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A Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in Scotland (SC211429) and recognised as a
Scottish Charity (SCO32495)

Allenergy – Background

Allenergy is a sustainable energy charity based in Argyll and Bute, Scotland. It was established in 2000 by Argyll and Bute Council. Part of a network of energy agencies across Europe, Allenergy's aims are:

- To help people with fuel poverty and energy efficiency issues
- To encourage community renewables and local energy economy
- To reduce carbon emissions and mitigate climate change.

Allenergy was incorporated on 27th September 2000 (SC SC211429) and achieved charitable status on 15th January 2001 (SCO32495). To date the charity has been largely dependent on grant income. In the past, Argyll and Bute Council provided some core funding. This ended in 2017, but Council continues to provide some in-kind assistance. A small amount of core funding is provided through the Argyll and Bute Windfarm Trust from the SSE Tangy 2 windfarm development. This underpins a range of charitable activities.

Allenergy currently has a staff team of 9 working on a range of projects in three areas:

- Affordable Warmth
- Education and Skills Development
- Renewable Energy and Local Energy Economy

Allenergy - Staff team

Manager – Lynda Mitchell

Deputy Manager – Rachel McNicol

Project Officers – Jenny McLeish, Georgie Thomas, Katie Evamy, Michael Wall

Finance and Admin Team – Richard Airlie Gilbert, Gemma MacDonald, Cynthia Carswell

ALLenergy - Current and Recent Projects and Activities

1. Affordable Warmth

Affordable Warmth for Sustainable Rural Communities (funded by UK Big Lottery, 2013-2018): In-depth energy advice and targeted support to the most vulnerable low-income households. Home energy advice visits along with income maximisation, behavioural change and tariff switching. Training provided for other professionals and volunteers working with the target group to enable them to recognise people in fuel poverty and refer them on to ALLenergy for further assistance.

Money Skills Argyll (funded by the European Social Fund and Scottish Government / Big Lottery, 2017-2020): A partnership project involving eight advice organisations, using an integrated, multi-agency approach and holistic support including referrals to other advice services within and outwith the partnership. ALLenergy's affordable warmth team offers home energy visits and provides advice and assistance to combat fuel poverty issues.

Young Carers project (funded by Energy Action Scotland, 2014-2018) - Targeting care leavers and young carers, and the local agencies and organisations who support them. Providing bespoke energy saving toolkits of energy saving items to young carers and care leavers, as well as providing advice/support, mentoring and awareness raising. Focussing on young people who are the main users of energy or manage their energy bills in their homes, either because they live on their own, or because they are carers for family members.

Affordable Warmth and Food, funded by UK Big Lottery Investing in Communities (2018-19) and the Robertson Trust (2020-22) – this project addresses the 'eat or heat' dilemma by working with local food banks, providing energy advice sessions, and events focussing on saving money on eating and cooking.

Argyll Energy Advice Service funded by UK Energy Redress Fund and Robertson Trust (2020-2022). Following on from similar work in previous years, this project aims to assist Argyll's most vulnerable households out of fuel poverty by providing a holistic home energy advice service, and offering training to other organisations on the causes, effects and mitigation of fuel poverty.

2. Education and Skills Development

Bright Sparks: ALLenergy's Education and Skills Development Programme, funded by Scottish Power Renewables, Beinn an Tuirc Community Benefit Fund 'Regional Tranche'. The steering group includes ALLenergy, SPR and Argyll and Bute Council. This project encourages and facilitates young people to seek careers in STEM subjects and the renewable energy sector, providing events, workshops and careers advice in schools and communities, particularly in the areas of Mid Argyll and the Kintyre Peninsula.

Digital Energy Advice in Argyll and Bute funded by Scotland's Digital Participation Charter (2018-19) and Good Things Foundation (2020). This project aims to enhance the digital aspects of our activities and promote digital upskilling in our organisation and in our clients and communities.

RES Partnership (2017 & 2020): In 2017 ALLenergy delivered Fuel Poverty Awareness training to RES staff; co-ordinated a community site visit to Freasdale Windfarm in Kintyre; RES provided staff volunteers for ALLenergy events and funding for energy efficiency toolkit items. RES is currently funding a COVID response project delivering affordable warmth advice and toolkits and family learning resources.

3. Renewable Energy and Local Energy Economy

COBEN (Community Benefits in Civic Energy) (Funded by ERDF Interreg North Sea Area and Scottish Government, 2017-2019) – ALLenergy successfully put forward the town of Oban as one of four local communities in Scotland selected through the COBEN project for the development and implementation of a pilot Local Energy Plan (LEP). ALLenergy carried out community engagement activities for the LEP which showed fuel poverty as one of the top concerns of local citizens, along with the desire for more community owned renewables. The completed LEP identifies key priorities and lays the groundwork for next steps in the development of a variety of new local energy projects.

Consumer Comfort Choice (funded by Scottish Government Improving Consumer Outcomes Fund, 2020). Across much of rural Scotland, mains gas is unavailable, and many households use electric storage heaters, which can be difficult to control and expensive to run. However, they effectively provide a network of distributed energy storage units which may be linked via smart control technology to form an aggregate transactive load. Linking heating systems to the dynamic availability of local renewable generation can provide householders with greater comfort and control, a more efficient distribution system and reduced costs. Working with technical partner Connected Response, we seek to link a system of 100 households in Oban.

ASLEE (Algal Solutions for Local Energy Economy) (2015-2018) - a collaborative project between eight organisations, aiming to overcome grid constraint issues to allow local renewable energy projects, by developing the use of modular photobioreactors with submerged LED lighting as a transactive load and demand side management tool in the manufacture of algal products using intermittent electricity from local renewable energy sources. Funded by Scottish Government Local Energy Challenge Fund and Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. See: www.aslee.scot

ENBIO (Energy Bioeconomy Project) (2017-2019) - In ENBIO we take the ASLEE concept one step further by focussing on the circular energy economy aspects of the model: investigating the use of local waste streams of nutrients (agriculture, aquaculture or distilleries) and carbon dioxide (fermentation or combustion processes) as feedstocks in the photobioreactors. A demonstrator array is being built at Ardnamurchan. ENBIO involves the three main ASLEE partners and is funded by Zero Waste Scotland.

GeoAtlantic (funded by ERDF Interreg Atlantic Area, 2017-2021) – a multi-partner project with partners in Spain, Portugal, France, Ireland, England and Scotland, investigating geothermal energy potential around the Atlantic coast of Europe, encouraging transition from fossil fuel dependence; promoting use of renewable energy from the ground; facilitating uptake of geothermal energy or ground source heat technologies. The project includes funding for a demonstration project in each region: ALLenergy is working with Scottish Canals to explore the potential to use water source heat pumps installed in canal waters to heat adjacent buildings.

SAMS PV (2020-2021) – Working with neighbouring organisation, Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) to raise funding to install a 130kW PV array, to generate electricity for on-site use for the mutual benefit of both charities.

4. Awards

We are delighted that ALLenergy's activities have been recognised in various recent awards including: Winner, Innovation category, Scottish Resource Awards 2018; Winner, UK Rushlight Bioenergy Award for innovative solutions for the local energy economy, 2018; Highly commended, Vulnerable Customer Support category, Energy Efficiency Awards Scotland, 2019; Winner, Best Smart Energy / Carbon Reduction Project category, HIE Renewable Energy Awards, 2019.