



# Newsletter Issue Two

## Autumn 2009

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### Welcome

Welcome to our second newsletter which we hope will keep members up to date with our activities, plans and ideas, and provide important information relating to your membership.

Graham Strachan, GGEC Chair

### 1<sup>st</sup> GGEC AGM 2009

The Co-op held its first AGM on the 2nd April 2009 at the Royal Highland Hotel, Inverness. Over 43 members turned up to hear about the performance of both the wind farm and the Co-op. Euan Fraser, the wind farm's Manager from Falck Renewables also gave a presentation about its construction and the proposed new extension (*more later*). There was unanimous support for all motions presented, including the distribution of Co-op profits (made during the last few months of 2008). As a result our first share interest cheques were issued. Elections were held - more later. Minutes of the AGM can be found on the GGEC website in the member's area.

***Our second AGM will be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2010.  
Please put this date in your diaries.***

### New Co-op Chair

Subsequent to the AGM, Mark Jennison stepped down as chair and Graham Strachan was elected for the period until after our next AGM. Graham thanked Mark for all his hard work in setting up the Co-op. As an employee and director of Energy4All, Mark has had a key role in getting the Co-op established and successfully launching the share offer. Graham can be contacted at [dunmore1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dunmore1@tiscali.co.uk) or through the energy4all office.

### Turbines Named

Earlier this year, GGEC ran a competition for local schools to name each of the 20 turbines on the Millennium Wind Farm. Great fun was had choosing the winners from a long and creative list.

#### Invergarry Primary School's 11 winning entries:

1. Shannon Stewart, aged 11, 'The Energetic Thistle'
2. Ruairidh Stewart, aged 11, 'Highland Spinner'
3. Kyle Dempster, aged 10, 'Wind Charmer'
4. Chloe MacDonald, aged 10, 'Highland Breeze'
5. Ruth Stewart, aged 12, 'Jenny Rator'
6. Taylor Rodgers, aged 9, 'Ellie Twister'
7. Callie Rodgers, aged 5, 'Twisty Turner'
8. Sarah MacLennan, aged 9, 'Dizzy Heather'
9. Lewis Dempster, aged 8, 'Swirle'
10. Sophie MacLennan, aged 11, 'Millie'
11. Andrew Lyle McArthur, aged 10, 'St. Andrew's Tower'

### Board update

At our AGM, Kenneth Knott was elected to the board and Graham Strachan was re-elected by members. In addition, after a call for extra support, the board have now co-opted Ian Whyte from the Black Isle. Ian brings the board up to 6 in number and will help until our next AGM when he will stand down and offer himself for formal election.



### Official Opening of the Millennium Wind Farm

On the 14th September, GGEC directors attended the official opening of the Millennium Wind Farm. Representatives of Falck attended from Italy, and Willie Heller, Chief Executive of Falck Renewables UK invited local MP Danny Alexander to open the farm by breaking a bottle of whisky on one of the turbines. Later Falck opened their new Operational HQ at Dochfour from where the wind farm is remotely monitored and controlled.

### Great Glen Energy Co-op General Meeting

#### 10<sup>th</sup> November, Fort Augustus

Following discussion at the AGM and several requests from members, Great Glen Energy Co-op will be holding a short General Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009 with the specific purpose of voting on a motion designed to introduce postal voting at our General Meetings. The motion will be presented by the GGEC directors and, if approved at the meeting, this will mean all members will be able to vote on motions at next year's AGM whether attending in person or not. A formal notice will be sent 21 days prior to the 10<sup>th</sup> November meeting.



#### Kilchuimein Academy's 4 winning entries:

1. Alysha Henderson, aged 14, 'Windy Wallace'
2. Rebecca Blakey, aged 14, 'Rabbie Turns'
3. Shaun Sloggie, aged 13, 'Lean Mean Energy Machine'
4. Fiona MacCormick, aged 12, 'White Dragon'

#### Kilchuimein Primary's 5 winning entries:

1. Dean MacDonald, aged 10, 'Electro Blades'
2. Roisin Adams, aged 11, 'Whispy'
3. Lisa Henderson, aged 11, 'Swivel Head'
4. Jessica Drinkwater, aged 12, 'Tilatha Turbine'
5. Holly MacLean, aged 11, 'Recharging Rabbie'

## Millennium Extension and additional Members Share Issue

The Millennium Wind Farm initially consisted of 16 x 2.5MW turbines and it is these turbines in which the Co-op has a stake. In 2008, the site received consent for an initial extension of 4 additional turbines, however, members were not offered a financial stake in these 4 additional machines.

