

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

Funded by Scottish Power Renewables, Beinn an Tuirc Community Benefit Fund 'Regional Tranche', 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, focussing on the areas of Mid Argyll and Kintyre.

Building on the successes of previous years, AlIenergy continues to employ two Education Officers, Katie Evamy and Michael Wall, who job share the post (2 days a week each). Katie is currently on maternity leave and her position is being covered by Eamon King. 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 areas.

- Completion of revised project delivery for 2020-21 which reflected earlier reviews and reformulation in consultation with SPR and in line with COVID restrictions, and progress with project programme for 2021-22. The main elements included in this have been:
 - **STEM Journeys in Argyll**
A 5-minute video profiling four STEM professionals working in the Argyll & Bute area. It highlights the range of routes and career paths open to young people as well as raising awareness around the opportunities and needs for STEM roles in the future, in Argyll and beyond. The project allowed Education Officers to reconnect with many of the contacts who had been due to participate in MAK STEM Fest, and remain keen to be involved in the project's contribution to work around STEM in education.
 - **In-depth career profiles**
A series of more detailed profiles telling the story of local professionals who, like those featured in the video, use STEM skills every day as part of their work in Argyll. Contributors from a range of industries and professions give context and background to the jobs they do, how they developed the skills needed, their training and career paths and how they see this connects with young people's engagement in STEM subjects.
 - **STEM@Home activity book**
This is a new self-access version of a STEM resource for S1 pupils at high schools in Mid-Argyll and Kintyre, to encourage young people's interest in STEM beyond the school environment. Adapting to the restrictions and challenges of home-

based learning, this flexible self-access resource helps young people identify where and how STEM skills and concepts influence our everyday lives, allowing them to work on it at any time at home with limited resources, at their own pace and with minimal supervision.

- **Workshops for schools**

Preliminary work has been carried out with the three high schools in the project area to fix dates and content for a series of in-person workshops during the first half term of the 2021/22 academic year. Contingency options are forming part of the preparations and planning required for these, for example providing kits for school staff to co-deliver sessions with remote participation from Education Officers.

- **STEM Journeys – video follow-up**

Working with the three high schools in our project area (Campbeltown, Lochgilphead and Tarbert), this project aims is to build on the success of our STEM Journeys video by inviting older pupils (probably S4s) to apply for a *day in the life* visit to a company operating locally with roles relating to STEM. Applicants will be given the chance to put into practice a range of employability skills in a bid to spend hands-on time in the workplace, finding out at first-hand what the company does and how STEM skills are integrated into the work of its staff.

- 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 other involvement.
- Education Officers carry out regular reviews and updates of relevant pages of the ALLenergy website. These pages support delivery and increase awareness of the project, reflecting ongoing activity and promoting STEM careers, and in particular in renewable energy.
- Education Officers often receive requests for STEM workshops and events outwith the current project area and funding. The potential for these are shared and explored within the wider organisation of ALLenergy, with senior management team seeking suitable additional income streams.