

CARES Conference 2016



Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th March
The Golden Lion Hotel, 8-10 King Street, Stirling

This year, the annual Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) Conference is focusing on how community energy can be a key player in the renewable energy industry moving forward. Through innovative financing, cutting-edge technologies and new partnerships, we will explore the potential of community energy, and how as an industry we can collaborate to achieve.

Our agenda has been designed to allow delegates to choose to attend 15th or 16th or both days.

- Day one will look at Scotland's energy future, taking a local focus. We start with a spotlight on six local energy projects, covering a range of technologies and innovative approaches to success. We will then hear from an expert panel, **joined by Mr Ewing, Minister for Business, Energy and Tourism**. The panel will explore opportunities and visions from a range of perspectives. Delegates can then respond and share thoughts on local energy within the forthcoming Scottish Government's Energy Strategy. A conference dinner will be held following day one in the Golden Lion. This will end around 20:00 to allow delegates to catch public transport if desired.
- Day two is an opportunity to explore topics in depth, covering finance, technical issues, project management and a range of other subjects. Hear from groups who have learnt from experience, and professionals in the sector. The afternoon includes an option to visit Callander community hydro, 15 miles from the town centre.

While we are pleased to offer the CARES conference as a free event, please note that delegates who book a space and do not show will be invoiced accordingly. Please cancel by March 4 if you can no longer attend.

We are pleased to offer a delegate rate for accommodation in the Golden Lion - please contact the hotel and quote "CARES Conference" to receive our reduced rate of £70 for bed and breakfast per room.

Our thanks go to the Scottish Government and our sponsors for kindly supporting the CARES conference - Scottish Community Energy Coalition, Vattenfall and Scottish Renewables.

"Localised energy is a key driver of the Scottish Government's forthcoming energy strategy. The CARES conference is an important opportunity to provide an early steer on how we think about energy in the coming years- including generation, use and demand. We encourage attendance at the event to inform and shape the next step in Scotland's energy future."

- Chris Stark, Head of Energy Division at Scottish Government

 [Join the conversation on Twitter! #CARES16](#)



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9:30	<p>Registration Tea and coffee</p>
10:00	<p>Welcome Chris Morris, Local Energy Scotland</p> <p>Spotlight on projects</p> <p>This session is an opportunity to hear about successful CARES projects, to start the day with inspiring local energy stories.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Edinburgh Solar Co-op: A unique urban co-operative project in Edinburgh</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Paul Phare, Energy4All • <i>Reducing Fuel Poverty: Using an innovative heat battery to alleviate fuel poverty in housing association homes</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Andrew Bissell, Sunamp • <i>Levenmouth Energy Project: A partnership approach to incorporating hydrogen, energy generation and transport solutions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ David Hogg, The Hydrogen Office • <i>Sunart Community Hydro Project: Financing a hydro project through use of a local share offer</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dale Meegan, Sunart Community Renewables • <i>The ACCESS project: A smart solution to match energy demand with local community hydro generation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gillian Hurding, Community Energy Scotland • <i>Fetlar Community Wind: A 50kW community owned wind project overcoming grid barriers with local use of energy</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Robert Thomson, Fetlar Developments Ltd
11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30	<p>What's next for local energy and how do we make it work?</p> <p>Our expert panel will each present their thoughts on the future priorities and role for local energy in Scotland.</p> <p>The Scottish Government's energy vision and strategy Chris Stark, Head of Energy Division, Scottish Government</p> <p>Why is local engagement and involvement important? Claire Haggett, University of Edinburgh</p> <p>Scottish Renewables manifesto and how industry can support local energy Niall Stuart, Chief Executive, Scottish Renewables</p> <p>Community empowerment and the land ownership movement Sandra Holmes, Highlands and Islands Enterprise</p> <p>Community energy – how can Scotland lead the way? Nicholas Gubbins, Chief Executive Community Energy Scotland</p> <p>Innovative approaches to energy systems and supply Dawn Muspratt, Our Power</p>

12:30	Key note address: Fergus Ewing, Minister for Business, Energy and Tourism
13:00	<i>Lunch – Regency Suite</i> <i>Delegates will be invited to contribute themed questions to the expert panel</i>
14:00	Panel discussion with expert panel as in morning session <i>Focusing on the themed questions from delegates</i>
15:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:30	<p>Driving change <i>In this session we will hear experiences that have driven change to achieve successful local energy projects outside Scotland. We consider how local authorities and municipalities can play a vital role, as well as the importance of grassroots action.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holger Robrecht, Deputy Director for Europe, ICLEI European Secretariat. • Agamemnon Otero MBE, CEO Repowering, Founder Brixton Energy, Clean Marine, Energy Garden.
16:15	<p>Table discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scottish Government is developing our energy strategy during 2016 and the role of local energy will be a crucial aspect of this policy. As part of the consultation on this strategy, this session is an opportunity for delegates to provide thoughts and experiences which may help to shape the strategy. • Support for local energy must evolve as the sector progresses. Delegates are invited to consider and discuss ways in which CARES can continue to effectively support community and local energy across Scotland.
17:00	Close and networking
18:00	<p>Conference dinner held in the Golden Lion Hotel</p> <p>Delegates are invited to join us for a conference dinner to continue the day’s discussions. For those travelling home by public transport, the dinner should be finished by 20:00 in time for central belt trains.</p>

DAY TWO – 16th MARCH



09:00	Registration	
09:30	Welcome Chris Morris, Local Energy Scotland	
09:45	WORKSHOPS	
11:15	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>	
11:30	WORKSHOPS	
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00	WORKSHOPS	<i>Visit to Callander hydro – buses depart front of hotel at 13:45 Return to Golden Lion for 18:00</i>
15:30	Conference close	

The workshops will run throughout the day, at 09:45, 11:30 and 14:00.

