

# NE Climate

Issue 2



**February 2015**

This newsletter is produced by the North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership a group of public and private sector organisations working to tackle climate change.



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## Partnership working on climate change

**Developing an effective partnership approach to addressing climate change in the north east of Scotland was examined at a workshop on 26 January.**

Visioning exercises and action plan development were carried out at the workshop and these will be progressed with an aim of reinvigorating the partnership and improving shared working on climate change.

The event followed on from regional climate change surveys that aimed to gather the views of members of the North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership and local key organisations.

The responses highlighted the implications of climate change for the region, with 55% viewing climate change a major challenge and 44% as a moderate challenge.

89% of partnership respondents and 100% of stakeholders indicated they saw a role for a climate change partnership in the north east of Scotland. 100% of stakeholders would like to be kept informed of the work of the partnership.

## Sustainable building ratings

The new Rowett building at Foresterhill in Aberdeen has been assessed as BREEAM 'Outstanding' at the interim design stage. Only a handful of buildings in Scotland have achieved this level of certification.

A new nursery building under construction at University of Aberdeen is also progressing towards dual-accreditation to the BREEAM 'Excellent' level and Passive House accreditation.

### Wind & Solar Power Ahead

**2014 proved to be a “massive year” for wind and solar power in Scotland, new figures published in January reveal.**

Analysis by WWF Scotland of data provided by WeatherEnergy found that in December:

- Wind turbines provided around 1,279,150MWh of electricity to the National Grid, enough to supply the electrical needs of 164% of Scottish households.
- Maximum output was on 10 December, when generation was an estimated 65,970MWh, enough to supply 6.34 million homes for the whole day.
- Wind turbines generated enough power to supply over 100% of Scottish households on 25 out of the 31 days of December.

### Renewables power ahead

Records from the first half of 2014, show renewables generated 32% more electricity than any other single source of power in Scotland.

In total, the renewables sector generated a record 10.3TWh (terawatt-hours), compared to 7.8TWh from nuclear generation, previously Scotland's main source of electricity.

The figures also show that coal and gas-fired electricity generation produced 5.6TWh and 1.4TWh respectively over the same six-month period.

### Crow's Nest visit hatches energy ideas

Members of Aberdeenshire Council's Sustainability Sub Committee visited the Crow's Nest landfill site and waste facility near Banchory in November.

Those in attendance braved the elements to hear presentations on landfill gas utilisation and the possibility of erecting ground mounted solar arrays at the site. Both of these technologies generate electricity which can be used on site and be sold to the grid. Members were also given a tour of the on-site waste operations.

It is estimated that over a 1 million tonnes of waste has been deposited in the two phases at Crow's Nest between 1977-2010.

The methane produced by the waste is currently flared which reduces the damage it causes in the atmosphere. Methane is 21 x more damaging as a greenhouse gas than Carbon Dioxide.

Chair of Sustainability Sub-Committee Cllr. Isobel Davidson said: *“It is important for elected members to understand what potential there is for Council sites and assets to generate income from renewable energy, to reduce running costs as well as carbon dioxide emissions. The Council has challenging emissions targets to hit and we need to use our premises and sites to their full potential to combat climate change. I would like to thank all those involved in arranging a very informative and insightful visit.”*

### SEAP workshops & scenario modelling

In late January, stakeholders worked together to project CO<sub>2</sub> emissions within Aberdeen over the coming years. The approach used business as usual, optimistic and pessimistic scenarios.

The workshops were facilitated by Aether and Keep Scotland Beautiful on behalf of the City Council. The outcomes will help identify what targets need to be set and more importantly what projects will need to be implemented to reduce CO<sub>2</sub>. These will be communicated through the publication of a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) for Aberdeen.

For further information on the SEAP go to:

[http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/council\\_government/shaping\\_aberdeen/shapingabdn\\_Regeneration.asp](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/council_government/shaping_aberdeen/shapingabdn_Regeneration.asp)

## Clever Carbon Approach

- At the University of Aberdeen the installation of solar panels at Hillhead student village is now complete. These should generate around 7% of the site's energy use. Further solar panels are to be installed on suitable roof spaces in Old Aberdeen during 2015. Other on and off-site renewable energy projects are being investigated.
- Shared IT facilities, are improving energy efficiency at the University of Aberdeen and RGU. The latest centre at Garthdee is now open and this follows on from a very successful project in Old Aberdeen.
- The University of Aberdeen is hosting a Scottish Business in the Community supported Ecotown event in the Sir Duncan Rice Library on 11 - 12 March. Visitors are welcome to attend.

## Low carbon community projects

The James Hutton Institute is a partner in TESS, a 3 year project (2013-2016) funded by the European Union and which is exploring the potential of low-carbon community projects to contribute to societal transition. The project has started data collection with two community-led projects, one in Aberdeen and one in Aberdeenshire. There are two parts to this –

- interviews with individuals about what contributes to 'success' for a community group, and
- persuading groups to hand over data about carbon savings, members, activities etc to try to gauge what social, economic and environmental impacts a community group has.

A website has also been launched, Sustainable Communities, <http://www.sustainable-communities.eu/> and contributions and ideas are welcome for further developing this as a useful resource for community-based initiatives.

