host the visitors.



Western Isles community groups visit community-owned Shapinsay turbine, Orkney



Western Isles and Orkney community groups get together to share their experiences as community energy generators

Surf 'n' Turf rolls out a hydrogen first

Surf 'n' Turf – the Orkney hydrogen project led by Community Energy Scotland – continues to take shape, with the unveiling in Spain of its innovative portable gas containers.

Existing hydrogen trailers are too large and too heavy to use on narrow rural roads such as Orkney's more remote islands. Calvera's design – produced specifically for [Surf 'n' Turf](#) – is the first that is light enough to comply with weight limits applied locally, while still meeting all the safety requirements of transporting a significant amount of hydrogen by road and sea.

The project is truly starting to get wheels in motion with the arrival in Orkney of the first element in its hydrogen distribution network. An articulated lorry will move the specialized lightweight gas containers between Eday and Kirkwall - with the tractor unit for this just delivered.



Surf 'n' Turf is backed by the Scottish Government's Local Energy Challenge Fund. This covers 70% of the purchase cost and the first year of haulage fees of the truck, which will be operate by local haulier Northwards Ltd.



Mobile store unit ready for exhibition at the World Hydrogen Energy Conference 2016 in Zaragoza, Spain

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Knoydart Renewables seeks Operations Manager

[Knoydart Renewables Ltd](#), a subsidiary of Knoydart Foundation, manages their community-owned hydro scheme. Located in a remote area on the west coast of Scotland, the Knoydart peninsula is only accessible by sea and is not connected to the national grid. Their hydroelectric scheme generates a cost effective, reliable power supply to the local community of Inverie of approx. 80 homes and businesses. A 280kw turbine is fed from a local loch, with 180kw available for distribution on the local network with monitored usage.

The group are now actively looking for a new Operations Manager to join their team working on the hydro. The Manager will be responsible for all aspects of the hydro scheme to ensure maintenance of a reliable power supply to the local community. This is a great opportunity to be involved in the management of a local community power company.

More details [here](#) and for an application pack, email angela@knoydart.org. The deadline for applying for this post has been extended to the end of September.

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Funds flow in for BroomPower's hydro share offer

After a busy summer of promotion, [BroomPower](#), the community hydro project being developed by [Ullapool Community Trust](#) has succeeded in reaching its ambitious target of raising £900,000 through its community benefit society share offer. Tim Gauntlett, Chair, BroomPower commented "This is a magnificent result for the volunteer directors and supporters of BroomPower. The whole area of Ullapool and Loch Broom has responded to the call for community engagement and given this project a financial boost of confidence. It has ignited the imagination of people from across the UK and that also helped us to reach our target. At a time of austerity and uncertainty, it is breathtaking that people have invested so much of their money. Maybe it is the simplicity of green energy, combined with a small community seeking to provide for itself, that has inspired investors."

Energy from waste creates circular economy

The Outer Hebrides Local Energy Hub project is now underway, thanks to funding

from the Local Energy Challenge Fund. The innovative project, which focuses on a circular energy economy, is based at the Creed Integrated Waste Management Facility outside Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, where waste will be turned to energy for local use. Fish waste from a nearby Scottish Salmon Company Hatchery will be combined with local food and garden waste in the existing Anaerobic Digester to produce biogas. The biogas will then be fed into a Combined Heat and Power plant to produce heat for the AD and the Creed building, as well as electricity for a hydrogen electrolyser to create hydrogen and oxygen. The oxygen and some of the hydrogen will be taken back to the hatchery site, where the oxygen will be used for oxygenation and the hydrogen used in a hydrogen CHP to provide electricity and heat on site. Further reports on progress in our next bulletin.



(l-r) Community Energy Scotland staff Kirsten Macdonald, Michael Diderich and Felix Wight with Donnie MacMillan, Creed Site Plant Manager



Salmon hatchery, Geocrab, Harris

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Our work on your behalf

Coastal Community Energy in Blue New Deal

"Good jobs through healthy seas" is the ambition of the [Blue New Deal](#) project led by think-tank, the New Economic Foundation. Community Energy Scotland attended a workshop in Aberdeen, to hear and input ideas on behalf of our members.

CES's [local energy economy](#) concept – making best use of renewable resources near where they are sourced to minimise expensive imports – is highly relevant to coastal locations with limited road transport and energy connections.

Ian Garman, one of CES's staff in Orkney, discussed how Scottish communities might want to push for energy done differently: "Fishing, aquaculture and tourism were among the topics on the day – and each has an energy angle. In coastal areas, high energy costs for homes, businesses and transport can combine with wind or hydro resource to allow a community-led energy opportunity."



Delegates attending the Blue New Deal workshop in Aberdeen

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Your views on Brexit

Community Energy Scotland has been currently gathering evidence to show the

implications of the recent Brexit vote for community energy in Scotland. We have been preparing our submission to the Scottish Parliament's European and External Relations Committee on how leaving the EU may impact community energy in Scotland. Thanks to those of you who came forward with first-hand experiences and concerns.

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Other news

LAGI fuels creativity

The Land Art Generator Initiative (LAGI) is an organisation promoting the combination of renewable energy and art in public places. LAGI allows renewable energy concepts to be more accessible through visual art. Community Energy Scotland is involved with LAGI in Glasgow where there recently was a workshop to create renewable energy sculptures. To learn more about this initiative: <http://www.landartgenerator.org/glasgow/process.html>

New innovation projects

We are very pleased to report that the following funding bids we support were approved by CARES Infrastructure and Investment Fund (IIF) to take forward the following projects:

- Community Microgrid toolkit to capture practical learning about the project development process for microgrid projects
- North Uist Development Trust will be commissioning a study of opportunities for water-source heating from the sea and loch water
- West Harris Development Trust will be commissioning a study of

mechanisms for linking local renewable energy generation to salmon hatcheries on Lewis and Harris.

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Welcome to our New Members this month

Associate Members

- [ECM Timber](#), Dungiven, Northern Ireland.
- [MEG Hydro Services](#), Renfrew.
- [Npower- Gas & Electricity Energy Suppliers for Home or Business](#), Swindon.

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Events and notice

Events

- [Community Energy Fortnight](#) begins on Saturday 3rd September.
- [National Climate Week](#) begins on Friday 16th September.
- [Local energy systems in the UK – Taking stock and looking forward:](#) Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation, 22 September.

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