

Energy4All Newsletter

W E L C O M E

Issue 7 - March 2009

Energy4All would like to wish a warm welcome to all of our members, old and new. This now includes members from Baywind, Westmill, Boyndie, Fenland, Isle of Skye and more recently the new Great Glen and Kilbraur co-ops in Scotland. In total we now have over 5,500 unique members with many investing in more than one co-op, or even in all of them!

Once more Energy4All staff and the directors of the various co-ops would like to thank all our members for their continued support, without which these projects would not be possible.

Together we have built a unique and remarkable model of successful co-operative ownership in a dynamic new sector.

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The New Year brought in fantastic news ...

Fenland Green Power Co-operative Signs Contracts!

As from 1st January 2009 the Fenland Green Power Co-op is the proud owner of two 2Mw turbines on the Deeping St Nicholas site in Lincolnshire.

The purchase follows a successful share offer which raised over £2.6 million from 1,100 members. This has been supplemented by bank borrowing to complete the deal.



Chairman Paul Rea said "After a series of complex problems and delays during which the support and patience of the members was crucial, we are delighted that the desire of local people to own their own wind farm has been met.

Patience was crucial

We have had enormous support for this project, not least from the landowner Nicholas Watts who is a Board member of the Fenland Co-op. We are very proud that there are now community owned wind turbines in our area".

Site Information

The Deeping St Nicholas site consists of eight 2MW Repower wind turbines on land at Vine House Farm and Worth's Farm, together with an underground cable network, access tracks, a wind monitoring mast and a small switchgear building. The installed capacity of the site's 8 turbines totals 16MW and the turbines provide enough clean, green energy to supply approximately 8,400 homes.

Skye's not the only limit for Scotland

Energy4All Scotland launched in May 2008 at the All Energy Conference in Aberdeen. Energy4All Scotland aims to benefit Scottish communities by creating co-ops to raise capital and own all or part of renewable energy projects. The company also has ambitious plans to widen the membership base across Scotland. Energy4All has been fortunate to receive support from the Co-operative Fund for its development in Scotland.



Come and meet us on our stand at
All-Energy '09,
20/21 May, Aberdeen

STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS!

Boyndie Extension

Falck Renewables have just received planning consent (subject to formal confirmation) for an additional turbine at Boyndie, bringing the total to 8.

The Boyndie members discussed this briefly at their last AGM and were enthusiastically in favour of taking up Falck's offer of a stake in the additional turbine. Over 80% of the members present indicated an interest in buying more shares. Agreement has now been reached between the Boyndie Co-op board and Falck on the terms of this offer, which will be available to existing members only, to save the costs of a share issue.

Future Opportunities

Extensions are also planned for all the other Falck sites in Scotland. Falck has indicated to Energy4All that if these applications are successful, each of the co-ops will have the opportunity to increase its investment. Construction of any additional turbines is likely to be in 2010 or 2011. Further details will be sent to the co-op boards and the members as soon as they are available.

Falck Renewables

Falck Renewables have a pioneering partnership agreement with Energy4All to promote community owned schemes across Scotland by creating a co-op for each of their wind farm sites and encouraging local people to take a stake in their local project.

Falck Renewables currently have 6 wind farms in the UK with a capacity of 231MW either operating or in construction. In addition, Falck have a further 630MW of projects in various stages of development so we look forward to many more community co-operatives on Falck sites over the next few years.

Falck has offices in London and Inverness and has been one of the most successful developers of wind projects in the UK over recent years. Their co-operation with Energy4All is a unique example of an imaginative commercial developer working with a social enterprise to bring benefit to the local community.

Boyndie

The first Energy4All co-op in Scotland, Boyndie is the smallest site in the Falck portfolio. The great majority of the 700 members of the Boyndie Co-op live close to the site, near Banff in N Aberdeenshire.

The wind farm has been trading for over 2 years and there are now proposals to add an additional turbine.

Isle of Skye Renewables Co-op

After a hugely successful share offer near the end of 2007, the Isle of Skye Renewables Co-op bought a stake in Falck's Ben Aketil wind farm on Skye.

The Isle of Skye Co-op has 570 members who received their Share Certificates at the beginning of March 2008. All ten turbines are now erected, commissioned and producing clean, green electricity and members are looking forward to their first annual share interest payment this summer.

