



## Local Energy

### Committee Room 6

12:30-14:00

18/06/2015

#### **1. Attendees**

A provisional list of attendees is attached to the end of this note. If you attended and are not shown on the list, please email Gavin Donoghue ([gdonoghue@scottishrenewables.com](mailto:gdonoghue@scottishrenewables.com))

#### **2. Welcome/ Health and Safety**

Sarah Boyack MSP, Chair, welcomed everybody to the meeting and informed the Parliament was performing a fire alarm drill at some stage before 2pm that would require everybody to leave the building.

Ms Boyack apologised for any inconvenience this caused group members and the fact it would mean speakers would have less time for their presentations.

#### **3. Minutes from previous meeting**

Ms Boyack proposed the minutes of the 12 March meeting, which has been circulated to group members in advance, including the one suggested amendment from one of the presenters, Jamie Carruthers.

The minutes were then moved by Patrick Harvie MSP and seconded by Stephen Young.

#### **4. Presentation: James Johnston, CEO, Open Utility**

James Johnston is CEO and co-founder of Open Utility and presented on the idea of peer-to-peer energy. He started by firstly talking about the megatrends in renewable energy and the marketplace, such as the exponential growth of solar power and the growth of disruptive online retailers, like amazon.

Mr Johnston then moved onto discuss his product, Piclo, which is the UK's first online marketplace for buying and selling energy, including renewables, and will in a trial phase in partnership with Good Energy in October 2015.

Mr Johnston stated that Piclo would be local, transparent and would allow people to see how sustainable their energy mix was and could allow generators to become virtual energy companies. He stated that, in the long term Piclo would allow Government to see, at a policy level, what type of energy mix consumers were interested in.

## **5. Presentation: Dave Pearson, Director, Star Renewable Energy**

Dave Pearson leads the Star Renewable Energy business in the new segment of renewable heat and presented on the subject of water source heat pumps and their benefits for the Scotland.

He started by discussing the fact that heat accounted for 50% of the UK and the EU's energy use before discussing the specifics of water source heat pump technology, which he described as acting like a fridge in reverse. He also stated that despite the fact that the pumps do use electricity they generate 3-5 times as much heat.

Mr Pearson then presented on specific examples of projects he has been involved in, such as Drammen in Norway which involved a promise by the District Heating company that they would provide consumers with cheaper heating than they can get themselves. He then moved on to discuss the UK context and gave the example of the Firth of Forth having enough energy in it to heat the whole of Edinburgh.

Mr Pearson finished by discussing the benefits of heat pumps in terms of the emissions, economics, meeting climate targets and people, and what actions were required by government in order to unlock the potential.

## **6. Presentation: Iain Todd, Iain Todd Consulting**

Iain Todd has worked as Renewables Champion for the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG) before returning to independent consultancy and presented on one of the local transport applications of the new Levenmouth Community Energy Project in Fife.

Mr Todd then discussed the aim of the project, which is to expand the work of The Hydrogen Office in Methil, into a world-leading centre of innovation and learning on the subject of green hydrogen, before touching on the history of the area and progress of the project so far.

Mr Todd then discussed the technical aspects of how the renewable energy produced on-site is then used to power local transport solutions, such as hydrogen-powered vehicles and storage. He stated that this has led to Fife now having the largest fleet in Europe of hydrogen vehicles and world-first refuse vehicle converted to use hydrogen and diesel.

## **7. Questions**

- Stephen Young asked about the effect of cuts to Feed in Tariffs and the effect this has on micro-industries.
  - James Johnston stated that his company doesn't take a view
  - Sarah Boyack MSP then said that may be a subject the group comes back to at a later date
- Martine Nolan asked about whether you could nationalise the water-source pump using existing water systems
  - Dave Pearson stated that water-source heat pumps were agnostic
- Pete Roche asked about whether the target for 40,000 homes committed to district heating networks by 2020 was ambitious.
  - Dave Pearson responded that there was still a long way to go to achieve that, so it was too ambitious in some respects, but that Scotland should be doing more than that.
- Patrick Harvie MSP asked about the peer-to-peer model and whether this broke down the barrier between who are producers and who are consumers.
  - James Johnston responded that the system was automated so would depend on preferences which sources the consumer wanted. Therefore, it doesn't distinguish between different types of producers/consumers.
- Dave Hawkey then asked whether the peer-to-peer model needed to be low carbon or whether it worked with fossil fuels.
  - James Johnston responded that the product only made sense for renewable generators but that it was like ebay so just provided a platform for different people to engage with each other.
- John Birchmore asked whether consumers could choose to buy their electricity in 30 minute blocks
  - James Johnston responded that they are not supplying to residential properties yet but are looking at pilot schemes in that area.
- Neil Barnes asked about energy independence and what the major challenges were to mobilising communities
  - James Johnston said making people care at a practical level about where their energy comes from, and cited the low levels of switching between energy providers
  - Dave Pearson said for district heating it was about funding networks, the pipes in the ground and getting the price right.
  - Iain Todd said that the Local Energy Challenge fund was a game-changer for communities.

## **8. Next meeting**

Ms Boyack then thanked the speakers and informed attendees that the next meeting of the group will take place on Thursday 8 October in Parliament and will feature a presentation on the Smart Meter roll-out.

Ms Boyack also stated that the meeting will act as the group's AGM and that the secretariat will be in touch with members over the summer to seek ideas for topics of future sessions.

## 9. Attendees

<b>Name</b>	
<b>FIRST NAME</b>	<b>LAST NAME</b>
Barbara	Atterson
John	Birchmore
Gordon	Black
Andrew	Bright
Tony	Brunton
Colin	Campbell
Laura	Campbell
Greg	Clarke
Michael	Cockburn
	Davidson
Aisling	Doyle
Scott	Duncan
Robin	Duval
Chloe	Duxbury
Hew	Edgar
Tracey	Exton
Andrew	Faulk
Ankara	Fuller
David	Gordon
Patrick	Harvie
Dave	Hawkey
Nigel	Holmes
Ragne	Low

Cate	Lyon
Callum	Macdonald
John	Maclean
Philip	Matthews
Ashleigh	McLennan
Sam	McMillan
Beatrice	Morrice
Kate	Morrison
Paul	Mosely
Alan	Motion
Paul	Mullan
Martine	Nolan
Frank	Park
Gordon	Patterson
Pete	Roche
Gerard	Shirley
Millie	Whittington
Mark	Winkel
Stephen	Young