



## The latest news from Sheffield Renewables

May 2013

Welcome to the latest instalment of our Newsletter. You can sign up to receive our newsletter by email via the homepage of our website. If you haven't already, why don't you follow us on Twitter and Facebook to be kept up to date on the latest renewable energy news? A great way of keeping up to date with what is happening with us is to check out our blogs:

<http://www.sheffieldrenewables.org.uk/news-blog/>

### Update on the Jordan Dam Hydro scheme

The Jordan Dam Hydro project has met two significant obstacles.

1. The tender prices we received for the project were higher than we could afford. Based on a feasibility study and pre-tender information along with the experience of our volunteers, we estimated a tender price of £650-£750k. The Board was confident that the Business Case could support prices up to £750k. The lowest tender price received was £850k, although after discussion with the contractors this was reduced to approximately £750k. This reduction was achieved however by placing significantly increased risk to Sheffield Renewables. The reasons for the cost escalation were primarily price inflation, the discovery of a sewer outflow during pre-tender site investigations and site complications including the removal of contaminated waste.
2. The Environment Agency very recently increased the requirement for fish passage on the river and we have been unable to agree a process that minimises the risk of further price increases to satisfy requirements.

Sheffield Renewables' Board, being very aware that we are holding, in trust, a significant amount of people's money took the difficult decision to recommend suspending work on Jordan Dam. Building hydro projects entails significant risk and managing those risks has always been a core element to the ethos of Sheffield Renewables. Significant further expenditure would be required to get certainty about the price and final viability of the scheme. Even with the immediate resolution of the above issues, it is believed that it will take at least 6-9 months before the scheme would be ready to proceed.

The decision to recommend suspending work on the project has been a difficult one, particularly after all the hard work which has gone in over the last four years. If Jordan Dam Hydro does become viable in the future, we would still hope to go ahead.

We would also like to thank Yorkshire Water, the Canal and Rivers Trust, Sheffield City Council and Co-Operatives UK for their support in developing Jordan Dam Hydro.

### Community Solar PV

As an alternative to Jordan Dam, the Board has recommended focussing on installing medium scale solar PV projects (approx. 30-50kW). This has been decided as the most viable option for the short-term future of Sheffield Renewables due to:

- Predictable capital costs and performance
- Short lead-times
- Ease of replication
- Attractive rate of return

Over the last six weeks we have been developing plans for a series of PV projects on community buildings around the city. With the help of community energy groups who are running PV schemes we have started to draw up a new business plan. Alongside this we are making contact with local organisations to create a pipeline of potential sites.

## Special General Meeting

We held a special General meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March to ask our members for their approval to focus on Solar PV installations and suspend work on our Jordan Dam Hydro scheme. 54 Members attended and 54 members voted by email. The motion to suspend the development of Jordan Dam and make the development of a series of solar schemes a priority was passed by a majority of those present and those who voted by email.

## Business plan/case

The next step will be to present a business case for the solar PV project to our members. The business case will present a full financial model, along with a detailed risk analysis. This will be ready by June. At this point all members will have the opportunity to withdraw or add to their investment if they wish to do so.

Sheffield Renewables would like to thank all of our volunteers, members and supporters for their hard work and support over the last few years and we hope that you will continue to support us.

## Volunteer request

We are having to look at lease agreements for our Solar project. If you have any legal experience we would love to hear from you.

## Events

### Friend of the Earth film festival

Sheffield Friends of the Earth are currently running a green film festival, the last of the films, The happy movie, will be shown at The Red Deer on the 8<sup>th</sup> May, the film starts at 7pm. Happy takes us on a journey from the swamps of Louisiana to the slums of Kolkata in search of what really makes people happy.

### Transition cafe

Transition Sheffield are hosting an opportunity for local groups to get together, to share the highs and lows of community participation, and maybe attract new participants or start new groups. Their May Café event will take place at 7.30pm on 15 May at Fusion Café, S1 2NS. More details can be found at: <http://www.transitionssheffield.org.uk/node/121>

### Sheffield Environment Weeks

Launched on the 27<sup>th</sup> April there are a variety of activities on offer, from walks to volunteering and plant sales. For more information on events please go to their website: <http://www.sheffieldenvironment.org/>

## Peace in the Park

We are really sad to hear that Peace in the Park has been postponed until next year due to funding issues. Our next event will now be the Green Fair on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July, hope to see you there.

## Mayfield Environmental Education Centre

The Mayfield Environmental Education Centre is under threat of closure after having its funding cut. It offers education in nature, geography and geology to schoolchildren. There is an e-petition running if you would like to support them:

<https://sheffield.moderngov.co.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=108&RPID=422134&HPID=422134>

## Latest blogs

### [An update on the Jordan Dam Hydro scheme and the future direction of Sheffield Renewables](#)

May 01, 2013 03:37 pm | JuliaCarrell

### [An update from our Special General Meeting](#)

Apr 03, 2013 11:57 am | JuliaCarrell

### [Update from our AGM](#)

Jan 24, 2013 11:33 am | EmmaBridge

### [Offshore wind – An unexpected benefit to fish stocks?](#)

Jan 18, 2013 12:40 pm | TomHarrison

### [Share offer results](#)

Jan 08, 2013 03:34 pm | TomHarrison

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