

# COMMUNITY ENERGY SCOTLAND ANNUAL REVIEW 2018 - 19

Empowering Communities, Improving Lives



# CHAIR'S REPORT - ALAN HOBETT

## DELIVERING OUR MISSION OF STRENGTHENING AND EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

I'm delighted to introduce our Annual Review on what was a busy year for Community Energy Scotland. This year we've presented it as a calendar, to enable you to get a sense of the range of our work over the year.

Our energy system is changing rapidly owing to the urgent need to decarbonise and become 'smarter' and more efficient. This will create new opportunities for more localised energy development that could benefit communities and consumers, but only if they are aware of them. Hence our first priority on increasing

community understanding of and influence on the energy system. Our new Community Energy Futures programme started towards the end of the year is designed to do just this.

As well as building knowledge & capability on smart energy development, we dedicated significant time to our second priority on increasing community ownership, control & benefit from local renewable energy resources through practical and policy work. We initiated the first collective community windfarm development project in the Outer Hebrides as well as developing new energy project partnerships in Glasgow, Orkney, Fife & Scottish Borders. At the policy level we have regularly joined forces with Community Energy England

**“ OUR ENERGY SYSTEM IS CHANGING RAPIDLY OWING TO THE URGENT NEED TO DECARBONISE AND BECOME SMARTER ”**



and Community Energy Wales in seeking to influence the UK Government and OFGEM.

Without a doubt, a crucial and growing area of our work flows from our third strategic priority, controlling community energy cost and reduce fossil fuel use. We developed and applied practical approaches to using local renewable energy in heating and transport. The EU-funded SMILE project (Smart Islands Energy systems) has continued apace, designed to develop 'smart' heating arrangements in local households on Orkney using power from community wind turbines that would otherwise have been curtailed owing to grid constraints. Our pioneering hydrogen project in Orkney – Surf 'n' Turf – was fully tested has been complemented by the EU-funded BIG HIT project with a wider EU partnership. In the meantime, the new renewable-powered grid on the island of Canna was completed on time & budget with our help as project manager.

Towards the end of the year, I was thrilled to hear that a bid to the UK Government's Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, in which we are a partner, had been successful. The £28m ReFlex (Responsive Flexibility) project will develop a new energy system which will efficiently combine distributed renewable energy generation on Orkney with local, flexible energy demand from electric heating and vehicles.

Finally, our fourth priority of making CES sustainable and more effective through a focus on leveraging new project funding from income generated from the Fishermen Three wind farm in Berwickshire (jointly owned with our partners Berwickshire Housing Association) has worked well. With the first full year of successful operation, we received two distributions totalling £34,000 which we have used to match, amongst other things, funding secured for our Community Energy Futures programme.

**ALAN HOBETT, CHAIR OF CES**

# CALENDAR OF HIGHLIGHTS



▲  
CES have been supporting Clan MacQuarrie Centre at Borve, Lewis, to run Climate Awareness workshops

## APRIL 2018

- Presentation to President of Malawi on renewable energy development in Malawi
- Complete Barra & Vatersay & Oban local energy planning process (COBEN Project)
- New CES Strategy finalised
- Report to Scottish Water on community energy projects on/adjacent to Scottish Water Assets completed
- Safeguarding & GDPR policies approved
- Contribution to the Energy Show, Dublin on community energy
- Smart Islands World Congress, Mallorca, Spain, presentation on the ACCESS project
- Knoydart Renewables – assistance with community event
- Presentation at CARES Conference on need to invest in community capacity building for local energy systems engagement

## MAY 2018

- Completion of 'Tower Power' project on how residents in tower blocks might share renewable energy, bulk buy & take up 'smart energy' opportunities
- Uist 'Energy in Motion' project begins promoting EV uptake & installing EV chargers, funded by Climate Challenge Fund
- All Energy, Glasgow. CES Hydrogen transport truck on display!
- First Minister name checks CES on visit to China to promote social enterprise
- BIG HIT Project (Building Innovative Hydrogen Systems in Isolated Territories) launched in Kirkwall
- Kick off for collective community windfarm project development, Outer Hebrides
- Submission to South of Scotland Enterprise Agency consultation emphasising the opportunities from renewable energy development and importance of consumer engagement
- Full Team meeting in Comrie

