

ALLenergy updates on Education and Skills Development activity for Argyll And Bute Windfarm and Renewables Trust

Building on the successes of previous years, ALLenergy continues to employ two Education Officers who job share the post (2 days a week each). The Education Officers work across different project activities to promote and maintain pupils' interest and motivation to study STEM subjects, and to pursue career and or training opportunities related to these.

- Completion of project delivery for 2019 with sessions to P7 and S1 pupils, and family learning events. Overall these resulted in the following engagement figures:

Introductory talks to primary schools throughout Mid Argyll and Kintyre – 154 pupils

Transition events with the three high schools in the target area – 152 pupils

Family learning events at summer shows – 540 visitors

- Continued collaboration with project funders, SPR, to seek their input and support with the planning of future activity. Following a two-month furlough period from April – May 2020 this has included reviewing and reformulating project delivery in line with current and ongoing changes to government restrictions (see below).
- Efforts are made to maintain and develop networks with community councils and other relevant groups in and beyond the project's target area, by sharing updates and other information, as well as being open to any more other involvement.
- Before lockdown, ALLenergy had successfully applied for additional support including extra funding from DYW. This contributed to the process of making all necessary arrangements for the planned delivery of a careers event for S2 pupils from high schools in Lochgilphead, Tarbert and Campbeltown. This would have been the same group of young people that had first engaged with the project in the summer of 2018, when they moved from P7 to S1 year groups.

MAK STEM Fest was due to take place on 12th March 2020 at Lochgilphead Joint Campus, and included a wide range of elements to allow fun interactions and activities relating to opportunities for training and employment in STEM skills areas in and around Argyll. Among these elements were:

- a marketplace of 30+ local, regional and national employers with staff representatives seeking to engage young people on training and employment opportunities;
- four workshops from SPR, SAMS, Digital Hub (Dunoon) and Jacobs Engineering Group;
- a keynote speaker from STEM Scotland;
- a visit and short speech from Brendan O'Hara
- the coordination of all planning and logistics for the day (including transport, catering).

The inevitable postponement of MAK STEM Fest due to the pandemic required successfully managing the cancellation with those participating, in which we were grateful for an

overwhelming level of continued support with many expressing a willingness to be involved as and when the event can be rescheduled.

- After completing initial work towards materials preparation and arrangements for project delivery with the 2020 intake of S1 pupils, circumstances have prompted a rethink of the SPR programme. After close consultation and approval from funders, and discussions with the wider steering group (notably Martin Turnbull, Head of Youth Services for Argyll & Bute), ALLenergy sought to agree how project delivery could take place in view of government restrictions around social distancing and how schools and other organisations are operating. The following two areas of focus have emerged for this revised delivery:

- **Workshops for schools**

This will involve working sympathetically with our existing contacts at the three high schools in the project area. The aim here is to agree, define and deliver an acceptable alternative model for workshop delivery. A number of options are being explored for this, from providing kits for schools to deliver sessions themselves or in remote coordination with Education Officers to implementing an outdoor classroom approach.

- **STEM Journeys in Argyll**

This is the title of a video project for online publication which sets out to profile successful STEM professionals in or with connections to the area. As such it has allowed Education Officers the chance to reengage with many of the contacts who had been due to participate in MAK STEM Fest and remain keen on being involved with ALLenergy and showing their support for the work being undertaken around promoting these vital subject areas.

The aim of the project is to highlight the range of routes and career paths as well as emphasise the importance and growing demand for STEM roles in the future. Alongside this it is hoped that the video contributions (and related profiles) will inform and encourage young local people that Argyll and Bute is a beautiful place to live and work, by showcasing an array of STEM careers locally.

- Education Officers carry out regular reviews and updates of relevant pages of the ALLenergy website. This seeks to increase awareness of the project, reflect ongoing project activity and promote STEM careers, and in particular in renewable energy.
- Education Officers receive regular requests for STEM workshops and events outwith the project area and scope of current funding. These would all require additional funding and resourcing, but the potential and opportunities for these are shared and explored within the wider organisation of ALLenergy. Work has been carried out by the senior management team to progress discussions with Drax (owners of Cruachan Power Station) on the possibilities for their funding to extend education activities into the north of Argyll, though these have been affected by recent events.