

**TRANSITION BLACK ISLE  
ENERGY GROUP REPORT  
12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2010**

**Greening Homes and Gardens**

The date is set for Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September, Findon Hall in Culbokie has been booked for the exhibition, confirmed exhibitors are:

- Balcas, Invergordon (wood pellets)
- Invisible Heat, Ullapool (heat pumps, under-floor heating, solar thermal)
- Highland Alternative Energy, Nairn (heat pumps, wind turbines, pellet stoves)
- CLH Solar, Muir of Ord (solar thermal, biomass heating)
- Highland Stoves, Cromarty (biomass stoves)
- Ace Home Heating (condensing oil and LPG boilers)
- Fraser & Sun, Inverness (biomass heating, solar thermal)
- ILM, Alness (insulation and recycling)
- Solartech, Edinburgh (solar electric)
- UHI, Inverness (sustainable construction BSc)
- Carbon Lite Design & Build, Ardross (modular straw bale construction)
- RoWAN (composting)
- Energy Saving Trust/ ESSac
- TBI

Rolph will be doing trips in his solar-powered boat from N. Kessock.

Others pending are Sheffield Insulation (looking unlikely), Envico (Aviemore, wind turbines and other renewables), Eco-living (UK, but with distributor based at Culbo, heat pumps), and George Glaister electric bikes. **We're short of exhibitors relevant to the garden side of things.**

We have been asking exhibitors for donations, and have £200 to date, plus £250 promised for event sponsorship from Invisible Heat.

There will be a small number of seminars during the day in the committee room of the hall. Topics are grants and funding (Energy Saving Trust), insulating older houses (UHI) and composting (RoWAN).

We have eight houses confirmed, and a few pending. Alan Grant (Energy Saving Scotland) will review his files to see if there's anyone suitable. The community gardens are possibilities, depending a bit on what there is to see. **If anyone has ideas for other homes to include, please pass them on to Allan Mackenzie** (contact details on members list).

The Energy Saving Trust has relented about their mailing to Cromarty, and will now send our flier with it. Last year we followed up the mailing with door knocking to encourage people to return the Home Energy Checks, but this seems to be considered less important – better for folk in Cromarty to pass the word to neighbours that it's worth sending the forms back.

**We weren't sure about catering** – we could do it ourselves as a fund-raiser, but are likely to be thinly spread. Alternatively we could ask the school to do it (as last year) – we'd lose some income, but involving the school would help with publicity.

Teen will do articles for Chatterbox and Noticeboard, and press releases nearer the time. ESSac will circulate information to their database. RoWAN has been asked to promote through their networks. A web page is being prepared.

### **Smart meters**

Meters and books have now been distributed to all community participants (possibly with one or two still pending) and to Fortrose Academy. I think all 25 community meters are now accounted for. Myra Carus was a great help in distributing to the Rosemarkie/ Fortrose/ Avoch participants. Single appliance meters are available on loan from Martin, or from Fortrose Library. Communication among the group is a bit hard work at present – partly because I'm in full-time thesis-writing mode, and haven't had time to chase people up. Quite a lot of folk haven't supplied either June or July meter readings, and there's only August, September and October left before we end this round.

Still some questionnaires missing from the first round, plus one copy of Carbon Detox and one data cable lost.

Throughout July there is an exhibition at Fortrose Library of the energy books we donated to them.

### **Community Wind Farm**

Carbon Free produced a high-level feasibility study for a wind farm on the Black Isle, and Anne and I discussed this with them. Their recommendation is that we focus on a single turbine, less than 1 MW, in order to avoid a study of the high voltage transmission network. They suggest the next step should be a study of the low voltage distribution network, likely cost around £2k. There may be Community Energy Scotland funding for this. Transition Town Alness are also interested in something similar in their area, and Community Energy Scotland suggested we speak to them.

Martin Sherring