A site visit to Callander hydro is also available at 13:45.

Workshops will be selected during the registration process and will be indicated in delegate packs.

Workshop 1= Achieving project profitability

Session facilitated by Andrew Morton, Local Energy Scotland

This session will explore the opportunities and possibilities for developing financially sound projects in the current subsidy context. How can projects reduce costs and increase income? What models for community energy might be prevalent in the future?

1. Community Energy - New Business Models

Adam Marvel, Pure Leapfrog

2. Understanding finances and maximising profit from your project

Simon Morris, Ricardo Energy & Environments

3. Using refurbished turbines

Garth Entwistle, Crail community project

Workshop 2= Repowering and refinancing

Session facilitated by Ruth Evans, Local Energy Scotland

As we move towards a new phase of renewable energy, this session will focus on two potential community opportunities for existing sites. Technically, as wind farms reach the end of their operational lifetime, we discuss how communities can become involved in potential repowered sites. Financially, we discuss refinancing of operational schemes to maximise returns, and sale of renewable assets.

- 1. Development of a Scottish Government approach to repowering**
Debbie Harper
- 2. Repowering opportunities and potential**
Natural Power (invited)
- 3. Innovative approaches to financing and refinancing**
Abundance Energy (invited)

Workshop 3= Managing advisors and suppliers

Session facilitated by Iona Hodge, Local Energy Scotland

Behind every great community energy project lies a great team – here we explore how to build relationships with contractors and suppliers to ensure projects are delivered on time and on budget. This is an essential workshop for any groups planning or delivering projects.

- 1. A project manager's perspective**
Susan Clark, Great Glen Consulting
- 2. Community experience**
Dale Meegan, Sunart Community Renewables
- 3. Prioritising activity and collaborating to achieve best impact**
Andrew Lyle, Locogen
- 4. A funder's perspective**
Yvonne Candlish, REIF

Workshop 4= Shared Ownership

Session facilitated by Laura Nicolson, Local Energy Scotland

Shared ownership remains a core aspiration of the Scottish Government, with incentives through planning now in place. This session will look at the advantages of shared ownership projects, the support available, and some of the challenges facing communities and developers

- 1. How does shared ownership benefit developers?**
Peter Marshall, Muirhall Energy
- 2. How does shared ownership benefit communities?**
Mark Brennan, Melness and Tongue Community Development Trust
- 3. How can developers deliver shared ownership?**
Catrin Jones, Vattenfall
- 4. How can communities undertake shared ownership?**
Karen Paterson, Local Energy Scotland
- 5. Legal perspective**
Calum Macleod, Harper Macleod LLP

Workshop 5= Spending Funds

Session facilitated by Ross Jones, Local Energy Scotland

As many community projects reach fruition, groups are focusing on how to maximise impact from their income. Similarly, community benefit funds and shared ownership income have huge potential which can be difficult to realise. Here we hear from experienced communities on spending funds, and the importance of developing strong organisations and plans.

- 1. Building a strong community organisation**
Catherine McWilliam, DTA Scotland
- 2. The important of community planning**
Rachel Searle-Mbullu, Foundation Scotland
- 3. How to deliver a successful community plan**
Lesley Campbell, STAR Development Group
- 4. Fintry Development Trust – Achieving Impact**
Matthew Black, Fintry Development Trust

Workshop 6= Infrastructure and Innovation, microgrids and local energy research

Session facilitated by Murdo Murray, Local Energy Scotland

As more communities seek to develop innovative projects, we look to share knowledge and experience on what has been learnt in the field to date. Microgrids, private wires and virtual private networks will be covered, with the opportunity for discussion around other approaches.

- 1. Microgrid research**
Melanie MacRae, Highlands and Islands Enterprise
- 2. Community project: private wire and thermal store**
Robert Thomson, Fetlar Developments Ltd
- 3. Sharing lessons learnt from supporting innovative projects**
Felix Wight, Community Energy Scotland
- 4. Energy systems and innovation**
Stuart Galloway, Strathclyde University

7= Site visit to Callander Hydro

Transport to leave at 13:45. It is approximately a 45 minute drive to visit the 425kW community owned hydro scheme. The visit is weather dependent and delegates should have outdoor clothing and appropriate footwear. The visit will finish with a talk in the Lade Inn, where the project idea was first conceived. Transport will aim to return delegates to the Golden Lion Hotel for 18:00.

Bus departs front of hotel 13:45 – please let us know if you are planning to travel by car.

Please note this agenda is subject to change in advance of the conference – check back to www.localenergyscotland.org/conference for latest on the event!