

Northumberland Renewable Energy Group
Minutes of meeting held at Cragside, Rothbury
14 April 2005

Attendees

Alan Wann (Northumberland County Council) – Chair
Mervyn Anthony (REALL)
Mark Burrows (Business Link)
Stephen Calvert (EST) (SCt)
Steve Caseley (Zen Eaga Solar) (SCy)
Steve Dormer (Zen Eaga Solar)
Clive Fagg (Northumberland County Council)
Andrew Gooding (Lynemouth Community Trust)
Andy Haddon (NaREC)
John Hamilton (Northumberland County Council)
Neil Harrison (Northwoods)
Garry Jenkins (North Energy)
Colin MacDonald (TADEA) (CMac)
Willie MacFarlane
Chris Maxwell (EIF) (CMax)
Cameron Scott (Tynedale District Council)
Jonathan Scurlock (NE Community Forest)
Gunther Woltron (Winpro)

1. Apologies

Bill Adams (GONE)
Hugh Clear Hill (Northumberland County Council)
Chris French (University of Newcastle)
Peter McArdle (Northumberland County Council)
Jeff McCloud (Northumberland Strategic Partnership)
John Price (Northumberland County Council)
Bill Snaith (Northumbrian Water)
Rachel Spence (North East Chamber of Commerce)
Caroline Stewart (NSP)
Trevor Walker (Castle Morpeth Borough Council)

2. Minutes of meeting held on 28/01/05 at County Hall, Morpeth

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising

A hydro theme would be explored for the next meeting including a presentation on Castles, Woods & Water project and the University of Newcastle hydro study.

Action: CF / TW / MA

The SE Northumberland wind study has been distributed to about 50 people. Further discussion will be held between NCC and Business Link regarding the individual projects. CF explained that the areas identified would have to come from developers rather than local authorities.

The NE is significantly behind other regions in terms of Clear Skies funding. A number of partners highlighted a range of projects that had been unsuccessful. SCt agreed to pursue this at a regional and national level

Action: SCt

4. Northumberland Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy

CF gave an update of work currently undertaken in role as Energy Executive. This was followed by a round the table sessions. The update and actions have are tabled in the appendix.

5. Presentations

Biomass Business Case

CMax gave a presentation on the Biomass Business Case. A copy of the presentation is included with these minutes.

There followed a discussion on the presentation. CHP did not have a significant mention within the Plan. This was due to such projects not being 'fully mature' and of a smaller scale. However the Plan did not exclude CHP projects. The main purpose of the funding element to the Plan is to provide gap fund assistance to marginal projects. The funding will not require match funding but will be capped. CMax emphasised that this Plan was at an early stage and the Biomass Implementation Group are working on the detail.

AW thanked CMax for the presentation and asked that the group be kept informed of progress. CF said that he has been invited to sit on the BIG as NREG's representative.

Action: CF

Zen Eaga Solar

SCy gave a presentation on Zen Eaga Solar. A copy of the presentation is included with these minutes.

A discussion took place that highlighted solar thermal as an efficient RE source, which is relatively cheap to install and could provide 50 – 60% of a buildings hot water. Grainger Trust is currently developing a project for housing near Hadston which could include Solar Thermal. In addition Blyth Valley are leading on a housing refurbishment at Seaton Sluice. Members expressed uncertainty around the revision of Part L of the Building Regulations. CF said that Arup is holding an evening seminar and would circulate details.

AW thanked SCy for the presentation and hoped that NREG could work with Zen Eaga Solar in the future.

Action: CF

6. NaREC update

This update was given as part of the round table update under Item 4. NaREC have now completed the building work associated with the electric lab, the PV centre and the Clothier High Voltage lab at Heburn. These labs are now undergoing an extensive period of commissioning and testing prior to moving into the operation phase. It was agreed that this could be a venue for a future NREG meeting.

Action CF / AH

AH also updated the meeting on the progress of the wind skills project. This is a joint initiative between NaREC, Northumberland College, TNEI and Business Link. The pilot course will focus on Construction, commissioning and maintenance of wind turbines. Funding is being sought for delivery and mainstreaming.

7. NE Region Renewables Sector Update

This update was given as part of the round table update under Item 4. A number of members of the group attend the NEREG meetings. SCt said that progress was being made on the Secretariat. Most regional strategies now have an element of RE and EE and this now needs to be brought down to a local level.

Action: ALL involved in regional fora

8. Comments and Updates not included in item 4

AW outlined the role of City Regions in The Northern Way. Part of this was the designation of Newcastle as a Science City. It was felt that there is potential to link the City Science Region to the work currently being undertaken on renewables. AW will keep the group informed of progress.

