

## **Energy Working group - Renewables**

### **Update summary progression report**

### **Copy FSWCC and FSWCA**

### **Working Group (WG) Members:**

Alan Roseweir, (Chair), Kathrine McNab and Ian Henderson, Colin Love, Tom Burns (SAC).

### **Update from WG meeting 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

### **Community And Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) Conference Community Action to Net Zero on Conference 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

A National Conference took place on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Colin Love, Katharine McNab and Ian Henderson attended on behalf of the Working Group. The feedback, (written report) indicated that the conference provided examples of community partnership projects which were very useful and informative in aiding us as we begin our application process for funding.

The Conference sessions are now available to watch on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/LocalenergyscotlandOrg1/videos>

### **University of Strathclyde update**

Following ongoing discussions with Dr Roddy Yarr – Sustainability Director University of Strathclyde I made a formal submission to the University Innovation Forum, details below:

### **Grand Challenge through the Strathclyde Innovation Forum submission**

This was set up to allow community project to be investigated and developed in to partnership with the university.

<https://www.strath.ac.uk/whystrathclyde/innovationforum/>

## **Submission**

### **Accelerating sustainability and climate action**

My idea/ plan is in relation to engagement I have external to the university. I am a member of the Community Council, (CC) for Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown which is within the town of Ayr. Earlier this year I put a proposal to the CC and South Ayrshire Council to develop a local energy plan with renewable solutions. This plan has been well received. It has been endorsed by both bodies. I have had early informal discussions with our colleague Dr Roddy Yarr. Roddy is having similar dialogue with Glasgow City Council. As such we would be keen to progress and hopefully gain the support of the university for these very strong community partnerships. Both Roddy and I would be happy to share more details.

### **Response from the university post submission, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021:**

Thank you for submitting your idea to the innovation forum. Your idea was passed to the *Accelerating sustainability and climate action* group who have provided the following response:

This idea is aligned with the University's values and merits a discussion and further project development. This could form part of the University's Community Engagement Plans.'

This is a very positive result for the partnership. I have a follow up meeting with Dr Roddy Yarr – Sustainability Director University of Strathclyde on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to progress the actions required following the decision of the Innovation Forum. One action is to submit a further paper to Professor Tim Bedford at the university who has the responsibility for the Research and Innovation portfolio. Progress will be reported back to all parties.

### **Update from South Ayrshire Council (SAC) - Net Zero Carbon for the local authority.**

Government targets are for a 75% reduction in carbon by 2030 and zero carbon by 2045. Tom Burns advised that a report will go to the Council Leadership Panel in November 2021 outlining the challenges on achieving Net Zero Carbon for their operational properties. He also advised that the proposed new waste recycle plant in Girvan will be a net zero carbon building. In line with previous actions Tom provided energy usage data for council buildings in the Ayr West area as part of the data gathering that will be required for the funding application. for a waste recycle plant in Girvan. In line with previous actions Tom provided energy usage data for

council owned buildings in the Ayr West area as part of the data gathering that will be required for funding applications. He reported that his department was growing to support the implantation of the plan. Two posts were being advertised, (Electrical /Mechanical Engineering). Update The posts will be re-advertised and the job descriptions sent to Alan for circulation at University of Strathclyde.

The FSW community initiative, therefore, is complementary to work being undertaken by the Council and contributes to shared objectives of reducing emissions and tackling fuel poverty. Any learning from the FSW project will be shared with the council.

### **Next Steps - Actions and agreements**

The WG believes we should concentrate initially on Wallacetown,( this is supported by CARES). As such we need to source relevant data for Wallacetown. The bid will be to fund a feasibility study for Wallacetown as the identified area. This bid if successful will open the door for further bid applications. The feasibility will inform which model we should pursue that best meets the needs of the Wallacetown Community. **(Details of the models can be seen if you follow the conference links provided.** To progress to the next stage the following actions were agreed:

TB to speak to the Housing Dept to identify housing/energy data for the Wallacetown area that will support the bid. Timeline over the next two weeks (from w/b 11<sup>th</sup> October).

TB agreed to forward a copy of the posts being advertised for Mechanical and Electrical positions with the council to support the operational side of the Net Zero Carbon Plan. Timeline by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October.

TB agreed that it would be useful to arrange a briefing meeting with Cllr. Ian Cochrane, (energy portfolio holder) to appraise him of the progress being made. Action TB to organise meeting with AR, TB and Cllr. IC. Timeline to be arranged after w/b 11<sup>th</sup> October.

It was agreed we should attempt to draft the CARES bid mid-October, with the agreement for an end of October early November submission. All subject to actions being completed.

### **Date of next meeting tba, post meeting with Cllr. Cochrane.**

We are making good progress. This is good partnership working in action. We need all parties to play their part therefore it is important we get full endorsement and support from the Community Council and the Community Association to proceed.

## Footnote

\*The initial application for Cares funding would scope out the viability of a renewable solution. If the study provides evidence that there is a viable renewable solution i.e. provides savings to the community regarding say fuel poverty. The study will also identify the most appropriate renewable technology to be utilised, other community benefits would also be identified. **Wallacetown was identified by CARES a good place to start.** If the study provided a viable opportunity we would proceed to develop an implementation plan. Please note that Cares funding is available to support multiple projects.

**Happy to take questions**

Alan Roseweir – WG Chair