

Dumfries and Galloway toast Hungarian visitor

24th – 27th April - IEE 100 RES Communities Study Trip Scotland {EnergiaKlub, Hungary}.

The morning flight from Budapest brought 20 Hungarian VIP' guests of Community Energy Scotland and Dumfries and Galloway on a four day study trip to learn from our experiences developing and community based renewable energy in action and to inspire



The action pack visit began in Moffat with a sumptuous lunch at the Buccleuch Hotel, where food supplied by the 'Let's Eat Local' team was the group's first taste of Scotland.



The programme moved into full swing with a detailed examination of community development of the Biomass Energy supply chain and low impact management of local woodlands. This presentation, delivered by David Major identified the challenges and potentialities that affect both UK and International groups.

David Major
(Let's Live Local – Moffat)

Presentation on low impact woodland management



Continuing the theme of Biomass, Woods-Wood Fuels a small but growing business producing locally harvested timber for use in a variety of products. I witnessed the processing machines in action and took the opportunity to discuss firsthand the business model.



Demonstration of timber processing - South West Woods-Wood Fuels

At Beattock Primary School, an example of a BREEAM excellent low energy building, the Head Mistress, Mrs Wigglesworth encouraged the visitors to explore environmentally sustainable construction core within the new £2.6 million pounds facility. The group was joined by three Finnish delegates whom likewise admired the standards achieved and were keen to document for their own project. This new school features Solar PV, an auto feed biomass boiler and sustainable construction with the highest levels of insulation. A unique and dramatic feature is the floor to ceiling spine wall, which fulfils the role of solar collector and storage heater maintaining a temperature stable environment throughout the year.



Beattock Primary – Excellence in sustainable design

Thursday 25th April 2013

Day Two moved the group into central Galloway to meet members of the Gatehouse Development initiative, participants in the Community Energy Scotland / Dumfries and Galloway Council IEE 100% RES Communities project.). Warm greetings were extended by our hosts, David Steele and Ken Smyth who made the group feel immediately at ease.



After a formal meet and greet by the Provost Pat Jacques, a full morning of presentations followed. Topics included – The history of Gatehouse of Fleet and the origins of the Gatehouse Development Initiative developing Hydro projects including an overview of statutory requirements (C. Wood-Gee); Solar installations design / productivity modelling (Solway Solar Solutions Ltd); as well as lecture on - Biodiversity, farm/woodland planning, environmental impacts and fuel security for Biomass installations (John)

Gatehouse of Fleet Provost - Pat Jacques welcoming the Hungarian Study Group

A hearty lunch was taken at Mill on the Fleet (a GDI community managed tourist destination), followed by present buying in the craft shop. Welcoming sunshine encouraged all to discover historic Gatehouse of Fleet, either following the river trail downstream, exploring the park and Cally Lake, else seeking out the industrial past around the watermills.



Mill on the Fleet Built 1788 by James Birtwhistle – Former Cotton Spinning Mill

Late Afternoon - Cream of Galloway



After the intensive start to the day an ambulatory excursion was organised to Dumfries and Galloway's 2nd most popular tourist destination - Cream of Galloway, but this was no picnic. We were introduced to organic, high welfare farming systems and sustainable farming in practice, farm diversification, climbing the value chain through the production of cheese and ice cream as well as sustainable tourism and cutting edge renewable technology and community joint ventures.



Cream of Galloway – high welfare farming, children's adventure park, green tourism, cheese and ice cream production, restaurant. Renewables – A/D methane production, solar PV, wind turbine.



Friday 26th April 2013



Day Three started with a morning of presentations –Bob Baillie along from energy agency discussing how they help communities and individuals; and a presentation from Councillor Ian Carruthers on Dumfries and Galloway Council and the IEE project.

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D&G 100RES Communities presented their
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sitors as to methodologies of the SEAP production
ian local communities.



After a Civic reception at the Council Chambers and a photo call on the Town Hall steps...

The group took off to Barony College for an extensive tour of the training facilities and renewables employed across the site.



Edinburgh - The Final day



Saturday brought the last day. A day of exploration and adventure in the streets of Edinburgh, visiting, amongst other famous attractions, the Castle, Cathedral and the Scottish National Gallery as well as a spot of shopping along Princes St.,

Tour over, complete with Scottish memories, the group departed via Edinburgh International Airport homeward bound to the Pecs and Transdanubian region of Hungary.

