

Stirling Community Energy Forum – District heating opportunities across the Stirling Council area

Date: Monday 20th June, 9:15am - 1pm

Venue: The Tolbooth, Jail Wynd, Stirling, FK8 1DE

Event photos



Event attendees

Name	Organisation
Colin Blair	Bannockburn Community Trust
Terry Barlow	Bannockburn Community Trust
Steve Luker	Beechwood
Eric Black	Borestone Community Council
Wendy McLean	Braehead Community Council
Accompanying Member	Braehead Community Council
Accompanying Member	Braehead Community Council
Nick Yarrow	Bridge of Allan Community Council
Ali Rimell	Brodies Solicitors
Robert Allen	Callander Development Trust
Andrew Morton	CAREs
Christopher Campbell	Causewayhead Community Council
Accompanying Member	Causewayhead Community Council
Rebecca Bell	Clackmananshire Council
Paul Mansley	DREGAS - Dunblane
Ken Brady	EST
Ben Williams	Falkirk Council
Mari-Claire Riley	Falkirk Council
Matthew Farrell	Falkirk Council
Matthew Black	Fintry Development Trust
John Cameron	Forth Housing Association
Mags Tingey	Heat and the City, University of Edinburgh
Allan Crooks	Heat Network Partnership
Topher Nairn	Port of Menteith Community Council
Paul Steen	Ramboll
Antony Akilade	Resource Efficient Scotland
Craig Frew	Resource Efficient Scotland
Alex Schlicke	SCENE
Amy Brown	Scottish Cities Alliance
Adeyemi Adewunmi	Stirling Council
David Hopper	Stirling Council
Guy Harewood	Stirling Council
Julie McPhee	Stirling Council
Kyle Barrie	Stirling Council
Richard Callender	Stirling Council
Roz Smith	Stirling Council
Amanda Quinn	Stirling's Low Carbon Future
Christian Koch	Stratego
Ruth Bush	Stratego
Alan Morris	Strathblanefield Community Development Trust
Alistair Leckenby	Synergie Environ
Dave Park	Vital Energi
Graeme Esson	Perth & Kinross Council

Objectives

This event formed the first of a series, as part of the Stirling Community Energy Forum, aiming to support development of community energy projects in the Stirling Council area. The event brought together interested community energy groups to focus on community energy projects and district heating opportunities in order to:

- ❖ Increase understanding of community energy projects and how to identify opportunities
- ❖ Increase awareness of support options to support project development
- ❖ Understand how the community energy forum can support development of community-led energy projects
- ❖ Understand the wide-ranging benefits that local energy projects can bring directly to the individual communities, including the alleviation of fuel poverty and/or improving community infrastructure, etc.

Stirling's Community Energy Forum

Stirling Council hosted the first Community Energy Forum, open to all community councils, community groups and all other community stakeholders with the aim of empowering and enabling communities to focus on community energy opportunities, with signposting and assistance and continuing support, and the wide-ranging benefits that these can bring directly to each individual community.

Benefits arising from income generated through these community energy projects would be specific to each community's needs and can include grants for insulation to residents, upgrading of local community facilities, additional community facilities (such as additional parks/cycle pathways, etc.) and can also help alleviate fuel poverty across the region within communities.

Background:

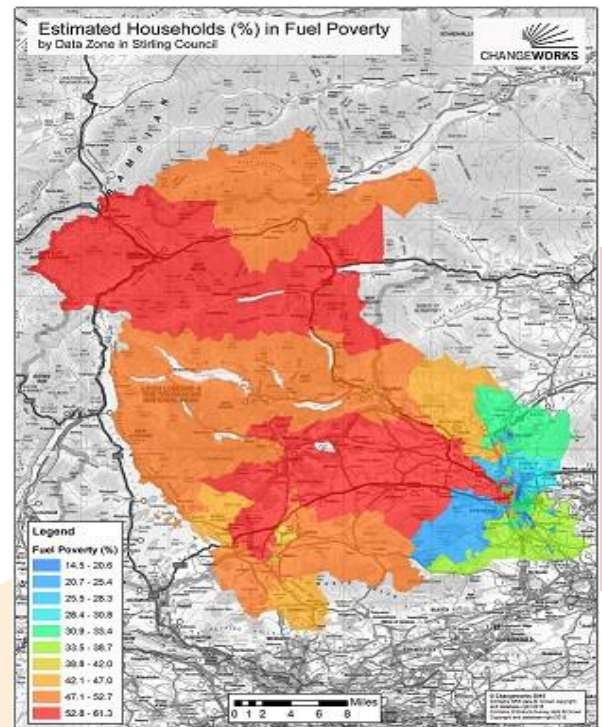
Stirling Council is made up of many and varied communities – with large urban settlements combined with huge rural areas, the majority of which are off-gas grid and so lack fuel choice. One issue which all of these communities have in

common is fuel poverty – an issue that the Council is particularly keen to help alleviate. We believe that a Community Energy Forum facilitated by Stirling Council in partnership with public sector partners presents a real opportunity to reflect the drivers and ambitions of local areas in energy system development using local knowledge and focusing on local needs specific within each community, using the Local Authority as the catalyst for facilitation and guidance - with Council assets being available for anchor loads/heat sources (and potential siting of infrastructure where feasible).