Earlier this summer, Highland Council and the Scottish Executive gave consent for a further 6 x 2.5MW turbines on the site and it is hoped these machines will be erected and commissioned by the end of 2010. Existing members will have the right to buy a stake in this extension. Exact details of the share offer are yet to be finalised by Falck, Energy4All and the board. Once everything has been finalised a letter will be sent to all members. As it stands only existing members (who read the original prospectus and signed the Application Form) are eligible to buy additional shares.

If you did not join the Co-op at the time of the original share offer you cannot join the co-op by buying shares in the Additional Shares Offer. A detailed Offer Letter will set out the terms, conditions and forecast returns, which are expected to mirror those of the original share offer document.



## The GGEC Outreach Fund

Falck have enabled Energy4All to provide GGEC with a small amount of money to progress 'Outreach Work' to encourage and promote the deployment of sustainable energy, in particular (but not exclusively), within the co-op's main area of benefit, the Great Glen. The current Board of Directors are keen to progress projects and the site visits. The board is now working on developing a 'Renewables Problem Solving Day'. The board would like to hear from any members who may have ideas for the Co-ops Outreach Work Programme.

## Other Energy Co-op News

- Falck's Strathbrora Wind Farm on Scotland's NE coast, has received consent from Highland Council to build an additional 9 turbines. This will allow the Kilbraur Wind Energy Co-operative to run a further members share offer next year.
- Representatives from all the Energy Co-ops established through Energy4All will be holding their annual get together and first AGM in November. Now there are 7 co-ops in operation it is possible to hold the first AGM and explore the meanings and intentions of this new relationship.

## Co-op contact details

Great Glen Energy Co-operative Limited  
Administration Office:  
c/o Energy4All  
Unit 33, Trinity Enterprise Centre  
Furness Business Park  
Barrow in Furness  
Cumbria, LA14 2PN  
Tel: 01229 821028

Email: [info@greatglen.coop](mailto:info@greatglen.coop)

We would be delighted to hear any feedback or queries about Great Glen Energy Co-operative. If you would like to contact us please call 01229 821028 or email [info@greatglen.coop](mailto:info@greatglen.coop)



## Wind Farm Production – 2009

The wind farm is now 9 months into its first year of full operation. The 16 wind turbines in which the Co-op has a stake produced 64.8GWh to the end of July 2009, 12% down on estimated monthly performance.

As reported monthly on the Falck Renewables web site ([www.falckrenewables.com](http://www.falckrenewables.com)) various factors have significantly affected production during the initial four/five months of commercial operation, namely wind resource and turbine availability. The wind resource has deviated considerably from budget on a monthly basis, but it is envisaged that the wind resource will be closer to long term expectations. Turbine availability was poor during the initial period, being affected by both unplanned downtime (faults and associated repairs) plus scheduled downtime to remedy snags noted at completion of construction and commissioning. Turbine reliability has steadily increased over the period resulting in an increased availability, with a reported availability of 95.5% for June.



Falck Renewables continue to keep the board updated with any issues and report performance monthly. In addition to this newsletter, production figures are available at [www.falckrenewables.com](http://www.falckrenewables.com) or via a link on the co-op's website at [www.greatglen.coop](http://www.greatglen.coop)

## Buying and Selling Shares

We are often asked by members about buying and selling shares in the Co-op. Whilst investment in a Co-op is intended to be long-term, it is recognised that there are situations where shares do need to be sold. Any member who needs to sell shares in the co-op has two options:

*a) A member can sell shares to another member at any time. The value is normally the face value of the shares i.e. £1 each. Any GGEC member who wishes to buy or sell shares needs to inform the Energy4All office in writing. The office will keep a register of interested members and will seek to assist members on a first come, first served basis; and*

*b) After 2014, and subject to the agreement of the board at the time, Falck Renewables will redeem any member's shares for cash at the end of the year, provided the total being redeemed in any year does not exceed 5% of the co-op's total investment in the project.*

Note that in the event of the death of a member, shares can be transferred to a non-member in a will; alternatively the Energy4All office will seek to sell or redeem the shares for the executors.

## Director Focus – Graham Strachan – 2<sup>nd</sup> in our series

I have been involved in community development issues in the Highlands for almost 20 years. When employed as Highland Council Development Manager I spent a lot of time around the Great Glen helping communities identify their needs and find ways to meet these needs. I was active in helping set up and support groups seeking to improve the quality of life of those living in rural communities. I became involved with a number of wind farms whilst helping negotiate the best deal in terms of community benefit payments. Recently I was elected to the board of our sister co-op-Kilbraur Wind Energy Co-op. This helps me more fully understand our relationships with E4A and Falck-and how we can work together for the benefit of co-op members.

Graham.