



12.30-14.00 15 November 2012

Committee Room 3, Scottish Parliament

Chair: Sarah Boyack MSP

1. Attendees

A provisional list of attendees is attached to the end of this note. If you attended and are not shown on the list, please email Elaine Waterson (elaine.waterson@est.org.uk).

2. Introduction

Sarah Boyack MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the speakers.

3. Presentation: Community Benefit Funds and Fuel Poverty in Rural Scotland

Andrew Faulk from Consumer Focus Scotland, as background to the rest of his presentation, provided figures for the numbers of people in fuel poverty in Scotland, by fuel type, and highlighted that rates of fuel poverty are considerably higher among consumers without access to mains gas. He then went on to outline the results from Consumer Focus Scotland's recently published report on the role of community benefit funds in tackling fuel poverty and energy efficiency.

4. Presentation: Fintry Development Trust -Fuel Poverty Reduction via Community Energy

Kelly McIntyre from the Fintry Development Trust provided some background information about Fintry Development Trust. Fintry Development Trust is a development trust based in the village of Fintry, Stirlingshire. It broadly has the aim of reducing energy use in the village – ultimately, making the village a zero-carbon, zero-waste community. The development trust has a trading subsidiary, Fintry Renewable Energy Enterprise which secured ownership of a wind turbine on the nearby Earlsburn Wind Farm. She went on to outline some of the projects that had been delivered to date and their results, and then discussed the trust's future plans and outlined some of their key challenges.

5. Presentation: Community Wind Power Limited's Perspective on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Nicky Booth from Community Wind Power Limited provided a developers perspective on renewable energy and energy efficiency. Community Wind Power is an independent onshore wind farm developer, with five operational and consented wind farms totalling 165MW. The focus of their work with communities, via Community Benefit Funds, is on energy efficiency and fuel poverty. To this end they have set up the BeGreen Initiative. BeGreen advice shops are non-profit making

organisations funded by Community Wind Power Limited's wind farms. They provide information and advice, and top-up grant funding. Nicky went on to discuss some specific BeGreen projects and outlined plans for the future.

6. Questions

A range of questions were directed at the panel; please note that the intention of this meeting note is not to record a verbatim account of the meeting. Questions posed to the panel included:

- **Blair Armstrong** asked about how much income was generated by FDT's 'virtual' wind turbine each year.
- **Peter Roche** asked about community energy in urban areas and suggested this might be an appropriate topic for a future SPREEE meeting. He also flagged a forthcoming conference: Community and Co-operative Energy in Edinburgh: The Next Steps, which is taking place in Edinburgh City Chambers on 7th December between 9am and 2pm.
- **Bill Rodger** asked about how the models worked, and about how things were set up in the first instance.
- **David Somervell** asked about whether BeGreen worked in partnership with 'Sustaining Dunbar'.
- **Will Sutton** asked how it was best to spread the benefits more widely over rural areas and whether local authorities had a role in helping to 'nudge' the benefits.
- **Malcolm Dickson** asked about whether or not the £ invested in community benefits was likely to have implications for planning applications.
- **Mike MacKenzie MSP** asked about people slipping back into fuel poverty.
- **John Debenham** asked about what more could be done to ensure that community benefit funds are spent on improving energy efficiency and reducing fuel poverty.

7. AOB

Elaine Waterson highlighted that the next SPREEE meeting will be held on 24th January 2013 and that the topic of the meeting had not yet been agreed.

For suggestions for correction of this note and to request copies of presentations, please contact Elaine Waterson (elaine.waterson@est.org.uk).

Attendees

First Name	Surname	Organisation
Blair	Armstrong	
Nicky	Booth	Community Windpower Ltd
Sarah	Boyack	MSP
Teresa	Bray	Changeworks
Colin	Campbell	Currie & Brown
Malcolm	Chalmers	Scottish Government
Stephanie	Clark	Scottish Renewables
George	Coltart	Individual
John	Debenham	Halcrow Group Limited

Malcolm	Dickson	Minto Hills Conservation Group
Gavin	Donoghue	Scottish Renewables
Jim	Eadie	MSP
Andrew	Faulk	Consumer Focus Scotland
Patrick	Flockhart	
Patrick	Jack	Parliamentary Researcher
Trevor	Jackson	
Graham	Lang	Communities Against Turbines Scotland
Ian	Lindley	Borders Energy Agency
Marion	Livingston	Minto Hills Conservation Group
Ariane	Loening	
Rufus	Logan	BRE Scotland
Mike	MacKenzie	MSP
Graeme	Mair	Liddell Thomson
Jamie	Maxton	
Laura	McGadie	Energy Saving Trust
Dory	McIntosh	iPower Energy Ltd
Kelly	McIntyre	Fintry Development Trust
Veronica	Noone	Scottish Enterprise
Frances	Pacitti	MacRoberts LLP
Steven	Park	PPS
Douglas	Prentice	Geocapita
Jennifer	Ramsay	Community Energy Scotland
Pete	Roche	
Bill	Rodger	Individual
William	Ross	Individual
Sandra	Scott	BeGreen Dalry
A	Scoty	Be Green
Alan	Simpson	HBJ Gateley
Paul	Smith	Scottish Government
David	Somervell	Edinburgh University
Roland	Stiven	Confederation of Forest Industries
Will	Sutton	
Aurelie	Tartaud	Energy Saving Trust
John	Taylor	National Grid
James	Todd	Pincent Masons LLP
David	Torrance	MSP
Barry	Truswell	Scott-Moncrieff
Bill	Walker	MSP
Elaine	Waterson	Energy Saving Trust
Andrew	Watson	Scottish Power
Emma	Wheater	miascape
Trixie	Williamson	