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much” — Helen Keller

Communities within the Stirling Council area have already implemented and benefited from community energy projects independently and it is these exemplar projects and the knowledge and experience gained by these communities that we would aim to build on and replicate. These include:

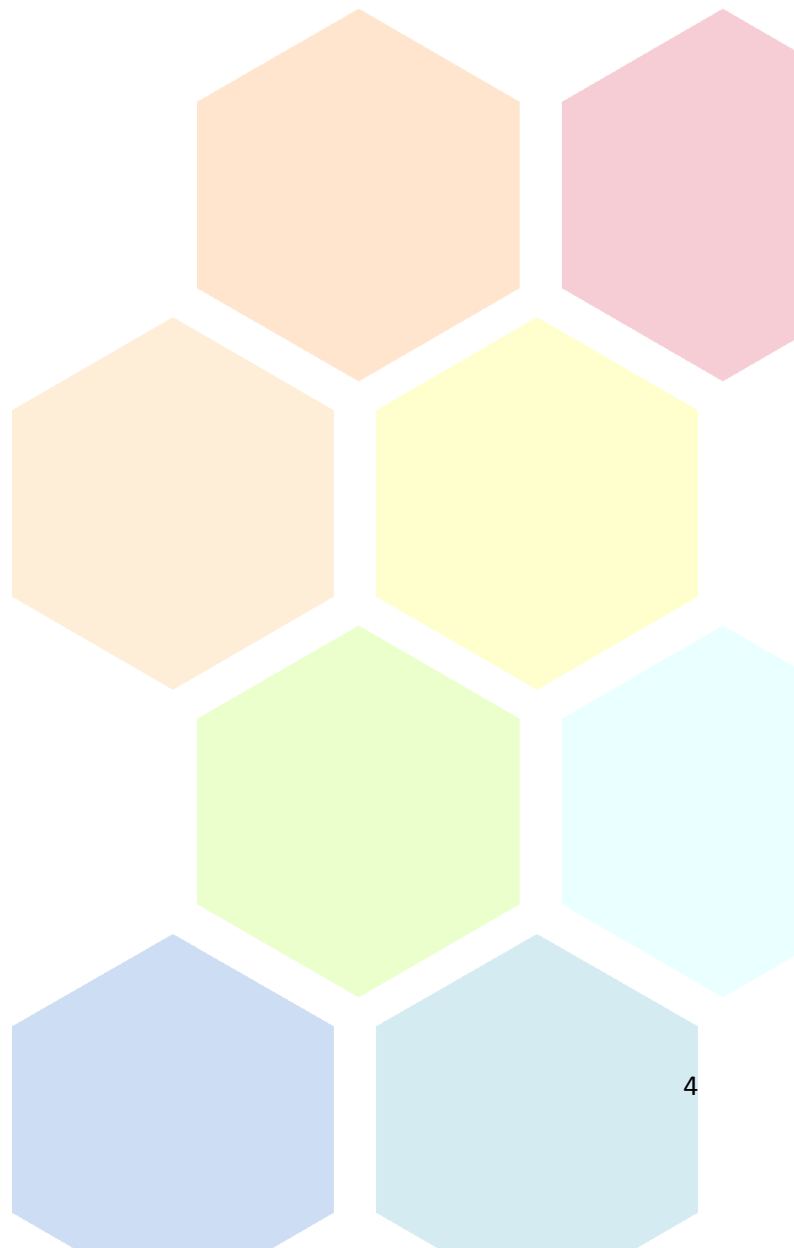
- Fintry Development Trust: who installed a [wind turbine](#), the income from which is diverted into the local community and community projects



- Fintry Development Trust: following the success of the wind turbine, they went on to install a [biomass district heating system at Balgair](#) – a prestigious and ground-breaking project which provides affordable heat to 26 homes in Fintry (saving residents ~20% on energy costs)
- Callander Community Development Trust: who have installed a highly successful [Community Hydro Scheme](#) which generates hydro electric energy which is then sold to the grid, generating income which is then allocated for community projects and developments within Callander

The Event:

Each stage was kept fairly short and informative to get the discussions flowing and let the communities determine the way this Community Energy Forum would take shape. The aim is then, at this and subsequent sessions, to build an FAQ section as well as signposting for assistance, including funding, all of which be made available on the Council website for all communities to be able to access as and when they are ready and with ongoing support being made available.