Action: AW

MA announced that REALL will be moving to Earth Balance in mid-May to take up new premises.

9. Date & time of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held during w/c 18 July 2005 – Venue to be confirmed

Appendix – Partnership Update in Item 4

Northumberland Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Strategy

(Numbers and italics refer to Action Points in the NREEES Action Plan)

1.	OVERVIEW
1.1.2	<p><i>Create a well designed NREEES dedicated web site...</i> Initial website is live at www.northumberlandenergy.co.uk Further development will be undertaken by sub-group during the coming year.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: CF / CAS / NH / JS</p>
1.2.1	<p><i>Develop good practice projects</i> CS – Kielder has been shortlisted for national award. Tynedale RE trail will be installed during the Summer SCy is involved in Solar Thermal installation at Seaton Sluice. Further discussion will be held with each district by Energy Executive.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: CF and all LAs</p>
1.2.3	<p><i>Identify factors that encourage RE&EE businesses to the Region and Northumberland</i> CF – Work is underway with OnNE to identify procurement process for wind turbine developers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: CF and OneNE</p>
1.2.6	<p><i>Develop opportunities within Northumberland schools</i> CMac – Undertaken assemblies and energy audit with Ponteland High School</p>
1.3.1	<p><i>Training analysis – skills support & development for Level 2+ and Level 5+</i> NH has submitted bid to LSC for training in SRC and haulage</p>
1.3.2.	<p><i>Training provision – skills support & development for Level 2+ and Level 5+</i> CF – Meeting held with all learning and skills providers. Pilot wind project will start in July 2005 at NaREC. Bid for a COVE in sustainable energy is being developed with a deadline of November 2005.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: CF / AH / MB / NH</p>
1.5.2	<p><i>Encourage innovative developments which help deliver regeneration</i> AG is developing a woodland enterprise scheme for the Castle, Woods and Water project. Clear Skies bid was unsuccessful but project will be taken forward.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: AG</p>
1.5.3	<p><i>Promote the NREEES approach at a regional, national and international level</i> AW – Linking with regional push on renewables to promote NE, in particular as a priority with the Newcastle Science City Region. CF to attend the All-Energy Conference. CF to organise NREEES – One Year On workshop for 19 May 2005</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: AW / CF</p>
2.	DOMESTIC
2.1.7	<p><i>Research and develop NaREC</i> AH – Test labs will soon be operational to operationally test domestic and micro renewables.</p>
2.3	<p><i>Improve communication of RE & EE issues</i> CS – Geowarmth are organising a trade fair for micro renewables to be held in Tynedale.</p>
3.	INDUSTRY
3.1.5	<p><i>Engage Northumberland companies to promote RE</i> MB – Continuing discussions on conclusions of SE Northumberland Wind Study.</p>
3.2.3	<p><i>Embed RE&EE into new Business Park development</i> GJ – North Energy have final draft of study for Northumberland Sites and Premises Group</p>

4.	WIND
4.3.1	<i>Identify public and private sector sites for wind turbine development</i> MB – distributed SE Northumberland Wind Study to more than 50 people.
4.3.2	<i>Develop a portfolio of local RE projects</i> AW – Enter discussion with districts to secure a proportion of community benefits from wind farm development recycled into local RE projects
5.	HYDRO
5.1.1	<i>Pilot survey / feasibility study to assess the potential for small scale hydro schemes</i> MA – NSP/NREG funded research project progressing – various sites seem viable, and developing access to database of hydro sites in the county. Also potential to link to TW's work. CS – Feasibility study being undertaken for Blanchland village
6.	BIOMASS
6.1.5	<i>Investigate potential of... biomass resources</i> NH – Produced draft 'Woodfuel Resources in SE Northumberland' study to determine the available timber resource within South East Northumberland and the options available for its cost-effective utilisation in woodfuel markets.
	<i>Investigate potential of agricultural waste biomass resources</i> WMac – Gave an update on progress of the Cockle Park Farm concept. Application to be made to NSP to assist in making the business case for OneNE bid.
6.2.10	<i>Promote local biomass fuel businesses throughout Northumberland & regionally</i> MB / JS – Identify independent stations and run biodiesel event
7.	ALTERNATIVE ENERGY
7.1.2	<i>Support alternative vehicle technologies projects... raise awareness... (make 'green fuel' vehicles visible)</i> MB / JS – Identify independent stations and run biodiesel event
7.3.2	<i>Identify potential public and private sector projects</i> CSy – Undertaken Solar Thermal project at Seaton Sluice