Two New Scottish Co-operatives

Energy4All has recently worked on two new co-operatives on Falck sites in Scotland. These are the Great Glen Energy Co-operative for the Millennium wind farm near Fort Augustus and the Kilbraur Wind Energy Co-operative near Brora, Sutherland.

Great Glen

The Great Glen Energy Co-operative Share Offer closed on the 29th August 2008 raising just under £1.3m from 677 members. This is a record for an Energy4All co-op in Scotland. The site is now fully operational and members will already see a pay out of just under 3% from the first few months of operation. The Millennium wind farm has a total of 16 Nordex 2.5MW turbines with a total capacity of 50MW.

Kilbraur

The share offer for the Kilbraur Wind Energy Co-operative closed on the 24th October 2008, raising just over £1m from 517 members. The Kilbraur wind farm has a total of 19 Nordex 2.5MW turbines with a total capacity of 47.5M W. The site is now fully operational and members can look forward to a full year's production in 2009.

Caledonia

Energy4All Scotland is currently working on a new concept called "Caledonia". The idea is to create a national Co-operative that is available to everyone in Scotland rather than being targeted at people living close to a particular wind farm. The funds raised will then be invested in a portfolio of Scottish renewable energy projects, with particular emphasis on community-owned projects. This offers communities in the rural areas of Scotland the opportunity to build commercial renewable energy projects on a scale that is not limited by the funds they can raise locally. The intention is that projects supported by Caledonia will be owned and managed by the communities in which they are sited, with Caledonia investing alongside. The long term aim of Caledonia is to build up a development fund so communities will be able to access the risk capital required to develop projects.

With the valuable support of Co-op Development Scotland, Energy4All Scotland is currently in the process of researching the viability of the model and identifying suitable launch projects for Caledonia; a decision will be made later in 2009.



Committed to Community energy in the East Midlands

In the East Midlands region we are currently working in partnership with the East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA). EMDA is committed to seeing a number of community renewable energy co-operatives established and operating in the region and has funded an initial pilot project. It is hoped that this pilot project will develop into a full programme of support for community groups.

...and over the border...

Energy4All in England

Another new project takes shape at Gartree

A significant community wind energy project is currently under development in the East Midlands, led by Energy4All. The Gartree Wind Power project (www.gartree.coop), if approved, will see four large turbines, of between 2MW and 2.5MW, installed on a former airfield site to the west of Market Harborough in Leicestershire. We are in the final stages of preparation of the planning application and accompanying Environmental Statement and the Gartree Wind Power Co-operative will be set-up by the time this newsletter goes to print! If approved in its current form, this project will be entirely owned by the new community co-operative and will become the largest community-owned scheme in the UK. If you are interested in supporting this project please email the Energy4All office with your name and address details.

Other Technologies

The work with EMDA presents us with an opportunity to consider co-operative ownership of other renewable technologies. For example, Energy4All have been working with a community-based initiative in Derbyshire, Sustainable Youlgrave (SY). The group is about to carry out a full feasibility study on an anaerobic digestion (AD) project. This will include considering how to develop the scheme as a community-owned social enterprise.



Boyndie and Skye Co-ops to see Great Returns in 2009

This year will see returns to the Boyndie and Skye Co-op members of around 9% - 10% (exact figures will be confirmed at the AGMs). This is an attractive return especially when set against the very low interest rates currently available in banks and building societies. Let's hope a windy 2009 will see great returns like these for all the Scottish Co-ops in 2010!



Investor Research

Energy4All is currently conducting a unique piece of research on behalf of EMDA into how investor interest and confidence in community-owned renewable energy projects might be increased. The views from a range of investor bodies and individuals including pension funds, venture capital funds, stockbrokers, large co-ops and existing E4A members are being sought. The aim of the work is to identify barriers to and opportunities for investment in community-owned schemes from a wider range of sources. This may lead to the development of new commercial models which would allow communities to take their projects forward.



Shared excitement for a green future in the West Midlands

...ON THE HORIZON...

Supported by Advantage West Midlands (the Regional Development Agency) Energy4All is working on an exciting new project in the West Midlands called **Sharenergy**.