Agenda

Time	Session Title	Speaker/Leader of Task
09 :15 – 09 :30	Arrival and registration, networking (tea and coffee)	
09 :30 – 09 :45	Session 1 : Community Energy & District Heating in Stirling	
	<p>Welcome and introduction to event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of community energy and Stirling Council's work on community energy and district heating - Support for community energy and the Community Energy Forum 	David Hopper, Sustainable Development Manager, Stirling Council
09 :45 – 10 :35	Community Energy Project Case Studies Within the Stirling Council Area & Beyond	
	<p>Speaker session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (15 minutes) Fintry Development Trust - Balgair Biomass District Heating and the Fintry Turbine - (15 minutes) Beechwood Scout Group and Housing Association Examples - (10 minutes) Community District Heating in Denmark <p>(10 minutes) Question and Answer Session</p>	<p>Matthew Black, FDT</p> <p>Steve Luker</p> <p>Ruth Bush, Stratego</p>
10 :35 – 10 :45	Break (tea and coffee)	
10 :45 – 11 :45	Session 3: Practical Session: Identifying Community Energy Opportunities	
	<p>This session will provide an opportunity for attendees to take part in discussions and a practical exercise at their tables.</p> <p>What types of situations that might be appropriate for community energy projects and/or district heating? What data and information is available to inform project planning at the early stages?</p> <p>Practical exercise: using the public version of the Scotland heat map to identify potential community energy opportunities across the Stirling Council area.</p> <p>This session will be broken out into facilitated groups, with all feedback from attendees recorded.</p>	<p>Practical session led by Resource Efficient Scotland/Heat Network Partnership</p> <p>Break into groups, with facilitators and note takers</p>
11 :45 – 12 :25	Session 4: Discussion Session - Taking Projects Through to Delivery	
	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (15 minutes) CAREs – support for feasibility - (15 minutes) Energy Savings Trust - support for funding <p>(10 minutes) Question and Answer Session</p>	<p>Jennifer Ramsay</p> <p>Ken Brady</p>
12 :25 – 13 :00	Lunch, Table Discussions and Feedback	
	<p>An opportunity for all groups to mingle and discuss community energy with other community groups, the facilitators, speakers, Council representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where are the opportunities in this area? e.g. for groups to work together? Partnerships with the public sector? - Where are the challenges in this area? - What further information is needed to support project development? - How can the Stirling Community Energy Forum support district heating and renewable projects? <p>How can Stirling Council support community-led district heating and renewable projects?</p>	
13 :00	Event Close	

The Presentations:

Presentations from the Stirling Community Energy Forum can be downloaded below:

Introduction:

[David Hopper, Sustainable Development Manager](#)

Case Studies:

[Matthew Black, Fintry Development Trust](#)

[Steve Luker, Re:heat](#)

[Ruth Bush, Stratego](#)

Taking Projects Through to Delivery:

[Andrew Morton, CAREs - Support for Feasibility](#)

[Ken Brady, EST - Support for Funding](#)

The Future:

The Community Energy Forum is intended to inform community groups of opportunities and potential within their own communities where the Council and public sector parties can work together to get community energy projects, specific to individual community's assets and resources, from feasibility to completion - building a working partnership to bring direct community benefits, including generated income streams, to communities across the Council area and enabling the communities to reap the benefits locally.

This collaborative partnership will enable the identification of energy opportunities throughout the Council area using local visions, where trusted local actors and the key drivers within the communities, i.e. the community council and community groups, can identify needs within their communities alongside potential opportunities and partnership working will enable the projects to be delivered.

We want your views because successful sustainability benefits you and your family, the communities in which you live and work and the lifestyle choices you make. Although we have set out actions in our aspiration for a Community Energy Forum, we would genuinely like to engage with all communities and stakeholders across the Council area to develop initiatives and be involved and assist in their delivery from the outset:



- What are the priority actions you would like to see to help the Community Energy Forum and subsequent community energy projects progress?
- What assistance can the Council or other public partners give?
- What topics would be useful for future Community Energy Forums?, e.g. Community Empowerment Act information, different technologies, further practical sessions
- Any other comments you would like to make?

[Feedback forms can be downloaded here](#) or please [email any comments, queries or feedback to the Sustainability Team](#).

*“Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world” —
Howard Zinn*

Useful Links:

[Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act](#) - The Community Empowerment Act will help to empower community bodies through the ownership of land and buildings, and by strengthening their voices in the decisions that matter to them. It will also improve outcomes for communities by improving the process of community planning, ensuring that local service providers work together even more closely with communities to meet the needs of the people who use them

[Energy Saving Trust](#) - works in partnership with community organisations to provide help and support to individuals.

[Local Energy Scotland](#) - helping Scotland's communities and businesses benefit from renewable energy

[Communities Channel Scotland](#)

[Scottish Community Development Centre](#)

The Council's aim is to help create: thriving, vibrant, sustainable communities that will improve everyone's quality of life.

Further information...

- [What is Sustainability?](#)
- [What the Council is doing!](#)
- [How does Sustainability affect me?](#)
- [Sustainability - Events and things I can do!](#)
- [Did you know - Sustainability](#)
- [Climate Change](#)
- [Sustainable Development Strategy](#)
- [Sustainability in School](#)
- [#just1thing](#)