

the

Winter 2011-12 4th Edition

GREAT GLEN ENERGY CO-OP

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER



Update from the Board

Welcome to the latest edition of our co-op newsletter. The last version was well received so we agreed to make it an annual publication. We use existing mailings and black and white copies to keep costs down. A colour copy is available on the Co-op website - we welcome all feedback. It's been a much better year production-wise and we also had a successful share offer allowing additional investment in the newer turbines. Whilst we obviously can't guarantee great wind years, the Board will continue to try and ensure you get the best return on your investment.

Update Online- if you use the internet remember that you can update your personal profile securely online. If you would like to know how to do this, have forgotten your password or want any more info on the co-op website (www.greatglen.coop) contact Claire on 01229 821028 or claire@greatglen.coop



Annual General Meeting- details should be enclosed with this newsletter mailing. If you need more information contact the office. We hope to see as many of you as possible at the AGM on Thursday 19th April in Inverness. The current board of 6 members (2 retiring and seeking re-election) hope to meet as many of you as possible and answer any questions you may have. If unable to attend please let us know if you have any queries.

2011 Production Data

Members will be pleased to note that 2011 was a much windier year than 2010. With final figures to be confirmed, 2011 looks to be just about on target, making adjustment for curtailment - see later article. There are now 26x2.5MW turbines on the site. When fully operating they produce enough green energy to supply around 36,000 homes. As well as providing a return to our co-op members Falck Renewables also pay around £100,000 pa, for the lifetime of the Wind Farm, to the local community benefit fund for local projects. Full details of wind farm production can be found on the Falck site at

http://www.falckrenewables.eu/attivita/elenco/millennium/~media/Files/F/Falck-Renewables/pdfs/Millennium_Nov2011.pdf - or contact our office for more details.

2012 will be the first full year with all turbines available. Whilst Millennium, the highest wind farm in the UK, provides many challenges to its operators we remain confident it can do its bit in reducing our dependence on fossil fuels as well as providing a return to investors and the local community.



Projects

Energy4All has offered the Co-op a small budget to help fund environmental projects. As previously advised, we organised a turbine naming competition with local schools and in 2011 we added the newer turbines. Falck have agreed to list the names on a notice board close to the site and available to passers by. We will let you know when the notice board has been finished. Despite publicity and asking about locally we have not had many enquiries about our fund. This may reflect the healthy and much larger local community benefit fund provided directly by Falck.

We were also able to help Abriachan Forest Trust with a small project supporting their delivery of Forest School and green woodworking activities (photos above). The volunteers have been building a shelter using local timber and this will be used to protect groups from the elements while working on the pole lathes, shave horses and also as a tool store. It is intended to run some training courses in 2012 and thus build up new skills for those attending the forest. These include young people who are not in education or employment and community members who are interested in finding out when to adze or when to axe. Abriachan Forest Trust has thanked the Great Glen Energy Co-op and E4A for this funding for its school project.

Bits & Pieces

Membership update: There are currently 673 members with an average investment of £2641.81.

Want to buy more shares? Very occasionally shares become available and we maintain a list of members wanting to buy extra shares. Let us know if you are interested.

In 2011 representatives from Great Glen, Isle of Skye and Kilbraur Co-ops met at Falck's offices at Dochgarroch to identify areas where they could work together and learn from each other. This was a useful meeting and Board Members will take forward a number of issues as a result of discussions. The Board used the opportunity to meet up with Euan Fraser, and thanked him for his update and also providing a lovely room for our Board Meeting.

Fact and Fiction

Following the much reported turbine fire at Ardrossan wind farm in North Ayrshire, RenewableUK issued the following statement to the media:

"This was a small fire which lasted a short time. It was extinguished before the fire brigade arrived. No one was hurt in the incident. It is being thoroughly investigated".

Board members were also concerned to get the facts regarding curtailment payments (when the grid pay producers NOT to produce). Wind energy producers share in this benefit but last year received only 1.8% of total payments to all energy producers. Co-op members will in due course benefit from these payments.

Contact

Please let us know if you change your address or name. Notify Tammy Calvert our Office Manager at E4A Limited & Associated Co-ops, Unit 33 Trinity Enterprise Centre, Furness Business Park, Barrow in Furness LA14 2PN. Tel: 01229 821028 Fax: 01229 826075 tammy@greatglen.coop Also check out our website at www.greatglen.coop Thanks to Falck, Abriachan Forest Trust and R.J. McLeod for use of photographs.