

Generating Power in the Economy



[RENEWABLES



Generating Power in the Economy

Fiona Russell

Fife has moved faster than many other regions to capitalise on the future of a renewable energy industry, including wind, wave, tidal, carbon capture and storage technology, and bio-mass.



Fife's vision is to become a world leader in renewable and low carbon technologies – and already the future is looking green.

Engineering and manufacturing activity have contributed 22 per cent towards Fife's recent economic growth with many new contracts inspired by the growing opportunities offered within the renewables sector.

Headline developments include the opening of the £4.7m, state-of-the-art Hydrogen Office. This houses a novel hydrogen production system that captures surplus energy from a wind turbine, storing it as hydrogen when the wind isn't blowing, and then using a high efficiency hydrogen fuel cell to generate electricity from the stored energy when required. Forming part of the flagship Energy Park Fife, it is expected to become one of Europe's leading locations for innovation and development of renewable technology.

Work has started on Shepherd Offshore's new engineering and skills hub in Dunfermline, and further success came at Burntisland Fabrications (BiFab) where a £12m contract to build two offshore substations was followed by a £4m contract to construct the wave-energy device, Oyster 2.

Barbara Whiting, Fife Council's lead officer for renewables, believes Fife has a long list of enviable assets that will attract business, research and enterprise.

She said: "Fife boasts natural assets that make it the ideal place for the creation of a renewables and low carbon powerhouse. The region is perfectly located, with two ports, as well as excellent road and rail links making it ideal for companies transporting the sort of components and large-scale constructions that are required by a renewables industry."

There are plans for significant offshore wind farms in the waters around Scotland. Of those, three will be located off the Fife coastline and will account for around 50 per cent of the total capacity in Scotland. Energy Park Fife is one of the strategic sites identified within the National Renewable Infrastructure Plan (N-RIP) as being ideally placed to take advantage of the Scottish Government's commitment to the sector.

Whiting stated that an established and excellent track record in engineering gives Fife another industry advantage: "The sort of skills that have been successfully utilised



Energy Park Fife, Methil

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in more traditional industries such as oil and gas are now being transferred to the creation of green energy".

"Fife is already home to Scotland's largest engineering cluster, where more than 150 companies are based. This infrastructure offers a ready-made supply chain and a pool of highly skilled workers."

Whiting is keen to encourage joined-up thinking: "A new and emerging industry will need skilled employees so we are working with Fife's colleges to develop programmes based on skills for the future."

An excellent example of this joined up approach is Carnegie College in Dunfermline which has worked in partnership with a number of major energy companies to develop the UK's first Wind Turbine Technician Modern Apprenticeship which they run at the college's Whitlock Energy Collaboration Centre in Rosyth.

Marine environmental consultants, SMRU Ltd and Scottish Oceans Institute Ltd, based in St Andrews University, help clients

working in renewables meet regulatory requirements regarding their impact on marine environment. Their research is used to inform strategic environmental assessments as well as site selection decisions.

The Fife Renewables Innovation Centre, a high quality work/innovation space in a low carbon facility, will open in spring 2012 and work is progressing on a new satellite site which will provide space for supply chain companies in the renewable energy field.

This builds on the Energy Park Fife project, where the new Hydrogen Office is located, and fits with aspirations to create an Energy Zone encompassing the whole of Methil waterfront and providing a range of renewable focussed projects.

It is Whiting's view that Fife is a "honeypot" for the emerging renewable energy industry: "We strongly believe Fife is well positioned to be a leading centre of excellence for the renewables sector and this is a vital key to building a prosperous future for Fife."

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Open for Business

Busy Corporate Banking Centres in Edinburgh and Glasgow, an expanding Renewables Energy Team and the recent launch of a specialist Charity Team, are all helping to put The Co-operative Bank firmly on the map in Scotland.

The Co-operative Bank is beginning to establish itself as an alternative to shareholder-owned financial providers. This is due, in part, to its responsible approach, financial stability and strength and its trailblazing customer-led ethical policy.

But a growing number of corporate customers are also moving to the bank as a result of its commitment to work in partnership with them and provide long-term support; values that are at the heart of its relationship banking ethos.

With two Corporate Banking Centres in Edinburgh and Glasgow – part of a regional network of 20 centres across the UK – Scottish businesses have access to the bank's unique mix of in-depth local knowledge and proven financial expertise.

Renowned for its long-standing commitment to environmental issues, The Co-operative Financial Services, of which the bank is part, received the coveted Financial Times 'Sustainable Bank of the Year' Award in 2010.

Continuing to branch out

Scotland has a global reputation as the energy powerhouse of Europe, with about 20 per cent of Scotland's electricity generated coming from renewable sources. The bank has provided a significant proportion of its renewable energy funding to a wide range of projects. Among them are a wind turbine at Balnamoon, Aberdeenshire, an innovative turbine at Braidenhill Farm near Glasgow (the first turbine of its kind in the UK), a wind farm located at Turriff, Aberdeenshire, a community wind-based project at Tiree in the Inner Hebrides and two hydropower schemes in Argyll.

