



Islay Carbon Savings Project

Final report

March 2011

It's our future



Project funded by the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund

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Project aims

Islay Carbon Savings Project was set up to provide advice to individuals and communities on the islands of Islay and Colonsay to encourage efficient use of energy, and use of renewable energy sources where possible. By raising awareness of the cost and carbon savings advantages of the above, it was hoped to achieve sustainable carbon reductions on Islay and Colonsay of 300 tonnes p.a. One full-time Project Officer was appointed.

Project outcomes

As a result of the project, all homes on the islands have received basic energy advice, and an office base has been established in Bowmore where householders can call for a range of information on energy efficiency and domestic renewables. Two well-attended events have been held to showcase different renewable technologies, and contact made with MCS accredited installers willing to work on the islands. Almost 400 homes have benefited (or will soon benefit) from full or partial insulation measures, while over 300 households have also been referred for benefit entitlement checks or social tariff. Awareness and understanding of renewable energy sources has improved, as shown by the nature of enquiries at a recent roadshow and to the office. Carbon savings of over 460 tonnes have been achieved over the lifetime of the project, and the expected annual savings as a result of project activities will be almost 1400 tonnes.

Project activities and delivery

Training

During the first 6 months of the project, the Project Officer was trained to City and Guilds Level in Energy Awareness, and also attended a two-day Renewable Energy Training course with On-Site Generation.

HECs

The Energy Saving Trust's Home Energy Check form was used in the early days of the project to initiate contact with potential clients. While it was useful in this role, the lack of immediate follow-up to the report was soon identified as a weakness, with no system for direct referral in place. The report was also missing what some would see as key questions – for example there was no way of indicating that a house lacked a central heating system, despite this being a key indicator of EAP eligibility. With this in mind the HEC form was not initially used extensively, although later in the project when the Home Insulation Scheme was introduced it became a key tool.

Electricity monitor loan

15 OWL electricity monitors were bought, and lent out for a month at a time to interested households. Where necessary the project officer visited to help set the monitor up, but most users were able to do this themselves. The monitor was accompanied by a feedback form asking the user to report on their experience.

The monitor scheme proved a very useful way of engaging the public; use of the monitor invariably sparked discussion of appliances and household habits.

"I'd always wondered why our bills were so high – it wasn't until I had the monitor I realised my daughter was running a 1.5kW heater in her bedroom day and night, even when she was out at school..... putting it onto the timer saved almost £50 a month."

"I know a shower is the cheaper option so I regularly stay in it for up to half an hour... I didn't realise that our shower was rated at 10.5 kW!"

Insulation lists

In common with many islanders, householders on Islay and Colonsay in 2009 were finding it very difficult to take advantage of insulation offers made under the CERT scheme. There was a fairly established pattern of installers either refusing to visit the islands, or making appointments then cancelling (or just not turning up) when the geography became apparent. This had led to a general feeling that these offers were not available on the islands, and finding a way to deal with this was made a priority.

A number of installers were contacted and invited to participate in a scheme where the Carbon Savings Project identified households requiring insulation and these were all visited at once, cutting down on travel and administration. Several turned the offer down but finally one firm – Energycare Scotland – agreed to try it. Adverts and articles in the local paper, The Ileach, combined with a widespread poster campaign, produced an initial list of 11 homes for survey. These were visited in June 2009, and although this first round of work was not particularly profitable for Energycare, their supervisor agreed to a second visit. This time, word of mouth from those who had benefited from the first installation round added impetus to the advertising campaign, and over 20 households were treated. This pattern repeated itself with subsequent visits, and in all, Energycare Scotland made four visits to Islay, insulating 81 homes. With the Project Officer available to help schedule appointments in a logical order and locate remote addresses, delivery became smoother with each visit, despite occasional inconveniences such as cancelled ferries and snowy conditions.

Reaction to the work was very positive and the team was praised for the standard of their work:



Davie from Energycare Scotland at work

"Heating oil use is down by 100 litres from the same period as last year –tidy and polite workers, 10/10!" (Mr MacLugash, Bridgend, loft insulation installed.)

"I have been delighted with my roof insulation... I would recommend everyone to get it done..." (Mrs Merrall, Portnahaven, loft insulation installed.)

