



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 provided funding and support for over 500 community energy projects. This work was taken over in August 2008 by Community Energy Scotland, a new independent charity. The new Community Energy Scotland board structure consists of nine members, five directors elected from its community membership and three directors co-opted by the board for their specialist skills and experience relevant to the organisation.

Community Energy Scotland – Our purpose and vision

Community Energy Scotland is Scotland's only national body dedicated wholly to supporting Scotland's community-based and voluntary organisations to benefit from renewable energy. **Our aim is to build confidence, resilience and wealth at community level in Scotland through sustainable energy development.**

We ourselves are an independent, non-profit distributing Registered Charity governed by our members – community groups from across Scotland. We are building a national membership and seek to help our members benefit from the knowledge and experience of other members who are developing their own projects.

We focus our support on non-profit distributing organisations such as constituted community groups who are working on behalf of their whole community, or social enterprises who are supporting those that are vulnerable or less able in our society.

We do this by helping groups to develop projects which enable them to improve their community facilities and / or to generate and sell power to gain a long-term income to invest in their community's development.

Scotland has an extraordinary wealth of renewable energy resources - we believe that Scotland's communities should benefit directly from this wealth. There is no guarantee that this will happen and we aim to continually make the case for it. We also believe that the non-profit and charitable sector has a vital and unique rôle to play in helping Scotland meet its energy security and climate change objectives.

We work to identify and make available funding, finance and advice that will help groups to strengthen their capabilities and take forward projects. We have created a network of Development Officers across the country who provide an accessible contact point for all queries and will help in project development.

Our Influencing rôle

At a national level, we make the case for community energy development and represent the views of our members. We seek to influence government, government agencies, energy companies, regulators and funders to try to ensure that they develop and apply supportive policies.

Our business model

Our business model is based on securing funding, finance and service contracts which will allow us to fulfil our charitable purposes through the provision of a free service to the non-profit sector. We are constantly seeking funds to allow us to continue this work. We have a trading subsidiary charged with developing projects that will help will this.

We have found that one of the most powerful means of encouraging community –based projects is to help groups meet and discuss their projects and to hear how others in a similar position have fared. We are creating a national network for this purpose and aim to hold regular events which bring people together to discuss key issues.

Partnership opportunities

We are keen to work in partnership with any organisation that shares our aims and can complement our skills and experience.

Sponsorship opportunities

If you are a business or agency you may want to consider sponsorship or supporting our charitable aims by offering discounted services to our members.

Full Member Benefits

Full 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 expect Community Energy Scotland members to:

- 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: £10

Associate Members

- Individuals : £10
- Non-trading organisations (eg. agencies, academic institutions, local authorities) : £100
- 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.

Further information

For more information on any aspect of membership, please contact Marion O'Hara, Membership Officer, Community Energy Scotland, 2b Fodderty Way, Dingwall Business Park, Dingwall, Ross-shire IV15 9XB Tel. 01349 860122 marion.ohara@communityenergyscotland.org

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