## JUNE 2018

- OFGEM Edinburgh dinner where we emphasised the importance of community & consumer group engagement in the development of the 'smart' energy system
- Presentation to Scottish Enterprise Integrated Regional Energy Systems event on CES' work on local energy development
- Completion of project for Knoydart Renewables on flow battery electrolyte transport from surplus hydro energy for decarbonising local fish farm energy use

## JULY 2018

- Visit to Malawi by Head of Innovation, Head of Development and Head of Operations to meet CEM colleagues and work on joint projects including solar mini grid development and investigating relevance of hydrogen options in Malawi
- Presentation on our Orkney projects to European Forum for the Clean Energy for Islands programme, Naxos, Greece
- Contribution to RSE Energy Inquiry Roundtable, Edinburgh
- CES servers switched off – move to the cloud!
- CES Board meeting, Edinburgh
- Interview for Community Energy Futures bid to Robertson Trust
- Bid submitted to Scottish Government Aspiring Communities Fund for development of collective community wind farm project in Outer Hebrides
- Review of prospect for refinancing The Fishermen Three wind farm with our partners in Berwickshire Housing Association



▲  
Uist Energy In Motion Project – new EV Charger just installed!

## AUGUST 2018

- Chair's visit to Orkney to view projects & meet project partners
- Joint CES, Community Energy England & Community Energy Wales submission to UK Gov on 'The Future of Small Scale Low Carbon Generation' and on the Feed in Tarff closure consultation. Letter to Prime Minister too, expressing our concern
- Partnership bid submitted to the Integrated Renewable Energy Systems Call (EU / Scottish Enterprise) for the KE:TTLE project ('Knoydart Electrolyte: Transporting Tanks of Local Electricity')
- Meeting with Moray LEADER to scope possible community energy conference in Elgin
- Presentation to Scottish Renewables Solar Conference, Edinburgh
- Devt work on major new £28m partnership project in Orkney - ReFlex (Responsive Flexibility) & submission to Innovate UK

## SEPTEMBER 2018

- Submission to Scottish Parliament on proposed Publicly Owned Energy Company
- ACCESS Project Dissemination Event, Glasgow, which demonstrated how curtailed renewable energy can achieve a flexible connection to the grid while decarbonising heating in local homes on Mull
- CES Board meeting, Glasgow



Green Energy Mull's Garmony 400kW Hydro - linked to local heating demand in the pioneering ACCESS project, funded through the Scottish Government's Local Energy Challenge Fund

## OCTOBER 2018

- Presentation to Scottish Parliament committee on proposed Publicly Owned Energy Company
- Presentation at Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Scottish Energy Summit on the benefits of including community groups in decisions on local energy planning
- Approval of joint CES / CEM bid to Scottish Government's Climate Justice Innovation Fund - Solar Ovens project
- Prep of 6 SPEN Green Economy Fund bids with various partners
- Scottish Parliament evidence session on inquiry into proposed Publicly Owned Energy Company (CES giving evidence)
- Commissioning of new off-grid wind, solar and battery grid on the Isle of Canna, project-managed by CES on behalf of the community

## NOVEMBER 2018

- Catch up meeting with University of Strathclyde colleagues
- Secured funding from The Robertson Trust for piloting the Community Energy Futures programme, providing workshops on the coming changes to the energy system and tailored support to develop project ideas, to a cohort of 8 community organisations in southern Scotland
- Presentation to British Hydro Association conference in Glasgow on KE:TTLE project
- Catch up with Scottish Government Energy & Climate officials on implementation of the Scottish Energy Strategy & next steps
- Meeting with Scottish Malawi Partnership to establish a new Scotland - Malawi Renewables Forum
- Confidential confirmation that the Orkney ReFlex bid has been successful. Wow! Much work now needed to get to starting point in New Year
- First partner distribution from The Fishermen Three windfarm, co-owned with Berwickshire Housing Association; CES Trading received £17,750, which is paid through to CES to support the work of the charity. A historic moment for the organisation!



