



Hydro Projects

Jordan Dam planning application has recently been submitted, and our press release was taken up by local radio, television and the press. Cariat was on Calendar News, Radio Sheffield and Sheffield Live, and we had a piece in the Sheffield Telegraph.

We are now concentrating on detailed design and procurement work and we are looking into grid connection options.

Kelham Island planning application is still under consideration by the council. Many thanks to those of you who put in supportive comments. Current activities are focused on issues surrounding the application and other licences.

The Work Days group is working on the risk assessment and method statement for a Work Day in May or June, to prepare for another flow test in autumn. If you like messing about in mud, contact jean@sheffieldrenewables.org.uk or ring the office (250 8367) and leave a message to say you want to help.

Funding

Thanks to the hard work of the funding team, we have been very successful in receiving grants for our core costs from Co-operative Enterprise Hubs and South Yorkshire Community Foundation. We have also had investment from Key Fund.

Share Offer & Communications

In the early summer we shall be launching a small share offer to existing members and those who have expressed an interest in investing with us. Some of you have been waiting quite a while to take up our investment opportunity. We are organising a day on Saturday, May 7th to take potential investors on a tour of the hydro sites, give them lunch and information on the share offer. If you are interested in investing, and have not received an invitation, please contact Jean on 250 8367 or email jean@sheffieldrenewables.org.uk

Our full public share offer will be launched in the autumn.

Blog Team

We now have a small team keeping the website updated with current blogs and interesting articles. Some of the team have been trained to submit articles directly on to the website, and others submit them to the co-ordinator who publishes them. Do have a look and comment if you can. Those who have written blogs are really pleased when people comment. Anyone who wants to submit an item for the website can send it to: jean@sheffieldrenewables.org.uk

Publicity Materials

We are about to have our booklet reprinted, and will soon have some posters as well. If you know of a good space (café, community building, etc) where we might be able to display a poster or put some booklets, do let us know. This will all help in the build up to the public share offer in the autumn.

Other News

Wind

This team is starting to prepare a report on potential locations, researching potential wind turbines and looking at ideas for public engagement around the acceptability of wind power.

AGM

We had a well attended AGM in February. John Taylor stood down as Technical Director and he was thanked for his contribution so far to Sheffield Renewables. He intends to continue to help from the sidelines. We elected a new director, Richard Collins, and Rob Pilling, Mark Wells and Jean Tinsley were re-elected to the board. We passed a motion to lift the current restrictions on spending equity investment.

We have invited two new members to join our Management Team with a view to becoming non-executive directors.

Model Making

The work on the shop window display finally came to fruition when it was installed in one of Sheffield Showcase windows in Cambridge Street in early March. At the time of writing it is due to be removed in early April. The central feature was a 1:150 scale model of the Jordan Dam weir, complete with proposed Archimedes screw generator (this featured very briefly in the Calendar News item – see above). The display also included a model water wheel built by Rowan many years ago, but recently restored. New posters were created for the display outlining the two hydro power projects. The group will now be focusing on updating the bike generator and wind turbine and creating new models to engage the public at the summer festivals.

Renewable Energy in Sheffield

At our Volunteer Evening on April 5th we discussed the council's plan to make Sheffield the first UK Decentralised Energy City. We are very keen to take an active part in helping to achieve this aim.

We have recently submitted a funding bid to allow us to take forward the computer based application that Matt demonstrated at the last Technical Discussion evening (the forerunner of our Volunteer Evenings/Socials). The application is a bit like 'Top Trumps' for those of you who have played this card game. For those who haven't it allows players to compare different aspects of (in our case) renewable energy schemes. The idea is to have this on our website, and it will also allow members of the public to input their own renewable energy projects so that we can see how different areas of Sheffield compare with the amount of renewable energy they are producing.

Volunteer Evening

As well as the discussion mentioned above, we also had a very interesting presentation by Dr Andy Young from Sheffield Hallam University on the DECC web tool: Pathways 2050 calculator. This has been developed for anyone to use to look at different ways to achieve the government target of reducing our CO2 emissions, by choosing different supply and demand options. You can read more about this on our website blog under Volunteers. Anyone who came along and would like to comment is welcome to do so. Also, if you have used the tool we would like to hear from you.

Events

Saturday, April 23 rd . 10 am – 4 pm	Stall in the city centre for the launch of Environment Weeks. If you can help, we still have slots in the afternoon to fill. Or just come along and say hello.
Tuesday, May, 3 rd 7/7.30 pm	Volunteer Social. If you want to become involved as a volunteer, let us know and you will be sent an invite.
Saturday, May 7 th	Tour of hydropower sites for potential investors.
Sunday, May 8 th 11am – 3 pm	Open day at South Yorkshire Energy Centre. Again do come along and introduce yourself if you haven't done so before.
Saturday, June 4 th 12 noon – 8 pm	Stall at Peace in the Park, Ponderosa, Upperthorpe. More helpers needed.
Saturday, June 25 th 11 am – 5 pm	Stall at Green Fair, St Mary's Brammall Lane. More helpers needed.

Contacts: cariad@sheffieldrenewables.org.uk jean@sheffieldrenewables.org.uk or ring the office: 0114 250 8367 (Tues & Weds), or write to: Sheffield Renewables, 25 Alexandra Rd, Sheffield, S2 3EE.
Website: www.sheffieldrenewables.org.uk