



1: Sheffield Renewables Two Years on...

When we were two, we were nearly new. Well for those involved, it perhaps doesn't seem that way, but Christmas 2009 marks Sheffield Renewables' second birthday. It has certainly been a busy time – our volunteer survey suggests that we have racked up 1000's of volunteer hours. So what do we have to show for it?

Well on the face of it, we are still some way from reaching that 'simple goal' we set ourselves at the start – 'a shiny bit of kit, in the ground, generating electricity.' And on the face of it, we still have the same three challenges as we did back then: bring a site to investment readiness, raise the capital and build a scheme.

The big difference between then and now, is that the ground work has now been done: we have a professional organisation, money in the bank, committed and capable volunteers, a clear sense of direction, good access to advice, and a growing support base. Our hydro projects are developing rapidly and we have a series of other options coming along as well.

2010 is set to be a big year for Sheffield Renewables. No doubt there is a lot of work still to be done, but if we maintain the commitment and effort shown through 2009, then that first scheme of ours, is not so very far away at all.

Sheffield Renewables is unlike any project I've known. Being involved makes me feel that anything is possible. And it is the people, who make it so special. Many thanks to everyone who has helped and supported us so far. Have a very happy Christmas!

Best Wishes,
Rob



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2: Pioneer Shares

Following our incorporation as an Industrial Provident Society, earlier this year, we are now able to raise funds by issuing shares. As a first step, we have launched a 'pioneer share offer'. We are running this through December. It is aimed at volunteers and local partners, who are already closely involved with our organisation. We'll keep you updated through December via our website.

Much as we'd like to open our doors to everyone, at this stage it is more important that we are sure that those involved fully understand the offer and the risks involved. We also need to keep the admin burden to a manageable level. We will use the money raised as operating capital, helping with cash flow. The move will build an initial investor-membership and demonstrate our ability to raise finance via shares. It is also a good way to test our admin systems.

Nobody should feel they are missing out. The move is intended to put us in a good position for 'the big one' in 2010, when we expect to run a major share offer in support of our first energy scheme. In preparation, it is really important that we continue to build up our pledge database. We have received over £20,000 in pledges since the summer. We encourage anyone who is interested in investing in Sheffield Renewables to sign-up. This is the best way to stay informed of important investor news .

Pledge at: www.sheffieldrenewables.org.uk/index.php?id=44

3: News from the Blog

To view the full blog articles check out www.sheffieldrenewables.org.uk/index.php?id=11

Will Electricity Flow from Jordan Dam?

Sheffield Renewables is funding a feasibility study to find out whether the water at Jordan Dam can be used to generate electricity.

Photograph of Jordan Dam © Jane Thomas, 2009



volunteer
support
invest



Successful Start at Model Making Afternoon

The donation of a motor from a broken electric wheelchair means our bike generator is almost ready to go. The Archimedes screw is starting to look more like the real thing thanks to some leaky hosepipe and a glue gun.

Sheffield Renewables Shares Success!

Sheffield Renewables has been awarded one of five places in a national Community Shares research project. We will receive financial advice and training worth £5,000 in exchange for information on how we launch our first share offer and develop our first community owned renewable energy scheme

Wildlife survey on Kelham Island

The Kelham Island project partnership recently commissioned an ecological survey for Kelham Island. The study will assess how our proposed hydro scheme will affect the river and goit. It will tell us how to minimise any impacts and protect local wildlife.

4: Upcoming Events

Christmas Party – 7pm-9pm, Wednesday 16th December, Rutland Arms, Sheffield

Why not join us at The Rutland Arms for a friendly drink as we celebrate the progress we have made in 2009? We will be there from 7pm to 9pm so feel free to call in whenever you like. It should be a fun way to meet the Sheffield Renewables volunteers and find out more about our work.

Kelham Island Workdays – details to be announced soon

Plans for a workday at Kelham Island are temporarily on hold pending outcome of some sampling work. Our intention is to move some silt out of the way of the watercourse and to give a section of the goit a good old clean-up. We hope to run the event early in the New Year, so do keep an eye on the Events section of our website for dates and times.

At present our meetings/events are often held in places that are not accessible to those with mobility difficulties. If any supporter wishing to attend has a particular access requirement, please contact info@sheffieldrenewables.org.uk so we can try to make suitable arrangements.





5: Volunteer Profile

Jean Tinsley

Why did you get involved in Sheffield Renewables?

I've been interested in environmental projects since the 70s when I was in Friends of the Earth. I've insulated the cottage that I lived in and installed solar panels. When I saw an advert for the Sheffield Renewables' Public meeting I leapt at the chance to be involved with like minded people, producing renewable energy.

What do you do for Sheffield Renewables?

I started doing administration stuff, helping Rob to write the newsletters and sending them out, writing policies and minutes for various meetings. I am now the Company Secretary so I have to ensure the company fulfils its legal obligations. I also help organise volunteers for festivals and the model-making days.

How do you benefit from your involvement with Sheffield Renewables?

Getting to know like minded people, especially younger people has been very enjoyable. As I am mainly retired, working for Sheffield Renewables makes me feel useful and that I am playing a role in my adopted community.

What do you do when you're not volunteering with Sheffield Renewables?

I work half a day a week for Zooby's cafe in the Winter Garden, doing some of the administration and HR. I enjoy DIY and gardening so I help with the small 'nature park' opposite our house. Having worked in adult education, teaching basic skills to adults, I now volunteer at Upperthorpe Library's Homework Club to stop my skills getting rusty. I also enjoy spending time with my grandchildren.

Contact us: info@sheffieldrenewables.org.uk
Visit our website: www.sheffieldrenewables.org.uk