A SMILE project domestic installation comprising an air source heat pump, lithium ion battery & inverter



A Community Energy Futures session in Edinburgh

## FEBRUARY 2019

- Attend 'Multi-Level Policy & Energy Supply workshop (Universities of Edinburgh, Stirling and Strathclyde) workshop, Glasgow
- Attend OFGEM Local Energy Systems event, London and emphasise the importance of community engagement on local energy development
- Response to OFGEM with comments on Western Isles Interconnector 'needs case' – supporting higher capacity cable
- ReFlex Project partnership kick off meeting, Kirkwall
- Green Alliance Community Energy Manifesto launched – CES signatory
- Attend SMP screening of 'The Boy who Harnessed the Wind' in Edinburgh and speak on community energy in Scotland / Malawi
- Discussion with colleagues from Community Energy Malawi on mini-grid development in Scotland & Malawi
- First capacity-building session for the Community Energy Futures programme in Stirling

## DECEMBER 2018

- Meeting with OFGEM to discuss community role in flexibility services
- Green Energy Awards – Surf 'n' Turf nominated, but pipped to the post by Fair Isle community! (well done!)
- Start of the Nesta funded Energy Community Aggregation Service demonstrator project in the south side of Glasgow with Carbon Coop and South Seeds, researching how we might work with communities on enabling flexibility aggregation
- Start of the BEIS funded Whole Energy System Levenmouth Integrated Demonstration (WESLID) scoping project in Levenmouth, for a smart local energy system and flexibility integration platform, in which we worked with Greener Kirkcaldy to raise awareness of local community groups about local energy systems ideas
- Participation in Tindall Centre 'Financing Community Energy' workshop, Edinburgh
- Success with Green Economy Fund bids! 'Community Energy Futures', supporting 8 community groups to build capacity of smart energy development gets go ahead
- CES Pay Review underway
- Planning for Community Energy Malawi visit to Scotland in New Year as part of Innovate UK-funded PITCHES project (Powering Isolated Territories with Hydrogen Energy Systems)
- Prep of response to OFGEM with Community Energy England on consultation on the 'Targeted Charging Review'
- 1st distribution from the Fishermen Three windfarm to our trading subsidiary CEST - £17,750

## JANUARY 2019

- Attendance and input to Scottish Government consultation event on the proposed Publicly Owned Energy Company
- CES Board meeting – Pay Review & CES role in ReFlex approved
- Attend and input to Scottish Government Local Energy Systems Policy Statement Steering Group, Glasgow
- Initiation of joint CES / Community Energy Malawi Solar Ovens Project following a successful bid to the Scottish Government's Climate Justice Innovation Fund
- Prep of response to BEIS 'Smart Export Guarantee' consultation – struggling to see value for community projects
- Presentation to 'Smarter Greener Places' conference, Edinburgh



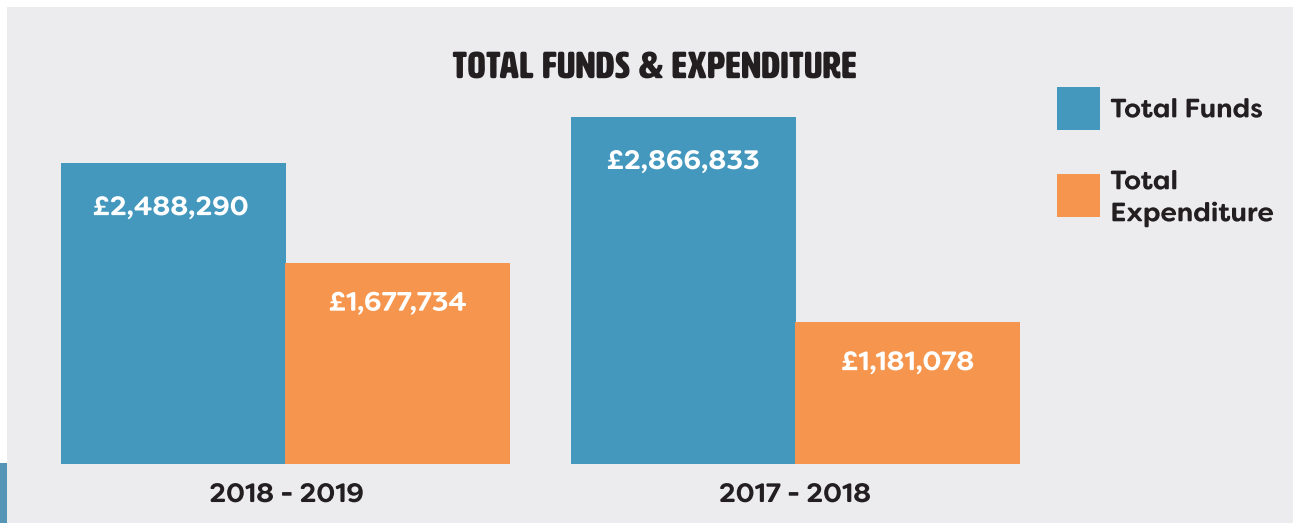
***"We used candles, paraffin lamps and battery torches. But now, just by the switch we will be able to light our homes. This is what we never thought would happen in this area in our lifetime"***