The aim is to develop community-owned renewable energy in the Rural Regeneration Zone which covers most of Shropshire, Herefordshire and a slice of Worcestershire.

www.sharenergy.coop

The three year project provides funding to develop renewable energy projects within the Zone enabling Energy4All to take both new and existing projects all the way through the planning stage.

At that point the intention is to create new co-ops and to run share offers to raise the capital to build them, thereby creating useful and commercially attractive projects and helping the economic regeneration of the area.

Among the new avenues being explored is whether Energy4All can apply the established wind power model to other forms of renewable energy including hydropower, biomass and biogas (anaerobic digestion).

Reeves Hill Wind Farm

Energy4All is working with Bolsterstone PLC and a local farmer Simon Gourlay to create a community owned wind farm near Knighton on the border of Wales. On the 12th February 2009, Herefordshire County Council voted to Grant consent. Final approval for the scheme rests with the Secretary of State. If granted the four 2MW turbines will be commissioned in 2010. One turbine will be owned by a co-operative which will be established by Energy4All.

Baywind

As Baywind members will now be aware, Energy4All have been talking with a developer called Infinergy about the possibility of re-powering the Harlock Hill site in Cumbria by taking down the five 500kW 12 year old turbines and replacing them with three 2.3MW machines. This idea has been prompted by the increasing age of the existing Harlock Hill turbines and the proposal from Infinergy to construct a new wind farm of their own on a neighbouring field.

Baywind members were recently consulted on this proposal; they overwhelmingly agreed to take the project forward with a view to eventual re-powering.

Further details will be available in the near future on the Baywind website. (www.baywind.coop).



Photo: Jonathon Oakes

Up and spinning!

Westmill Wind Farm getting the green light for 'green' energy...

We are delighted to confirm that by the end of March 2008 all five Siemens 1.3MW turbines at Westmill Wind Farm became fully operational. The five turbines generate enough "green" electricity to supply 2,500 homes. A grand opening and AGM in May last year saw over 600 members attend the event addressed by Jonathan Porritt. This brought to a successful conclusion a saga that has lasted at least 15 years! Westmill is in full production and is the largest community renewable energy project in the UK, taking over this position from Baywind. Based on feedback from members at the AGM, Westmill Co-op has now established the Westmill Sustainable Energy Trust (SET).

The Trust has been set up as a charity with initial funding of £3,400 from the Westmill Co-op. Its objective is to encourage and promote sustainable energy particularly in the local area, and to set up low carbon communities and promote education and arts.

This is a fine example of an Energy4All co-op taking on a new initiative for the benefit of its local community.



Photos: Gale Photography

Energy4All & Westmill Wind Farm Celebrate National Award

Energy4All and Westmill Wind Farm Co-op are celebrating the rather unexpected accolade of being classed as Highly Commended in the Community Initiative category at the prestigious Energy Institute Awards. The award ceremony was held in November 2008 at the Sheraton Park Lane Hotel, in London.

Energy4All won for its pioneering work in establishing the Westmill Wind Farm Co-op.

Mark Luntley, Chairman of Westmill Co-op received the recognition in front of an audience of leading figures from the Energy Industry. Mark said, "Westmill Wind Farm is absolutely delighted at the recognition the project has received; the result of many years of effort on the part of Adam Twine and hundreds of local people, who believe this is a vital contribution to the UK's fight against climate change".



Board members of Westmill Wind Farm

ON ANOTHER NOTE...

Member's Meeting and Ceilidh

On the weekend of the 7th - 9th November 2008, representatives of all of the Energy4All co-ops gathered for a weekend meeting near Cockermouth in north Cumbria. Many of

Energy4All's co-ops have

existed for only a short time so this was the first opportunity to compare experience and discuss future plans for the family of co-ops. The gathering proved to be very informative for all involved and following the discussions a series of action points was agreed to improve communication and co-operation between the co-ops. Several of these have already been implemented. For example production data is now available on the co-op websites, new generic Energy4All leaflets are being prepared for the use of members, and newsletters are to become a more regular event.

In addition to the business meetings, there was a lively social event on the Saturday evening to celebrate the achievements of the past few years. Baywind members and local members from our other Co-ops joined the co-op representatives for a meal and ceilidh which proved a huge success. The enthusiastic participation of members even impressed the band!

As easy as 1, 2, 3...

