

## **Energy meeting 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011 at Julian and Mary's**

Present: Martin, Julian, Mary, Anne, Allan, Penny, Colin, Richard

Apologies: Mhairi MacSween (ESSac), Wendy, John Wood.

### **ESSac Green Communities Proposal**

It was agreed that **Martin and Anne would arrange to meet Mhairi to discuss this scheme.**

### **Future Projects and CCF application**

There was a general feeling that we should concentrate more on insulation and less on renewables. Possible projects proposed were:

- A scheme to bridge the gap between people in fuel poverty and grant-funded assistance with insulation. ILM and ESSac are already active in this area, and it was thought TT Alness might have some insight. **Martin and Anne to raise with ESSac at their meeting.** Likely CCF funding requirement – part-time project officer, maybe some events, travel expenses.
- A scheme in conjunction with Tulloch Homes to monitor the quality of the insulation in their new houses on the Black Isle – the outcome hopefully being a report setting out best practice, which other builders could be encouraged to adopt. **Colin to sound out Tulloch about this.** Likely CCF funding requirement – part-time project officer, expenses.
- A project investigating the airtightness of a range of existing house types. These would include stone-built houses, modern timber-framed houses, post-war council houses and more modern council houses, at least 3 of each to establish some pattern, ideally more to allow for drop-outs. Householders participating would be expected to commit to carrying out remedial work identified, within a reasonable budget, and for testing to be carried out again after the remedial work had been carried out. **Colin to put together an outline project plan if this is agreed at the strategy meeting on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Jan.** Likely CCF funding requirement – part-time project officer to co-ordinate, professional airtightness testing, identification of issues, event to publicise results, possibly a directory of contractors able to carry out remedial work? The event to publicise the results could also feature other aspects of insulation and airtightness.
- A further smart meter project working with primary schools rather than secondary. CCF funding requirement – more meters, lesson plan.
- The Energy Events programme could be included, but probably as part of a bigger communications programme.

The part-time project officer posts could easily be combined into one position.

Community wood fuel was also discussed, but it was felt this was too big an issue to develop a plan within CCF grant timescales – it needs someone with a yard and shed to process and season the wood, plus logistics of deliveries.

### **Energy events programme**

Julian has written to Balcas re. a visit to Invergordon, and getting them to participate at a presentation of the planned pellet boiler at N Kessock, but no reply so far. Martin reported that he had heard the Invergordon plan is still not operational.

The proposed outline programme is:

27<sup>th</sup> February – Film, “No Impact Man”, to be shown at Cromarty Stables. Discussion after the film, Martin will be on the panel and other invitees are Ailsa Villegas (Highland Council Sustainable Development Officer), Nicholas Gubbins (Chief Exec., Community Energy Scotland).

April – Talk, “Insulating Hard-to-treat Houses”, Ross Cairns, UHI. **Martin to fix date and venue.**

October – Visit to Farr windfarm, **Anne to investigate details.**

January 2012 – Talk, either Solar Energy or Introduction to Renewables.

This doesn't include the Balcas visit/ village hall pellet boiler/ talk on grid issues/ visits to problem houses. **All to continue to pursue their respective events.**

### **Smart meters community**

Martin reported some technical problems with meters, still being investigated. There are enough users for the time being. Some additional questionnaires have now been received from the last round; **Martin to prepare report for CCF.**

### **Smart Meters Fortrose Academy**

Liz Balharry is working on a lesson plan. **Anne to check the budget she is working to (we have allocated £750).**

### **Wind Turbines**

There doesn't seem to be an opportunity for TBI to get income from the HBS Ring scheme. Their working group has not met since Martin joined it. It was agreed to visit to reschedule the proposed visit to three potential Black Isle wind farm sites for 24<sup>th</sup> January. Meet at Julian's at 10.00, or at the first site (on Mount Eagle road, there's parking on the east side of the road by the cycle track, grid reference is 639579) at 10.15.

### **Greening Homes and Gardens**

It was agreed not to run Greening Homes and Gardens in the same form in 2011, because:

- It was felt that there's less need to publicise micro-renewables now;
- It would be difficult to find volunteer time for this as well as new projects;
- CCF money won't be available unless the event is altered to target a different topic;
- There's a risk that the event could become stale.

Some kind of transport event was considered as an alternative, but the main message there is simply to travel less, which doesn't lend itself to a big event.

A possible alternative would be to have an event in February, focussing on insulation and airtightness issues, bringing together the proposed projects on these topics.