

SelkirkRegeneration

CES Community Energy Futures Newsletter

Programme Feedback

November 2020

1. Introduction

Selkirk Regeneration Company was formed in 2009 to bring benefit to the residents of the TD7 area. Our constitution has recently been changed to a SCIO together with a change of title to Selkirk Regeneration. There has been no change to the aims, dedication and ambition to improve opportunities in the area with many initiatives and successful projects.

One of our key ambitions throughout has been to encourage better use of renewable energy in the community. For example we dedicated considerable time and resource in investigating a community wind farm but were unable to proceed. We have, at present, set up Sustainable Selkirk to assist residents to reduce energy in their homes. We are renovating and extending a former shop at 5 Tower Street to be a community hub and energy advice centre. This should be ready early in 2021.

Last year we examined a big range of opportunities in and close to Selkirk for generation of renewable energy and low carbon transport. The investigation was done in co-operation with Community Energy Scotland through one of their programmes called Community Energy Futures. The ideas were discussed at a meeting attended by interested people and groups on 29th October 2019 in Selkirk Parish Church Hall. From this meeting we were able to identify key proposals to develop. Research and recommendations were presented to Community Energy Scotland early this year and we were accepted. The report comprised a Local Energy Plan, Energy Analysis, list of opportunities and a summary of recommendations.

A second community meeting was due to take place on 24th March of this year. This had to be cancelled due to the Covid 19 emergency. Any similar meeting can only take place once government guidance allows. This looks like being some way off. In the meantime we feel it is essential that we make some progress so this newsletter is to inform you of what we plan to do, and to invite any comments you may have.

Over the years since our group started the need for everyone to make a positive effort to address climate change continues to increase. Next year's global conference in Glasgow will no doubt highlight big strategic measures. We want to see Selkirk do its bit.

2. Proposals

General

Reduce energy demand, improve efficiency, increase use of renewable sources.

Short term (less than 1 year)

Develop an energy advice centre. Funding (through Scot Gov's Climate Challenge Fund), staffing and development of this is in hand with an interim provision at 42 Market Place and a final home under construction in 5 Tower Street.

Assess opportunities for solar power. Our research suggests that this may be possible in the form of a ground array of panels located away from normal public view on Common Good land at the Rig. We would need an Enablement Grant form from Community Energy Scotland to fund an initial feasibility study, together with permission from the Common Good to allow this study to be done. Should this be possible and if the study suggests the project is feasible, we would be eligible to apply for funding to develop the proposal to the point where it is viable and ready to be constructed, using a CARES loan and a small amount of match funding. Note that Feed-in Tariffs (FiTs) were stopped in April 2019 so direct supply to an end user may be necessary.

Low carbon transport. Initially this will be an assessment of lessons from Teviot EV Club.

Medium term (up to 3 years)

Opportunities for renewable resources other than wind or solar power. These include biomass and heat pumps together with investigation of appropriate incentives such as Renewable Heat Initiative.

Long Term (5 years or more)

Assessments and workshops. It is important to keep reviewing opportunities to improve energy use. At one level this includes understanding the capacity and operation of the grid, government incentives, legal requirements, the development in vehicle technology and the possible savings that ensue, and the increasing viability of domestic low carbon technology as gas and solid fuel gradually phases out.

We will continue to review opportunities for:

- Insulating and draft-proofing homes to the greatest extent possible
- Phasing out coal and coal-based products, replacing these with wood.
- Installing PV Panels on house roofs
- Relacing ICE Vehicles at end of life with EV vehicles
- Use diverters to maximise consumption of PVs using EV s and heat stores
- Replacing oil boilers with heat pumps or biomass boilers wherever possible
- Use open land for heat pumps
- Commercial Ventures: EV Commercial Van Hire and District Heating studies requiring a CARES Loan
- Solar PV on common good land or roof tops

3. Feedback from the October 2019 community consultation meeting

The following suggestions were put forward by members of the community for ongoing consideration (together with our commentary).

- **Further Water Turbines on the Ettrick & the Yarrow.** The new floodwall on the right bank hinders any development of Ettrick Riverside. Lindean Mill cauld is in disrepair and the laid filled in. We have been advised that there are 2 potential sites on the Yarrow.
- **Solar Arrays on the sunny side of the hills, on the roof of mills, swimming pool, or on housing.** All these are embraced within the scope of the proposed feasibility study, including the consideration of the potential for **bulk-purchasing of domestic PV systems**.
- **Sainsbury's Site for Solar Powered EV battery charging: PV panels on the roof, battery storage in the building and EV charging in the car park.** The rent @£20K per annum detracts from the potential financial viability.
- **Small scale Community Transport (Community Bus).** This is an opportunity for investigation in the medium term.
- **Encourage new local industry to make things eg solar panels, charging points.** Rather than pursuing OEM type businesses, it may be opportune to seek an Energy Workshop type entity for Renewable Energy Projects, servicing and repairs. This is included in the LEP as a medium term objective.



Acknowledgements

We thank all who have attended and contributed for your support and commitment and for your suggestions to enhance the environment of the Selkirk Burgh.

Further thanks are due to **Janis Cornwall** for her diligence and support in organizing the Community Engagement, and to **Andy Maybury**, CES Project Manager, who gave the initial presentation and produced the Energy Analysis Report.

on behalf of the Board of Selkirk Regeneration

Selkirk Regeneration. A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

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