Energy Steps

At the beginning of 2008, Energy4All launched the EnergySteps web-site (www.energysteps.coop). Part-funded by EMDA and Greenpeace, the website guides individuals and communities through the key aspects of a wind energy project. The website provides useful information on elements such as wind speed, land ownership, access, aviation etc. It provides the user with a useful opportunity to carry out a "reality check" on the project. Users of the site are encouraged to register their project; Energy4All is then able to offer further support should early self-assessment demonstrate that the project could be viable. We are currently undertaking a review of the use of the site over the past year and will be re-launching an updated version later in 2009, when key findings from this review have been incorporated.

Helping to make fuel poverty a thing of the past

Energy4All Charity

Energy4All is in the process of forming a charitable arm to be known as the Energy4All Trust. The aim is to promote participation in community renewable energy projects and energy efficiency and to relieve financial hardship arising out of fuel poverty particularly for people living close to the project. The charity will also be available for individual member co-ops who want to divert a proportion of their income to charitable purposes. Several member co-ops have already indicated that they intend to use this tax-efficient route to support local environmental causes. Further details will be available shortly.

The Energy4All Team introduce:-



John Malone - Development Director - England

John studied renewable energy systems at CREST (1994/5). Subsequently, he spent almost 3 years as a Renewable Energy Officer at the Ministry of Natural Resources in Swaziland. Returning to the UK in 1999, John joined Energy for Sustainable Development, where, as a Senior Consultant, he was involved in a range of renewable energy activities including the development of community energy projects and energy services companies. John joined Energy4All in 2007 and represents the company throughout England, supported by Jon Halle in the Midlands.

AGM DIARY DATES

Westmill Wind Farm

Saturday 14th March 2009

Great Glen Energy

Thursday 2nd April 2009

Isle of Skye Renewables

Wednesday 29th April 2009

Baywind Energy

Saturday 9th May 2009

Boyndie Wind Farm

Wednesday 27th May 2009

Fenland Green Power

Saturday 6th June 2009

Kilbraur Wind Energy

Wednesday 24th June 2009

Jon Hallé - Development Manager Sharenergy - Midlands

Jon spends most of his time running the Sharenergy Project, an innovative approach to financing community owned renewable energy projects in the rural parts of the West Midlands next to the Welsh Border. Before joining Energy4All in Summer 2008, Jon worked for Goldenfuels, a biodiesel co-op based in Oxford which he co-founded. When he is not hatching renewable energy schemes, Jon is generally laboriously climbing up hills or coming back down them extremely quickly.



Paul Phare - Regional Development Manager - Scotland

Paul's degree was in manufacturing systems engineering from Bristol University. His final year dissertation studied the feasibility of domestic wind systems so it was logical that he should join the renewables sector in 2003 with Vestas Celtic. Later that year the opportunity to work with communities in the development of renewable energy projects came his way. Paul has worked with many communities in Scotland across the range of technologies and at all scales, but particularly with biomass and wind. He has joined Mark Jennison on the Energy4All Scotland team which has been extremely busy generating and responding to new leads across the country.



DON'T FORGET...

ENERGY4All is always interested in speaking with landowners, developers and communities who may have land or a project they wish to develop and involve their local community.

If you know of such a project, please let us know and help another community realise their dream.

Claire Hubbard - Project Administrator

Claire joined Energy4All in 2007 and is now Project Administrator implementing the new Project control system in the office. As this involves trying to keep track of what everyone is doing, this is quite a task! Claire's previous work has included working for a local electrical engineering company. Claire is currently working on her Level 3 NVQ.



Sue Shields - Part Time Accounts Assistant

Sue joined the Energy4All Team as a part time Administration Assistant. Sue is currently re-training in Business Administration and is assisting Steph with the accounts, Sue is also completing a Level 3 NVQ in Business Administration.



Holly Duncalf - Administration Assistant

Holly joined Energy4All in 2008 following the departure of Ruby. Her previous employment included working for a publishing company designing artwork and web design. Holly is developing her skills to include a level 3 NVQ in Business Administration and is the voice you are most likely to hear if you phone the office.



Contacting the Office:

Energy4All would like to ask all members to notify the office in writing of all changes of circumstances.



www.energy4all.co.uk



www.baywind.co.uk



www.westmill.coop



www.boyndie.coop



www.fens.coop



www.skye.coop



www.greatglen.coop



www.kilbraur.coop

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