Sitolo resident Agness Bokola, following installation of a solar powered mini-grid by Community Energy Malawi and CES supported by the UNDP & Scottish Government Climate Justice Innovation Fund

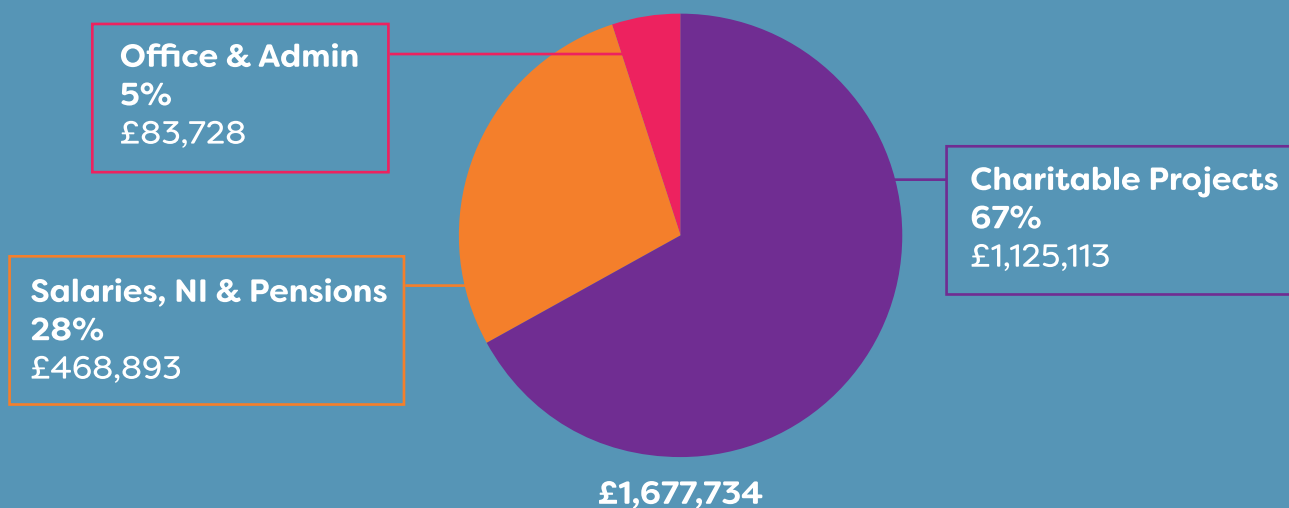
## MARCH 2019

- Scottish Malawi Partnership – first Renewables Forum – colleagues from Community Energy Malawi attend
- Submission of joint CES/CEE/CEW response on the 'Smart Export Guarantee' consultation
- Malawians on BBC Radio Orkney!
- CES team meeting in Perth, together with colleagues from Community Energy Malawi
- First SMP Renewable Energy Forum – v good contacts made
- KE:TTLE project bid successful!
- 2nd distribution from the Fishermen Three windfarm to CEST - £34,000 in total this year

