

Maximising Benefits for Communities from Renewables

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Community Renewables

- Background
- Achievements
- Why Refocus?
- CARES
- Other activity
- Keeping up the momentum



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Background

- SCHRI – introduced end 2002
- Support for both households and community renewables projects
- Initially 3 year programme with budget of £5.8M
- After 5 years – budget £20M+
- Managed by EST and HICEC



Achievements

- 2500+ household grant allocated
- 330+ community grants allocated
 - Ratio by number (H:C) 8:1
 - Ratio by value (H:C) 1:2



Why Refocus?

- Scottish Government increased funding to support community renewables and microgeneration.
- SCHRI very successful but recognition that should develop projects bring added value for communities, particularly in areas off gas grid:
 - increased skills base for local trades
 - Stronger partnerships within communities delivering wider social and economic benefits
 - Greater awareness within communities of renewables and climate change



Why Refocus?

Energy Minister Jim Mather, said:

“I want to maximise the benefits of renewable energy to communities throughout Scotland. There is so much more a community can gain from renewables projects, over and above financial benefit. For example, increased community cohesion and confidence, skills development and supporting local economic regeneration. CARES here to continue and build on support previously delivered via SCHRI”.



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CARES

Broad principles

- Be easily accessible to a wide variety of community groups
- Provide funding for supporting development of projects where appropriate as well as capital funding
- Cover a wide range of renewable technologies
- Look to harness potential of locally produced renewable heat – especially in off gas grid areas.



CARES

- A Scotland wide programme
- 2 discrete elements:
 - Project advice – communities will be able to access a range of support and advice from initial interest to ongoing support once project is complete, and
 - Financial support – maximum grant of £150k.
- Managed for the Scottish Government by **Community Energy Scotland**
- Contact details available from:

www.communityenergyscotland.org.uk



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Other activity

- Published a Community Renewables Energy Toolkit
 - Aims to encourage and help communities how they can lead their own renewable energy projects.
- Linking with other Scottish Government support Programmes, for example, Climate Challenge Fund, SRDP to ensure complimentary of support to communities.



Keeping up the momentum

- Commitment to CARES for next 3 years
- Renewables Action Plan:
 - strategic framework for developing renewables in Scotland.
 - Will outline how Scotland will meet 20% of its energy from renewables by 2020.
 - Will be actions identified for community renewables
 - Will be a live document i.e. ongoing stakeholder engagement. Looking to achieve collective ownership moving forward.