



## 1: Happy New Year

Seems a long time ago now, but happy new year all the same. And welcome to our first Newsletter of 2010. We've had an excellent start to the year, what with the share offer and our site development work going full speed. We've news on the former this time round, and a projects update will go onto our website soon.

This year we will be relying as ever on our volunteers, supporters and investors. Our new Action Table will highlight important steps you might like to consider. In this edition we flag two key volunteer opportunities, an online supporter survey and our drive to boost our pledge database. We also report on three news stories, Settle hydro, Sheep House Heights and RocPower, which perhaps together illustrate the good, the bad and the ugly of local Renewables. I'll leave it up to you to decide which story fits which tag.

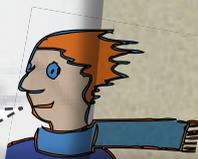
Finally there is the looming presence of 'Climategate'. What are the implications of recent challenges to 'the scientific consensus on climate change' and accompanying media coverage of them - for climate change itself, for public opinion and indeed for low carbon social enterprises like Sheffield Renewables? We're certainly watching developments with a keen interest. We would welcome your views on the subject and our supporter survey includes a couple of related questions.

As ever, your comments and questions are welcome by email to [info@sheffieldrenewables.org.uk](mailto:info@sheffieldrenewables.org.uk) (or for those tuned to the digital age via our blog or facebook). We're a busy bunch of volunteers, so can't always promise a speedy reply. But we will read all the emails we receive and do our best to respond one way or another.

Best Wishes, Rob



Join us on  
FACEBOOK  
or follow us on  
TWITTER



**2: Action Table**

Volunteer	Support	Invest
Volunteer Vacancies	First Supporter Survey	Pledge Today
<p>We are looking to boost our funding team and set up a new One-to-One team to spread the word about renewable energy. Find out more at: <a href="http://www.sheffieldrenewables.org.uk/index.php?id=28">www.sheffieldrenewables.org.uk/index.php?id=28</a></p> <p>Remember, regular, committed volunteers can become full Sheffield Renewables members for only £1</p>	<p>Our success relies on you; our supporters, volunteers and investors.</p> <p>Influence our plans and work by filling in our Supporter Survey today: <a href="http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SheffieldRenewablesSupporterSurveyFeb2010">www.surveymonkey.com/s/SheffieldRenewablesSupporterSurveyFeb2010</a></p>	<p>Guarantee that you won't miss out on the opportunity to invest in our first renewable energy scheme.</p> <p>Take the first step to becoming a member and gaining a say in how we develop by pledging to invest at: <a href="http://www.sheffieldrenewables.org.uk/index.php?id=44">www.sheffieldrenewables.org.uk/index.php?id=44</a></p>

**3: Share Offer Success!**

Our first share offer closed in January. We secured just over £12,000 from 14 investors, beating our original target of £10,000. This is excellent and reflects some very committed local support. The money raised gives an important boost to our plans for building our first hydro electric scheme.

Although the recent share offer was necessarily aimed at a selected group of active volunteers and partners, nobody should feel they are missing out. We expect to run a much larger share offer later this year, leading directly to construction of our first scheme. Our second offer will be open to everyone from Sheffield.

In preparation for the next share offer, we need to build up our pledge database. We have nearly 30 pledges so far, which is a good start. It would be great to report a boost to these numbers by the time of our next newsletter. If you haven't already, please do consider signing up. It would also be great if you can encourage others to do the same.

Continued over ...



volunteer  
support  
invest



Potential investors need to take time to understand exactly what investing with Sheffield Renewables is about. Keeping up to date with this newsletter is a good start. Further information is also available from our website ([www.sheffieldrenewables.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldrenewables.org.uk)).

Here's what Chris Broome, a long-term supporter said about his decision to invest: *'it is about more than financial returns, it is about putting something back into our city and contributing to a more sustainable future. Sheffield Renewables is a social enterprise, working for the benefit of people across Sheffield.'* People have different motivations for supporting Sheffield Renewables and we'd love to hear about yours.