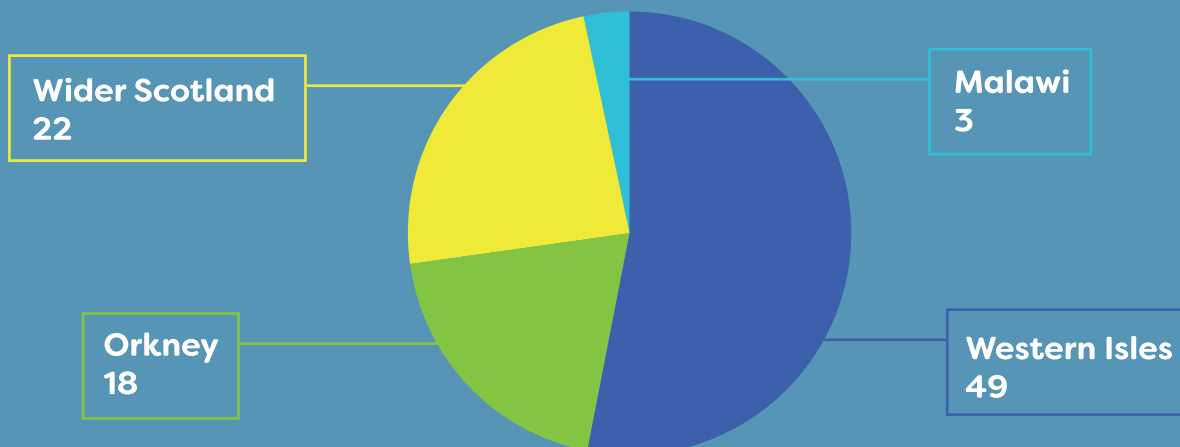
# FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT\*



### EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN 2018 - 2019
















### NO. OF COMMUNITY GROUPS ASSISTED (92)



\* unaudited accounts

# STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION 2018 - 2019

 Good Progress  Some Progress

PRIORITY	OBJECTIVES	PROGRESS	COMMENT & EXAMPLES
Increase community understanding of & influence on the energy system	Network of community groups able to support their communities on energy development		Good networks in WI & Orkney
	A systematic learning programme to build community capacity on smart energy opportunities		New Community Energy Futures programme
	Strong partnerships with other organisations interested in community energy development		Nine new partnerships established
Increase community ownership, control and benefit	Consortiums of community groups taking forward innovative energy projects		1 new consortium (Western Isles)
	Policy alignment and shared action		Significant work with Community Energy England & CE Wales
	Strong links with community energy projects in other countries		Main focus on Malawi only so far
	Practical demonstration of local energy economies		Significant progress in Orkney (SMILE project, Surf 'n' Turf), Mull (ACCESS)
Control community energy costs & reduce fossil fuel use	Establishment of local energy plans		Barra & Oban local energy plans
	Practical demonstrations of substituting fossil fuel use with local renewable energy		Completion of Canna renewables grid
	Practical demonstration of local energy supply arrangements		Feasibility demonstrated (ACCESS, SMILE)
	Strong partnerships & alignment with fuel poverty alleviation groups		Energy Community Aggregation Service pilot established (Glasgow)
Make CES Sustainable and more effective	Effective use of CES income to lever new project funding		Funding secured for Community Energy Futures
	Annual impact report on priorities		Under development
	Culture of continual improvement in governance & staff capability		Governance role strengthened in staff structure
	CES a valued & influential consultee		Regular input to Scottish & UK policy

## MEET THE TEAM

### THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alan Hobbet, Angus Hardie, Carola Bell, Annabel Pinker, David Somervell, Donald Boyd, Philip Revell

### MANAGEMENT TEAM

**Chief Executive:** Nicholas Gubbins, **Head of Operations & Governance:** Rona Mackay, **Head of Innovation:** Mark Hull, **Head of Development:** Gillian Wilson, **Manager, CES Trading:** Jamie Adam



**THE TEAM**

Community Energy Scotland (CES) is an independent registered charity and membership organisation with over 400 non-profit community group members across Scotland. Our vision is of strong, well-informed and capable communities across Scotland, able to take advantage of their renewable energy resources and address their energy issues in a way that builds a more localised, democratic and sustainable energy system. Our mission is to strengthen and empower local communities by helping them to own, control and benefit from their local renewable energy resources, control and reduce their energy costs, regenerate their communities and play their part in the low carbon transition. We aim to work in partnership with community groups and any others who share these aims and wish to build their understanding and capacity to create a more democratic energy system.

CES is a Registered Scottish Charity,  
No: SC039673, Company No: SC333698

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## WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR FUNDERS FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot



Horizon 2020  
European Union Funding  
for Research & Innovation



COMHARLE NAIN EILEAN SIAR



**FRONT COVER IMAGES:** A new community-owned electricity system powering the off-grid Isle of Canna from wind and solar PV will secure supply for the residents of this remote island in the Inner Hebrides, replacing the three diesel generators in use since 2000. It is estimated that over 25 years of operation this will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by over 2400 tonnes