

**Northumberland Renewable Energy Group**  
**DRAFT Minutes of meeting held at Whitfield Parish Hall**  
**26 January 2006**

**Attendees**

Alan Wann (Northumberland County Council) – Chair AW  
Clive Fagg (Northumberland Energy Executive) CF  
Mervyn Anthony (REALL) MA  
Kit Tapscott (Woodland Regeneration) KT  
Mark Burrows (Business Link) MB  
Paul Fisher (University of Newcastle) PF  
Paul Quinn (University of Newcastle) PQ  
James Watson (Fawside Foundation) JW  
Jill Antrobus (Blyth Valley Borough Council) JA  
Jo-Anne Garrick (Northumberland National Park Authority) JG  
Peter Sansom (North Pennines AONB) PS  
Cameron Scott (Tynedale District Council) CSc  
Bill Lowther (North Energy) BL  
Colin MacDonald (TADEA) CMac  
Willie MacFarlane (WMac) WM  
Chris Maxwell (EIF) CMax  
Caroline Oldridge (ONE North East) CO  
Andy Haddon (Haddon Associates) AH  
Jonathon Scurlock (North East Community Forests) JS  
Caroline Stewart (NSP) CSt  
Charlotte Adams (FSW Associates) CA  
David Gray (Haddon Associates) DG

**1. Apologies**

Matthew Lumsden (TNEI Services)  
Keith Melton (NaREC)  
Helen Nisbett (TNEI Services)  
Stephen Calvert (Energy Savings Trust)  
Nick Burden (Wansbeck District Council)  
Neil Harrison (Northwoods)  
Hugh Clear Hill (Northumberland County Council)

**2. Minutes of Meeting held on 17/10/05 at NaREC, Blyth**

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

**3. Matters arising**

CF gave an update on progress made with the CC land for woodfuel. There are a number of management issues that need to be sorted out. WM gave an update of the Reflex course and asked if partners could consider the potential of hosting a project placement – anybody interested should contact the Reflex Co-ordinator on 0191 222 3680 or e-mail [reflex@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:reflex@ncl.ac.uk)

**4. Executive Update**

CF announced that NREG had been formally accepted into the Sustainable Energy Europe Network which is an awareness raising campaign. A detailed e-mail will be sent to members in due course.

**Action: CF**

In addition the Energy Executive has been working on the Cockle Park Farm Business Plan, community benefits from wind turbine development protocol, co-ordinating supply chain activity and developing an energy business club.

## **5. Presentations**

### **Whitfield Parish Hall**

JW from Fawside Foundation gave a presentation on the development of a hydro project at Whitfield Parish Hall. The project was identified by the parish committee and has been led by the Fawside Foundation with the assistance of the University of Newcastle, REALL, and the NSP. The hall has a dam nearby of the River Allen and a mill race runs under the building. Funding from NREG has enabled the expansion of the project from 1kW to 3kW to provide a sustainable heat source for the hall. The project has just been awarded Clear Skies funding and it is expected that work will start in the Spring.

### **Renewable Energy Aspire Programme (REAP)**

AH and DG from Haddon Associates gave a presentation of this project which is seeking to raise awareness within schools of career opportunities in renewables. The project is funded through the NSP/NREG. A copy of the presentation is available from CF.

AW said that he leads on the Aspire programme in Northumberland and would be interested to explore further and link into the Newcastle City Region and Science City.

The group identified that there are a number of existing initiatives that could be linked into this programme including; CoNE at Blyth Valley, the Solar Car Challenge and Rural Enterprise Northumberland. In addition comment was made that this should fit into the wider sustainability agenda.

### **Woodhorn Museum and County Records Building**

Charlotte Adams from FSW Associates gave a presentation on the findings of a NREG funded feasibility study to look at the potential for GSHP to provide heat for the former workshop building at Woodhorn. A copy of the presentation is available from CF

## **6. Strategy/ Action plan update**

[See Appendix 1]

## **7. Regional Renewable Energy Sector update**

CO gave an update of the regional perspective. OneNE are looking at a number of work areas including its response to the Energy Review, understanding the knowledge base in the North East, developing the Energy Leadership Council and the restructure of the North East Energy Partnership. In addition OneNE are looking at a number of high profile leading edge RE projects including Craggside.

## **8. Any Other Business**

The group discussed how it would respond to the Energy Review. It was agreed that it was important for the group to respond and that this would be co-ordinated by CF. Initially CF will prepare a briefing note to identify the implications for NREG. **Action: CF**

JA asked about the stretch targets for renewable energy generation set out in the draft Local Area Agreement. AW explained that this has been revised to focus on the delivery of micro-generation and community projects.

