

# LISMORE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

## NEWSLETTER (2) June 2014

The project has made considerable progress in the last two months. Our consultants have now surveyed all the sites offered by landowners and tenants. We are currently looking in detail at a small number of sites with the most promise.

We have taken soundings from Scottish Natural Heritage, the West of Scotland Archaeology Service and the Argyll and Bute Planning Department about these sites, to identify all issues we should consider (such as the potential visibility of turbines and their possible impact on sensitive sites).

Our consultants are advising us about technical issues and are considering the economic strategies that could produce the most income for the community with the minimum inconvenience.

The landowners and tenants concerned have been kept in touch with developments since the consultants began work. Certain sites will be visited again, often to ascertain visibility and access, and landowners' and tenants' permission will be sought before any visit.

### What happens next?

A Planning Officer will make an informal visit to the sites to advise us about the viability of the project and to tell us what further analysis is required.

There will then be a meeting for the Trust Board and the landowners and tenants of sites still under consideration. The consultants will outline their findings and hear our responses. The landowners and tenants concerned have been invited to this meeting.

On 20<sup>th</sup> August there will be a meeting for the whole community to hear and discuss the consultants' findings and recommendations. At this time the whole community will decide whether or not to proceed with the project.

*The project has focused on hydro and wind power, but is also working alongside the Hall Committee to consider installing solar/PV panels on the Hall roof for the benefit of the Hall.*

## Who are the consultants?

We are using Community Energy Scotland (CES) ([www.communityenergyscotland.org.uk](http://www.communityenergyscotland.org.uk)) to investigate wind generation, because they are experienced in working on schemes for community benefit in the Highlands and Islands. Their work will produce technical, environmental and business advice. Our hydro specialist is Adrian Laycock ([www.adrianlaycock.com](http://www.adrianlaycock.com)), based locally but with international experience; he has assessed the potential of our burns to produce hydro power.

## Who pays for this?

The Community Trust has obtained a grant of £9,960 from the government's CARES scheme (Community and Renewable Energy Scotland) which covers all the costs of employing the consultants.

If we proceed further we would have to raise money to make a planning application and then to purchase and install any energy-generating equipment. We would need to find significant funds to do that but we could possibly use loans and repay them from the proceeds of the project. We are also looking at seeking gifts from regional businesses and at financing the project with a share offer. The consultants are advising us about this. The Trust intends to make sure there is no financial risk to the island and its individual residents.

The turbine(s) would be owned by the Trust and the consultants will give us suggested business models for rewarding landowners (eg by rent) over the lifetime of the project.

## Queries

Any queries should be addressed to Beth Campbell, Liz Buckle or Douglas Thorburn.

29 June 2014