



Orkney Renewable Energy Forum

DECEMBER 2014

A Word from the Chair

Welcome to the OREF December 2014 newsletter. As I hope you'll see from below, it has been quite a year for us! While the reach of renewables activity in these small islands continues to be felt far beyond our shores, the world still faces unprecedented resource pressures and the climate change threat is as present as ever. The work that we are doing here in Orkney, both together and individually, to use energy more efficiently and to harvest it sustainably is therefore increasingly important.

OREF is committed to showing that renewables and energy efficiency are not fringe activities, and we hope that you will join us to make sure that 2015 is the best year yet for renewables in Orkney.

Neil Kermode
OREF Chair



Development Manager Christina meets with Alex Salmond at Copland's Dock

OREF News and Activities 2014

Conferences and Exhibitions

This year OREF attended the All Energy Exhibition and Conference in Aberdeen, the largest renewable energy event in the UK, where we exhibited as part of a dedicated Orkney area.

One of the most beneficial aspects of our membership of OREF is the exposure of our business to the wider public and current and potential clients.

- Roving Eye Enterprises

In September we attended the Scottish Renewables Marine Conference and Exhibition in Inverness. We exhibited materials on behalf of 10 of member companies, as well as promoting Orkney's supply chain and natural resources more generally.

Smith Commission Submission

OREF is committed to ensuring that Orkney's best interests are well represented at all levels, and to this end we have provided responses to several consultations over the course of 2014. The most notable of these was OREF's response to the Smith Commission in the wake of the independence referendum. Three of OREF's recommendations have been taken forward in the Smith Commission's report, and OREF continues to actively contribute to the development of OIC's Orkney Energy Strategy.

Orkney Renewable Energy Exhibition

This summer we put on the first ever Orkney Renewable Energy Exhibition in the Old Commercial Hotel, Stromness. The exhibition aimed to highlight



Exhibiting at the Scottish Renewables Marine Conference 2014



The Orkney Renewable Energy Exhibition in Stromness

Orkney's world-leading position in the development of renewable energy, and gave an insight into the history and the future of the industry in the area. We saw visitors from as far away as Australia and as close to home as Papay, many of whom had positive comments and great suggestions for the future expansion of the exhibition.

Orkney-Wide Energy Audit

OREF is excited to have led the Orkney-wide Energy Audit project in collaboration with Community Energy Scotland. The audit was successfully tendered for by local company Aquatera, and includes information on Orkney's current energy sources and uses, as well as suggestions for strategies for switching from fossil fuels to renewably sourced electricity. The audit will be made publicly available in January 2015, and it is hoped that it will form the basis of discussions and future planning in the year to come.

OREF Microgenerator Database

This year OREF has taken on, automated and re-launched an initiative to capture the running experience of wind turbines in Orkney. Although presently only covering 10% of the machines throughout Orkney, the free database is continuing to attract new participants and has already revealed some interesting facts. Over half the turbines in the database are from Evance and ¾ of the inverters are from the German manufacturer SMA. The average load factor of the machines to date is around 39%. So for a 5 kW machine that would be 1400kWh/month or 16.8MWh/yr. In the coming year, we plan to extend this database to cover solar installations too. In the meantime, if you have a turbine and want to join in then email fit@oref.co.uk.

Supply Chain Events

OREF regularly disseminates information and opportunities to members. This year, we went one better and were involved in putting on two supply chain events of our own. Back in June, we were involved in the organisation of a very successful mini

trade fair as part of EMEC's Orkney Ocean Energy Day, during which our business members were invited to promote their marine energy services to representatives from the European Commission, technology companies from across Europe, and local residents. Later that month, we also arranged for visiting delegates from the European Pro-Tide project to meet with various supply chain businesses.

Representing Orkney Internationally

Orkney is currently at the forefront of development of marine energy, and is well ahead of the curve in terms of micro wind installations and electric vehicle use. We have valuable knowledge and experience to share, but we are also facing some difficulties and problems. This year OREF has travelled to Samsø, Denmark for a Smilegov (Conference of Peripheral Marine Regions) project workshop, and to Antwerp, Belgium for a Pro-Tide project meeting in order to share the Orkney story and bring back learnings from the experiences of our European colleagues.



...And a final word from the Development Manager

My first few months at OREF have been exciting, challenging and rewarding, and I am very proud of everything that we have achieved this year. My thanks to all our members, our Board and our funders for contributing to the growing success of OREF's activities. As we are all aware, Orkney's renewable energy industry is facing significant challenges. It is vital that we achieve both long-term and short-term solutions to increase our generation capacity in order to retain our world-leading position and secure the future of our local businesses. We need to work together to overcome current and future challenges, and OREF is looking forward to collaborating with old and new members alike in 2015!

Christina Bristow
Development Manager



Open meeting to input to OREF's submission to the Smith Commission



Displaying electric vehicles at the annual Vintage Rally in Kirkwall



Development Manager Christina and Pro-Tide mascot Tidal Tim



Mike MacKenzie MSP plugs in a Nissan Leaf at the Old Academy, Stromness



A good turnout to hear about the energy stories of Orkney and Samsø