Chris Rodgers is the Renewables Regional Manager and is based at the Glasgow Corporate Banking Centre. "We've expanded our Renewables Energy Team so that we can help our customers to take advantage of the huge potential," he said.

The bank has also launched a specialist Charity Team. Mike Grigor, Regional Manager of the Charities and Social Enterprise Team is based in the Edinburgh office. "Having a specialist Charity Team means that this office offers extensive expertise in the charity sector," he said. The popularity of The Co-operative Bank and The Co-operative Insurance might owe much to their ethical heritage. But increasingly, the bank's portfolio of specialist products and services, often developed and/or offered in partnership with industry experts, has played a part.

This is particularly true of the bank's public sector provision.

In recent years, the bank has become inextricably linked to local authorities and the wider public sector in Scotland. It has a large local authority customer base and housing associations (HAs) are now also

moving their payment collection arrangements to the bank, including one of the largest housing providers in the UK, Glasgow HA.

Having recently been granted access to the Bill Payment Framework Agreement let by Renfrewshire Council, the bank has extended its local authority customer base in Scotland and now provides a payment collection service to 12 of the 32 Scottish local authorities, which helps councils to deliver lower costs without compromising the quality of their provision.

With high levels of new business activity in the Scottish Corporate Banking Centres, a growing market share of local authority and HA customers and a track record of funding renewable energy projects, The Co-operative Bank has laid the foundation for long-term success in Scotland.



Protecting the natural habitat: The site of the Tiree wind turbine was carefully chosen to ensure there was minimal disruption to the island's thriving local wildlife and animals.

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To find out more call:

Edinburgh Corporate Banking Centre

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Glasgow Corporate Banking Centre

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A view of Inchgreen port

Is your Renewables Business ready for Expansion? Think Inverclyde!

Inverclyde, on the River Clyde and including the industrial towns of Greenock and Port Glasgow, is well suited to encourage the location of offshore renewable energy companies as a key west of Scotland hub.

Already companies such as 2020 Renewables and Jenda Energy have headquartered there. Inverclyde boasts excellent port, land and office facilities; an adaptable workforce with the technical, professional and artisan skills of the legacy shipbuilding and IT industries that made Inverclyde the export capital of Scotland; easy access to the west coast Scottish territorial waters marine energy locations via well-connected ports and nearby airports, has superb infrastructure and is only 20 minutes drive from Glasgow International Airport. Riverside Inverclyde Urban

Regeneration Company (supported by its funding partners Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise and Inverclyde Council and private sector partnership with Peel Holdings) is leading Inverclyde's proposition to attract companies, with its waterfront facilities that include:

- the Extended Inchgreen port and dry dock facility with a potential area of 400,000 sq metre (Clydeport's current area standing at 200,000 sq metre), with a 420m quayside, a 95m x 60m hard standing area and with 8.2m minimum water depth;
- new grade A variable sized office suites at Riverside Business Park, ideal for multi-occupancy;

- 30,000 sq metre platformed land area readied for light industrial use at Kelburn;
- 15,000 sq metre site at Cartsdyke/Cartsburn platformed and ideal for a bespoke regional office development;
- Ferguson's Shipbuilders, already having delivered a carousel barge for deepwater cable laying to the sector; and
- all locations are on a dual carriageway, on or opposite the waterfront, and within a five-minute walk of a railway station with frequent services to Glasgow. Companies would be welcome to join the thriving Inverclyde Renewables



Renewables Waterfront

Alliance Group, with its breadth and depth of experience including Scottish Enterprise, Inverclyde Council, Clydeport, Mainstream Renewable Power, Ferguson Renewable Solutions (Ferguson's Shipyard), Jenda Energy, 2020 Renewables, James Watt College, Turbo Renewables and JLES, all working positively with Riverside Inverclyde in developing and positioning Inverclyde as an advantageous west of Scotland location.

Inverclyde is a Regional Selective Assistance Grant designated area. Riverside Inverclyde's URC status brings flexibility and potential cost advantages to mobile investors, providing a cost effective alternative to a city centre location.

Whether in manufacturing operations/maintenance for offshore wind, wave and tidal manufacturing or sub-assembly, consultancy, head office, or applied R&D and testing capabilities for marine renewables, Inverclyde has the

facilities to meet the needs of the sector.

Glasgow and the Clyde Estuary are firmly established in the support and drive for exploiting Scotland's offshore renewables potential. This is particularly evident with key 2011 announcements that include the new International Technology and Renewable Energy Zone in Glasgow, Scotland's R&D capital for marine energy, and significant jobs boosts from both Doosan Babcock and Steel Engineering at Westway, halfway between Inverclyde and Glasgow city centre.

Is your business ready for expansion? think Inverclyde

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Contact Neil Lochiel on 01475 755080
www.riversideinverclyde.com

*Inverclyde includes the waterfront industrial towns of Greenock and Port Glasgow



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