

Jordan Dam Picks up Pace

The first phase of work for Jordan Dam has been completed. We commissioned Derwent Hydro to provide a feasibility study for the installation of a Kaplan turbine, or an Archimedes screw on the River Don at Blackburn Meadows. The report indicates that an 80kW Archimedes screw would be feasible at this site. Over a year this would generate the same amount of energy as is used by about 80 typical family homes.

The weir is an interesting site; it is used to control the water levels in the canal, which briefly joins the river at this point. Discussions are currently underway with Yorkshire Water and British Waterways, both of whom have ownership of the surrounding land.

An environmental assessment of the site has been commissioned. This will help us in our discussions with the Environment Agency about permissions to divert water from the river, through our machinery and back. All of this leads up to the submission of a planning application, hopefully in the summer.

Being about 3m high this weir is the biggest on the Don. As the amount of power that can be generated increases with increased weir height, Jordan Dam is a very exciting location for Sheffield Renewables to pursue.

Volunteer	Support	Invest
<p><i>Volunteer Vacancies</i></p> <p>Do you enjoy producing good quality articles, presentations or other communications literature?</p> <p>If you do, you might be interested in our current Communications Team volunteer vacancy. More information at www.sheffieldrenewables.org.uk/assets/files/Volunteer%20Communications%20Team%20Member.pdf</p> <p>We still need a few more volunteers for our stall at Peace in the Park, the Green Fair and Sheffield Fayre. Check out the Diary Dates section for further information</p> <p>Remember regular, committed volunteers can become full Sheffield Renewables members for only £1!</p>	<p><i>Supporter Survey Results</i></p> <p>Our first supporter survey was a great success. David Gray won the prize of a free energy consultation by Nick Parsons of South Yorkshire Energy Centre.</p> <p>You can find out more about the results of the supporter survey in our blog entry www.sheffieldrenewables.org.uk/index.php?id=78</p> <p>A summary of how the prize was used and the impact it had can be read at www.sheffieldrenewables.org.uk/index.php?id=84</p> <p>Next time you're in Sheffield City Centre you could take part in our new Sheffield Renewables A-Board Competition Photo Challenge. Find out more at www.sheffieldrenewables.org.uk/index.php?id=85</p>	<p><i>Pledge Today</i></p> <p>Things are picking up pace at Jordan Dam. If you would like to invest to raise the capital needed to build the scheme, why not pledge and let us know?</p> <p>Pledging is the first step to becoming a member and gaining a say in how we develop. You can do so at: www.sheffieldrenewables.org.uk/index.php?id=44</p>

What's on the Blog?

Big Green Fair

Bicycle Powered Generator

Kelham Island February Update

Find out more at www.sheffieldrenewables.org.uk/index.php?id=11

Diary dates

We will have a stall at the three Sheffield festivals listed below. If you would like to help out on the stall for two hours at any of the events please email cariad@sheffieldrenewables.org.uk or ring Cariad on 250 8367 (Tues, Weds, Thurs)

If you don't feel like volunteering but fancy going to any of the festivals, it would be great if you stopped by and said hello to our volunteers.

Peace in the Park - Ponderosa, Upperthorpe, on Saturday, June 12th, 12 noon – 8 pm
Green Fair - St Mary's Church, Brammall Lane, on Saturday, June 26th 11 am – 5pm
Sheffield Fayre, Norfolk Heritage Park on Saturday and Sunday, August 29th & 30th.

Other News

Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) by John Taylor, Technical Director.

The long awaited feed-in tariff is finally here. As of 1st April 2010, generators of renewable electricity in the UK can claim back money for every kilowatt-hour, whether they use it or export it to the grid. The aim of the feed-in tariff is simple – increase revenue from generation, so that an investment in the technology pays back much sooner. Predictions are a rate of return of between 5% and 8%; this may not be commercial investment territory, but it is an attractive social investment.

Photovoltaic solar panels are perhaps the biggest beneficiary, with a tariff of up to 41p/kWh possible, plus the saving from not using grid electricity. This means the owner of a 1kW panel could receive over £300 per year and reduce their electricity bill by over £100.

What does this mean for Sheffield Renewables?

Our business model was developed based on revenues from the Renewables Obligation and sale of electricity. This model has always produced a case for investment in small scale hydro generation. The feed-in tariff will provide slightly higher revenues than previously predicted, and the 20 year tariff guarantee means we can have greater confidence in future revenues. This means the risk to investors is reduced, returns will be higher than predicted, and we will be better placed in the long run to deliver the aims of the organisation. It also opens up opportunities for investment in wind and solar technologies that were originally considered to be unfeasible within our business model. So all round good news!! If you're keen to find out more, and especially if you're thinking of installing renewable energy now that the feed-in tariff is available, we'd be keen to hear from you.

Volunteer Profile – *Abigail Hathway*



Why did you get involved in Sheffield Renewables?

I initially became involved in Sheffield Renewables shortly after I moved to Sheffield and had begun researching hydro power. Originally I joined mainly because of the connection to my day job but I have stayed involved because of the exciting chance to be involved in bringing community owned renewable energy projects to fruition.

What do you do for Sheffield Renewables?

As an engineer I volunteer in the technical team. I help where I can with the technical aspects of the hydro projects, including commenting on feasibility and ecological studies as well as surveying the potential sites.

How do you benefit from your involvement with Sheffield Renewables?

Being employed in research most of my work is theoretical so it is great to be involved with the practical implementation of hydro schemes, it gives a real insight into the barriers to building small scale renewable technologies. You also get to know your local river much better when you are up to your waist in it.

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

I am a Lecturer at the University, currently developing a new Masters programme in energy efficient building design and simulation. In my spare time I practice Taekwondo and really enjoy fighting competitively.