## New waste initiatives

- There has been strong uptake of the food recycling service for flats in Aberdeen, with more than 500 tonnes of food waste recycled in communal bins in 2014. A team of engagement officers surveyed nearly 2000 residents in flats across the city and 75% of people reported that they were using the on-street bins to recycle their food waste.
- A special reuse container will be put in place at Grove Recycling Centre in Hazlehead this spring for items which can be collected for reuse by local charities.

## Earth Hour 2015

**Lights are to be switched off all around the world for Earth Hour on Saturday 28 March.**

This global switch off will see lights out for one hour to show support for climate change. Thousands of iconic landmarks around the planet are expected to take part in the event, from The Sydney Harbour Bridge to Times Square in New York.

In 2014, a record-breaking 162 countries and 7,000 towns and cities joined the event. In the UK over 9 million people took part and they joined 4,600 schools and 1,000 businesses participating.

Anyone can sign up for WWF's Earth Hour 2015 just visit [www.wwf.org.uk/earthhour](http://www.wwf.org.uk/earthhour)

Aberdeen City Council has earned a super local authority badge for work on Earth Hour 2015. Floodlights will be switched off at: Marischal College - Broad Street, St Marks Church, St Nicholas Kirkyard façade, Wallace monument and garden for the whole weekend from 27 March.



## Actions for Climate Week

2-8 March 2015

Aberdeen Climate Action is a voluntary organisation set up to increase understanding and awareness among people and organisations in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire of climate change.

The organisation is looking at the potential impacts of climate change and the time-window during which mitigation is feasible.

Positive action is being encouraged through their website and presentations. Awareness raising events are being held, encouraging collaboration between active community, environmental and public groups, to stimulate people and organisations to address climate change mitigation.

Aberdeen Climate Action is holding a number of informative events for Climate Week, which runs from 2-8 March.

The events aimed at a wide audience include:

- Stands at the Central Library and RGU.
- Film screenings with question and answer sessions in the Belmont Picture House.
- Talks at various locations.

More information can be found on the website: <http://www.aberdeencimateaction.org/>

## Aberdeen Recycling and Energy

Aberdeen Recycling and Energy is a project to provide new ways to manage Aberdeen's waste in line with Scotland's Zero Waste Plan. The aim is to increase the recycling rate in the city from 37% to 56% by 2020 and to significantly reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

## Launch of first National Environment Strategy

**The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has produced their first National Environmental Strategy.**

The Strategy, which runs until 2017, sets out the Service's priorities for mitigating and minimising impact on the environment. It also contains an initial outline action plan that will detail how it will achieve those priorities.

The document lays out in clear terms their environmental vision: to be a high performing, environmentally conscious and responsible organisation through prevention, partnership, people and continuous improvement. To view the strategy go to <http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/about-us/environmental-strategy.aspx>

## Local Authority annual reports on climate change

**Scotland's Climate Change Declaration (SCCD) year 6 reports have been published on the Sustainable Scotland Network website.**

These reports contain information on actions and progress to address climate change in from 2013-14, the sixth year of the SCCD. Analysis of the reports is currently underway.

Scotland's Climate Change Declaration was developed in 2006 by the Sustainable Scotland Network in partnership with the Scottish Government, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) Scotland, and others. The Declaration was launched in January 2007.

By April 2007, all 32 local authorities had signed the Declaration, recognising the role they play in responding to the challenge of climate change. By signing the declaration, the councils' commitment to action requires that they pledge both to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and prepare for the impacts that a changing climate will bring.

The Declaration also contains a strong commitment to sustainable development.

## Building resilience

- Aberdeen City Council is holding an Adaptation briefing for staff ahead of risk development work on climate change. The briefing forms part of Aberdeen's support from Adaptation Scotland as part of the Adaptation Learning Exchange Programme.

## Second Climate Risk Assessment

**The process of developing the second UK Climate Risk Assessment (CCRA2) is well underway, with an evidence report on the risks facing the UK from climate change due in mid 2016.**

The process is being led by the Adaptation Sub Committee of the UK Committee on Climate Change

The first risk assessment took place in 2012 and revealed 130 opportunities and risks from a changing climate.

The second assessment involves setting up a Scottish CCRA2 Stakeholder Group. The group will act as a single, coordinated body representing Scottish interests. Its role will be to feed Scottish evidence and knowledge into the CCRA.

**To find out more about the North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership email:**  
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**or call 01224 522792.**

**Or you can visit** [http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning\\_environment/environmental/your\\_environment/cma\\_northeastscotlandclimatechangepartnership.asp](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning_environment/environmental/your_environment/cma_northeastscotlandclimatechangepartnership.asp)

## Events

### Pass it on Week

7 – 15 March 2015

Zero Waste Scotland have launched Pass it on Week, a new annual event, celebrating re-use, repair, swapping and upcycling as alternatives to a 'throw away, buy new' culture.

Benefits, include reducing the amount of waste that is sent to landfill, supporting local charities and re-use organisations and saving money.

Organisations can take part and hold an event themselves.

There is a toolkit which explains more about what the week is about, and provides hints and tips on what organisations, as well as individuals and businesses, can do. To find out more contact

[www.passitonweek.com](http://www.passitonweek.com)

Or contact Miriam Adcock, Partnerships Project Manager , email:[miriam.adcock@zerowastescotland.org.uk](mailto:miriam.adcock@zerowastescotland.org.uk)