## **9. Next Meetings**

26<sup>th</sup> April 2006 – location in the north of the County

12<sup>th</sup> July 2006 – location in south east of the County  
18<sup>th</sup> October 2006 – location in central Northumberland  
24<sup>th</sup> January 2007 – to be confirmed

It is suggested that the NREG Two Years On Seminar will be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April - tbc.  
CF will contact DTI to request a presentation on the Low Carbon Buildings Fund which is replacing  
Clear Skies and Major PV funds

**Action: CF**

## Appendix 1– Partnership Update in Item 7

### Northumberland Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Strategy

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

<b>1.</b>	<b>OVERVIEW</b>
1.1.2	Keep <a href="http://www.northumberlandenergy.co.uk">www.northumberlandenergy.co.uk</a> website updated..... Revision to the website is still on-going. It is anticipated that this site will be live by April 2006.
1.1.4	<i>Develop RE projects within Northumberland schools from pilots to wider programme.....</i> Following on from the presentation at the meeting on 26-01-06 pilot projects will be developed to take the project forward.
1.2.1	<i>Disseminate the findings of the 'Renewable Energy Site Infrastructure Study'....</i> The study, produced by North Energy is available on request.
1.3.1	<i>Mainstream the windskills course...</i> An evaluation report is being prepared on the pilot programme together with feedback from an evaluation event held earlier this month at Northumberland College. The next stage is to put the course forward for NVQ accreditation.
1.5.1	<i>Continue to drive forward and co-ordinate NREEES delivery</i> It was agreed that the NREG Two Years On event should be held in early April and that the DTI should be invited to present on the Low Carbon Buildings Programme.
<b>2.</b>	<b>DOMESTIC</b>
2.2.1	<i>Carry out training/awareness raising programme for LA officers &amp; members .....</i> It has been agreed that demonstration is the best way to raise awareness.
2.2.5	<i>Target fuel poor to make homes more thermally efficient through a countywide affordable warmth strategy using WarmZone as the delivery agent</i> The North East has published the North East Fuel Poverty Declaration and authorities are urged to sign up to it. Contact Colin MacDonald for more details. Wansbeck has published its Fuel Poverty Strategy The NSP and NEA are supporting the development of a vision strategy for fuel poverty in Northumberland
2.3.1	<i>Clearly communicate / promote funds &amp; support available, costs / payback period</i> CMac at the EST Advice Centre is running an event at Pfizer to raise awareness of energy efficiency.
<b>3.</b>	<b>INDUSTRY</b>
3.1.4	<i>Engage trade associations to provide support and signage...</i> Business Link is currently working with the Carbon Trust to expand the NEEBS service.
3.1.5	<i>Engage Northumberland companies to address EE in-house.....</i> A number of companies have expressed an interest in reducing energy demand and the benefits of bringing these groups together will be explored Egger's at Hexham are looking to identify ways to reduce their energy demand
<b>4.</b>	<b>WIND</b>
4.2.1	<i>Identify potential public and private sector sites for small scale wind turbine development...</i> TNEI are working with a number of companies in the County to look at the potential for embedded generation from wind.

4.3.2	<i>Work with regional partners to develop a common methodology for cumulative visual impact assessment...</i> The Regional Assembly are currently progressing this work.
4.3.1	<i>Develop a protocol to ensure that a proportion of any community benefits fund is recycled....</i> CF has prepared a paper for discussion with the District Authorities.
<b>5.</b>	<b>HYDRO</b>
	Consideration is being given to the development of a new hydro resource at Cragside that will compliment the original technology. The National Trust have asked Dulus to prepare an initial feasibility study.
<b>6.</b>	<b>BIOMASS</b>
6.1.1	<i>Support regional developments, and encourage demonstration projects in Northumberland.....</i> Initial discussions have been held between Briardale Community Centre, EiF, and Stanegate Stoves to look at the potential of installing a wood stove at the Centre.
6.1.2	<i>Develop a Renewable Energy Centre at Cockle Park Farm</i> NCC and UNewc are finalising the Business Plan for presentation to potential funders.
6.2.1	<i>Assess the potential for biomass plant...</i> Architects and staff are developing a biomass plant for the new Hexham Swimming Pool
6.2.4	<i>Establish a countywide scheme to train practitioners...</i> North Energy Associates are running a public sector event for organisations to raise awareness of installation and maintenance of biomass / woodfuel
6.3.4	<i>Develop a network of local biomass fuel businesses throughout Northumberland and regionally....</i> Northwoods has been successful in its DEFRA biofuel infrastructure grant scheme application. This will help in setting up a biomass supply scheme across the NE.
6.3.5	<i>Promote local biomass....</i> The regional woodfuel document is available from CMax. Also the DTI are proposing to run a biomass event in February
<b>7.</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE ENERGY</b>
7.1.4	<i>Develop biofuels business in the North East and County.....</i> Tynedale Council is now using biomass fuel for its fleet. Northumberland County Council is still in discussion over the use of biomass fuel as are Castle Morpeth and Northumberland National Park. Blyth Valley Council are already using biofuels and are looking to encourage taxi drivers to help solve air quality issues in Blyth town centre