

Sheffield Community Renewables - April Newsletter

Another busy couple of months with lots going on behind the scenes! If you would like to find out more please do come along to our **Spring General Meeting** to be held upstairs at the Red Deer Pub, 18 Pitt St, Sheffield, S1 4DD on Wed **29th** April meeting from 6.30pm for a prompt start at 7.00pm. We will be finished by 9.15pm. (NB: date changed after April Management group meeting)

Headlines from February and March

- ∅ Technical: We have had meetings with site owners to present SCR outline case for scheme development. We have commissioned pre-feasibility work on one site of interest and we are finalising a technical report on our in-house survey work completed last year.
- ∅ Business Planning and Finance: The ABG funding (with council) has been signed off successfully. Rules for new the organisation (Industrial Provident Society) have been drafted. We have set up an account with legal advisors and we have been talking to banks re loan finance. Development of SCR business/financial model, resource planning and budget projections have been proceeding and the review/updating of business plan continues.
- ∅ Communications: We have developed a communications strategy and action plan and have worked on creative ideas for logos and branding (including a proposal for renaming SCR). We are reviewing website design/functionality and specification of upgrade requirements. Recruitment of new volunteers is underway (including Claire Gregory our new bookkeeper – welcome Claire!).
- ∅ Administration: We are currently drafting SCR internal policies, arranging insurance, and have had discussions with South Yorkshire Energy Centre re rental of office space. Work on a proposal to raise additional funds with a view to employing a part-time coordinator has started.

Plans for April and May

- ∅ Spring General Meeting: We will be voting on key elements of the new business plan including name change and plans for setting up the Industrial Provident Society (IPS). There will also be presentations to update supporters on scheme options and official unveiling of new logo and branding.
- ∅ External review of business plan: We are working with a group of external volunteer advisors each with key expertise and experience to review our business plan, thereby adding greater assurance and confidence to our work. Our aim is to adopt a final revised version of the plan at the next management group meeting (20th May).
- ∅ Industrial Provident Society set-up: Work will continue in developing and registering the rules for the new organisation. Our aim is for a public launch in June/July.
- ∅ Announcement of first scheme: we are working hard to bring forward our first scheme, with two lead options in the frame. We hope to have a firm announcement soon.
- ∅ Communications: The communications group is moving from planning to delivery. So expect a more sustained flow of information and activities over the coming months. Communications is a key area where we need to recruit additional volunteers – please do get in touch if this is an area of interest.

Upcoming Meetings (contact RobJPilling@gmail.com for venues and further details)

- ∅ General Meetings

- o Spring General Meeting (29th April, 6.30pm for 7-9.15pm, The Red Deer pub)
- o Summer General meeting (June/July – tbc)

Ø Working Groups

- o Management group (20th May, 7pm-9pm)
- o Technical Team (8th April & 21st April 7.30-9pm)
- o Communications Group (6th May, 3rd June & 7th July, 6pm-7.30pm)

Other News

The Green New Deal Conference on February 28th attracted 148 people. It inspired lots of ideas for action. Go to www.sheffieldgreennewdeal.co.uk for progress on what is happening.

Sheephouse Heights Windfarm near Stocksbridge needs public support. Email to matthewwoodward@barnsley.gov.uk to send a message of support, quoting ref: 2008/0838 or contact Chris Broome (see below) for more details.

From May 7 Community Assemblies will replace Area Panels to represent local communities in Sheffield. Each will have its own budget, including £50K for carbon reduction measures. Go along to a meeting to have your say. See www.sheffield.gov.uk for details or contact chris1broome@yahoo.co.uk to discuss how you could make a difference.