



Information for Potential Members

Background on Community Energy Scotland

Community Energy Scotland is an independent Scottish charity. Its predecessor company, the Highlands and Islands Community Energy Company (HICEC), was established by Highlands and Islands Enterprise in 2004. HICEC was initially set up to help communities cut their energy costs, reduce their carbon footprint and generate new sources of income through using renewable energy technologies. Since its creation, HICEC has provided funding and support for over 500 community energy projects.

Community Energy Scotland – a new organisation and structure

The new organisation, Community Energy Scotland, is a Company Limited by Guarantee, with no share capital. The objectives of the company can be summarised as:

- To advance community development within Scotland; and
- To advance environmental protection

both through the provision of support and advice to community groups in sustainable energy development.

Through its network of local development officers, Community Energy Scotland will continue to deliver practical advice and funding to enable communities to become more sustainable in their energy needs.

The existing board of Community Energy Scotland comprises six directors who were elected by its membership at its first Annual General Meeting in August 2009. Each director brings a wide range of skills and expertise / experience in community development, financial management and technical expertise to their role. The Community Energy Scotland board structure will consist of ten members, six directors to be elected from its community membership and four directors to be appointed (co-opted) by the board for their specialist skills and experience relevant to organisation.

Our purpose and vision

Our purpose is to build confidence, resilience and wealth at community level in Scotland through sustainable energy development.

Our vision is one where sustainable energy development acts as a touchstone for community empowerment and development across Scotland. As energy prices increase and as measures to address climate change take on added urgency, we see organised community groups taking the lead in their

communities – acting as a focus to help people to mitigate rising costs and address their local energy needs.

Constituted community groups, are in the front line of this vision, taking forward, with our help, projects that benefit their communities.

Full Member Benefits

Community Energy Scotland is seeking to build an active and involved membership. Membership gives you the opportunity to be part of a new grass-roots movement dedicated to reinforcing local control and decision-making through the exciting topic of sustainable energy development. In particular, our aim is for full members to benefit from:

- The provision of technical briefings and information to assist in their project development;
- The opportunity, through discussion fora and events, to meet other like-minded groups and share experience;
- Access to potential collective arrangements for the supply of equipment for sustainable energy installations and special expertise;
- Information on match funding schemes that we are seeking to develop with sponsors;
- Our ability to represent our members on key issues relating to sustainable energy development at the key governmental and policy levels in Scotland, the UK and Europe; and with utilities and regulators;
- The opportunity to contribute to the development of Community Energy Scotland and our future activities through election to the board of directors or through project groups and events;
- The opportunity to take part in new initiatives led by Community Energy Scotland;
- A regular newsletter with information on community energy projects, issues and updates.
- Access to Members' Area of Community Energy Scotland website
- Discounted attendance at relevant conferences and training events

Membership Obligations

We hope that Community Energy Scotland members will:

- Be ready to share their experiences with other members and to support and guide other members who may be embarking on similar projects;
- Support Community Energy Scotland staff;
- Promote the role of Community Energy Scotland and encourage other community groups to join and take forward sustainable energy projects.

Associate Members

Associate Membership is open to any other organisation, including individuals, local authorities, agencies, support organisations and companies (whether public sector, voluntary sector or private sector) which offer support to, or work with, organisations of a type which falls within the criteria for Full Members set out above and that supports Community Energy Scotland in achieving its aim.

Membership Fees

Community Members: £20

Associate Members

- Individuals : £20
- Non-trading organisations (eg. agencies, academic institutions, local authorities) : £50
- Business / trade organisations: £100

Application Process

Please complete the Community Energy Scotland Membership Application Form.

Applications for membership will be considered at the earliest Community Energy Scotland board meeting following receipt of application.

Members are required to notify Community Energy Scotland if there have been any changes to their Memorandum and Articles of Association or any change affecting their constitution since their membership was originally approved.

Further information

Contact Marion O'Hara, Membership Officer, Community Energy Scotland, 2b Fodderty Way, Dingwall Business Park, Dingwall, Ross-shire IV15 9XB Tel. 01349 860122
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Community Energy Scotland

April 2010