



## ***'Spotlight on Orkney'***

**12.30pm, Thursday 11 February**

**Committee Room 6**

**The Scottish Parliament**

**Convenor: Liam McArthur MSP**

### **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. Introduction and approval of minutes from the last meeting**

Liam McArthur MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief background to the day's topic.

He asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the meeting on 10 December 2015 which had been circulated to members in advance.

There were no suggestions or corrections and Ian Cuthbert agreed, and John Mclean seconded, that the minutes represented an accurate record of the last meeting.

### **3. Presentations**

The convenor then introduced the presenters:

#### **Neil Kermode, Managing Director, The European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC)**

Neil's first presentation was on the work of the Orkney Renewable Energy Forum (OREF) gave an introduction to scale of Orkney's current and potential energy resource, but stressed that a grid connection to the islands needs to happen for the full energy potential to be realised.

Neil gave an overview of the short term and long term solutions that Orkney requires to realise its full potential and talked about the amount of jobs present on the islands in the first zenith of renewable energy deployment. He demonstrated that the conclusions from 2010 are still valid in 2016 and mentioned some potential local solutions such as using hydrogen to store excess electricity, and using a smart(ish) grid.

Neil then presented on the work of the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) which is the world-leading, independently accredited marine energy testing centre. He gave an overview of the number

of domestic and international developers that have used EMEC to test their devices and talked about the challenges facing the facility.

The main challenge Neil outlined was insufficient grid which was potentially putting this facility at a disadvantage compared to other potential sites around the world. He then talked about some potential resolutions to the grid issue including the project underway to produce hydrogen.

#### **Ian Cuthbert, Programme Manager – Sustainable Energy Supply Chain, Energy Saving Trust**

Ian gave an overview of the energy efficiency work EST has undertaken on the Orkney Islands with their partners, including Orkney Islands Council, to help support and develop the supply chain there.

He outlined the rationale for the work on Orkney, including the significant capacity issues with a real need to improve households there, the fact the supply chain is engaged already and that there was buy-in from Orkney Islands Council.

Ian then went on to outline some of the challenges facing Orkney, including the fuel poverty rates, making sure the local workforce have the appropriate skills and research which found that suppliers had some key barriers facing their industry. He then outlined the work that EST was undertaking to resolve some of these issues.

Liam McArthur MSP then thanked both speakers for their presentations.

#### **4. Questions**

A range of questions were posed to the presenters, including:

- Graham Lang asked about the cost of renewables to consumers on the Orkney Islands
  - Neil responded that costs of renewables are socialised across the GB network and gave the amount of support given from each household for the Feed in Tariff as approx. £8/yr/household
  - Liam McArthur MSP made the point that more localised energy was the way forward in order to garner increased public support for renewables.
- Angela Lamont asked about the amount of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in Orkney and the cost of Green Deal approval.
  - Neil Kemorde stated that Orkney council had got grant funding for EVs and chargers. This gave local businesses confidence to take their own vehicles. OREF has strongly promoted EVs as group.
  - Ian stated that Green Deal cost approximately £1,500
- John Birchmore asked whether there was a simpler way of doing things in regards to the multitude of energy efficiency schemes
  - Ian admitted there were a lot of schemes but that Home Energy Scotland was a one stop shop that could advise consumers on which scheme suited them best.
- Roderick Galbraith asked about the alternative costs of renewables and Bill Rodger asked about what different forms of storage were being used.
  - Neil said that if storage used with renewables then you can achieve baseload alongside the intermittency of tidal generation.
- Mark Whittet made the point that people were very easily confused when it comes to energy bills.
- Roderick Galbraith made a point about the relative costs of different energy technologies and that renewables were not good for baseload.

- Bill Rodger observed that Historic Scotland had made a point about energy efficiency work having not been done adequately.
  - Ian said that was also a concern of EST.

Please note the intention of this meeting note is not to record a verbatim account of the meeting.

## 5. AOB

The Convenor noted that due to the election on 5 May this would be the last meeting of SPREEE in this Parliament and, because at the dissolution of Parliament on 24 March, all Cross Party Groups cease to exist. However, the group will probably seek to re-register again shortly after the election.

Further, the convenor stated that as no outstanding documentation can be added to the Parliament's website after 24 March, the group needs to provide any outstanding minutes to the clerks by 20 March. Therefore, the minutes from today's meeting will be sent round the group in advance of 20 March and approved via email, rather than signed off at the next meeting (as is usually the case).

For suggestions for correction of this note and to request copies of presentations, please contact the secretariat, Gavin Donoghue ([gdonoghue@scottishrenewables.com](mailto:gdonoghue@scottishrenewables.com)).

## 6. Attendees

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME
Alex	Anderson
Paul	Alford
John	Birchmore
Steve	Black
Sarah	Boyack MSP
Colin	Campbell
Ian	Cuthbert
Gareth	Davies
Gavin	Donoghue
Aisling	Doyle
Tracey	Exton
Lizzie	Foot
Karen	Freel

Roderick	Galbraith
Paul	Gardner
Robert	Girvan
Patrick	Harvie MSP
Jenny	Hazzard
Nigel	Holmes
Linda	Holt
Teuta	Jahdaut
Donna	Kelly-Gilmour
Neil	Kermode
Graham	Lang
Fabrice	Leveque
Murdo	Macdonald
John	Macleane
Ed	Maddox
Philip	Matthews
Liam	McArthur MSP
Norman	McLennan
Sam	McMillan
Alan	Motion
Paul	Mullan
Colin	Porteous

Caroline	Pringle
Lorna	Ross
Jeremy	Smith
Martin	Surridge
Enrique	Troncoso
Mark	Whittet
Stephen	Young