If you have any questions about investing or would like to tell us why you support Sheffield Renewables, please email us at [info@sheffieldrenewables.org.uk](mailto:info@sheffieldrenewables.org.uk)

#### **4: On the Blog**

Share offer raises over £12000

Darley Mill Centre outing to see a newly restored waterwheel in action .

A happy group enjoyed our Christmas Party and a look back on 2009

Find out more at [www.sheffieldrenewables.org.uk/index.php?id=11](http://www.sheffieldrenewables.org.uk/index.php?id=11)

#### **5: Diary Dates:**

The next model making afternoon will be on Saturday the 20th February

Our new One-to-One team will kick off with an informal 'conversation' workshop at 7pm on Wednesday 19th March.

Please contact [info@sheffieldrenewables.org.uk](mailto:info@sheffieldrenewables.org.uk) for more information or if you would like to get involved.





**5: Volunteer Profile - Mark Wells**

***Why did you get involved in Sheffield Renewables?***

I've become increasingly aware of our need to live more sustainably, and wanted to make things happen in my city to help address this problem. I first got involved about two years ago when Sheffield Renewables was just getting started, since then I have been carried along by the enthusiasm and commitment that the organisation creates.

***What do you do for Sheffield Renewables?***

Mainly I find us funding from various sources, like grants, loans and more recently through a share offer to volunteers. I helped set us up as an Industrial and Provident Society and write the rules we operate by. As a director, I contribute to managing the group and keeping track of our finances.

***How do you benefit from your involvement with Sheffield Renewables?***

It's great being able to contribute in a small way to the move towards a greener society: my involvement gives a sense of purpose which makes a real difference to me. It's also enjoyable working with other enthusiastic volunteers. I hope to use the experience I gain with Sheffield Renewables to help with other community led sustainability projects.

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

Until recently I worked in a University spin out company, developing clean methods for producing hydrogen using microbes. I'm now back in the University working on the same thing. Besides work and volunteering, I like cycling in the Peaks as well as sampling the cinema, theatre and gigs on offer in Sheffield.



## **5: Other News**

### ***Settle Hydro shows the way***

The popularity of community owned hydroelectric generation is rising steadily. The most recent scheme to pour electricity into the National Grid is Settle Hydro. Like us, they chose an Industrial and Provident Society for the Benefit of the Community (IPS BenCom) legal structure, enabling them to offer shares whilst ensuring that generating income for shareholders is not the primary purpose of the organisation. The scheme is expected to generate enough electricity to power 50 average family homes, saving approximately 100 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide each year. Settle Hydro's website:  
[www.greensettle.org.uk/hydro/index.html](http://www.greensettle.org.uk/hydro/index.html)

### ***Decision on Sheephouse Heights Windfarm***

Sadly the the recent planning application for a windfarm on Sheephouse heights was rejected by Barnsley Council. The decision follows much local lobbying on both sides of the debate. An appeal against the decision is still possible.

### ***Biofuels proposal sparks fierce debate***

Applications have been made in Sheffield and Barnsley for the construction of two biofuel plants. The developers argue that biofuels can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Detractors raise concerns about biofuel crops leading to deforestation and human-rights abuses in developing countries.

Sheffield Campaign Against Climate Change (SCACC) have joined forces with national group, Biofuelwatch to oppose these developments:  
[www.biofuelwatch.org.uk/rocpoweroct2009.php](http://www.biofuelwatch.org.uk/rocpoweroct2009.php)

Rocpower website: [www.hargreavesservices.co.uk/rocpower.aspx](http://www.hargreavesservices.co.uk/rocpower.aspx)

On-line Planning Application: [http://planning.sheffield.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/dcapplication/application\\_detailview.aspx?caseno=KQJ3PONY09700](http://planning.sheffield.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/dcapplication/application_detailview.aspx?caseno=KQJ3PONY09700)

### ***SYEC goes Solar***

A successful bid to Sheffield South Community Assembly's Climate Change Fund by SYEC will result in photovoltaic panels being fitted to the roof of the centre. The Sheffield Renewables office is located in the centre so by April some of the energy we use should come straight from the panels. For more information about SYEC visit:  
[www.syec.co.uk](http://www.syec.co.uk)

