

**TRANSITION BLACK ISLE
ENERGY GROUP REPORT
21ST JUNE 2010**

Greening Homes and Gardens

A bit of a set-back on this as Fiona and Al Whyte, who were co-ordinating this, have had to pull out due to pressure at work. Penny is kindly helping to fill the gap.

The date is set for Saturday 11th 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)
- Highland Stoves, Cromarty (biomass stoves)
- RoWAN (composting)
- Energy Saving Trust
- TBI

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

Others pending are Sheffield Insulation, Ace Home Heating, George Glaister electric bikes, Faser & Sun, and there are a couple of other possibles.

There's a plan to run a small number of seminars during the day in the committee room of the hall. Possible topics are grants and funding (Energy Saving Trust), insulating older houses (UHI?), community wind farms (Energy 4 All) and Micro-generation in the context of climate change (Julian Paren).

Allan Mackenzie is contacting last year's houses to see which are interested in participating again – we could do with a few new ones too, so **any thoughts to him please**.

We'll be supporting the Energy Saving Trust mailing to Cromarty, but they are using a postcard this time, so there's no opportunity for us to include a flier with their mailing – so publicity is going to be key.

We weren't sure whether we should steer all visitors to the hall, or let people get the map of houses on-line in advance – feedback from the meeting would be appreciated.

Smart meters

Meters and books have now been received, and single appliance meters ordered. Numbers for the community side have gone a bit fuzzy – in theory there are 24, but the response to my request for meter readings at the start of the month was mostly ignored, so I'm not sure how many are serious.

Mike Atkinson is helping out with Muir of Ord area, Vanessa with Cromarty, and Martin is doing Culbokie. **There's a big gap in the Rosemarkie/ Fortrose/ Avoch area, it would be good if someone was able to help with that.** If not, we'll try to do something using the library.

Still some questionnaires missing from the first round.

Martin is hoping to get the meters and books for Fortrose Academy to them w/c 20th June.

Allan is pulling together the books for the library. Wendy is producing labels.

Community Wind Farm

With Greening Homes & Gardens looming, we had decided to move the community wind farm idea down the priority list, but Anne has persuaded Carbon Free, the developers of the proposed Moy Windfarm, to let us have some feasibility work they had done on the Black Isle. On the face of it, this identifies three possible sites for a small-ish wind farm, but we need to discuss it with them to clarify.

Next Energy Group Meeting

Wednesday 7th July is the date for the next meeting. The venue is Frank's house, in Munloch. Time is 19.30. New members welcome, let me know if you want to come along.

Martin Sherring