"The study especially is noticeably warmer and the storage heating now has an effect..." (Householder from Port Askaig, loft insulation topped up)

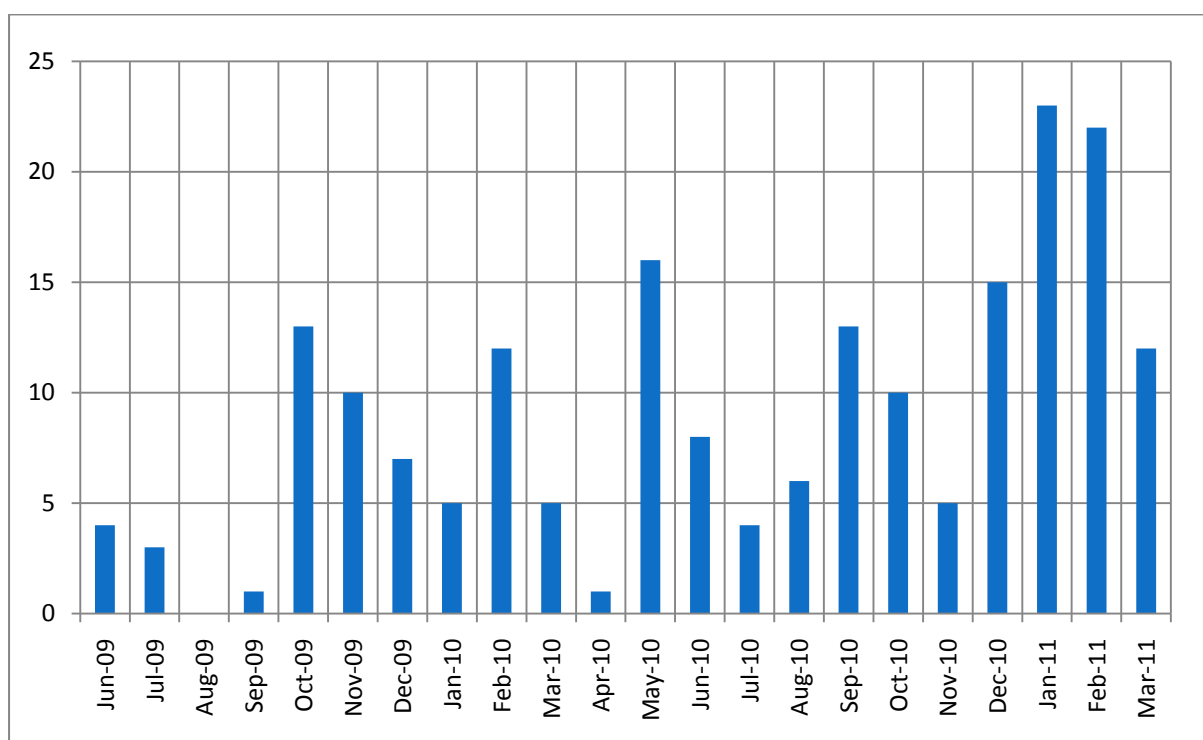
Attempts to set up a similar scheme on Colonsay proved harder; with an even longer history of being let down by installers, householders were very sceptical. Colonsay also has a high proportion of

holiday homes and estate houses, mainly stone-built with coombed ceilings, which are hard to treat. It took until late summer of 2010 to engage enough interest on Colonsay to set up a visit from Energycare Scotland, but before the visit could take place the Home Insulation Scheme – in which IET was to be a delivery partner and which is dealt with fully later in this report - was announced for the Argyll islands, which made the trip unnecessary, although all credit is due to the firm for agreeing. The Home Insulation Scheme also marked the end of Energycare Scotland’s involvement on Islay, as the free top-ups and universal nature of the scheme meant that it was in the interests of householders to suspend further lists. However, the high profile given to the cost and carbon-saving benefits of insulation during the work on those first 81 houses meant that the HIS was understood and welcomed on the islands.

“This has been the coldest winter for 10 years but our heating costs have not risen.... a great improvement.” (Mr & Mrs Bartlett, Bruichladdich – loft and cavity wall insulation installed.)

General enquiries

From the very start of the project, members of the public have been encouraged to drop in to the office to browse publications or ask specific questions. Over the life of the project enquiries to the office have fluctuated, peaking noticeably after events such as the Islay Show or the renewables roadshows, or when there has been an article in the Ileaf, but the general trend is consistently upwards. As the project has become established, the office has become the first port of call for many types of enquiry, with a split of 65% concerned with domestic energy efficiency and 35% renewables.



Enquiries made to Islay Carbon Savings Project 2009/11 (Excluding enquiries for Energycare Scotland which were handled separately)

Over the lifetime of the project, 1500 packs of low-energy light bulbs (supplied by E.ON) were handed out; these brought a good number of people into the office who then pursued other lines of enquiry or came back for further help or information.

Schools liaison



All the primary schools in the project area – four on Islay and one on Colonsay – are Eco-Schools and it was clear from the start that the children were well-informed on ‘green’ issues. Contact has been made with all schools offering help and support with their Eco Schools work, and the project officer was invited to visit Keills, Port Charlotte and Kilchattan schools. Port Ellen, Bowmore and Keills primaries also contributed displays for the first Renewables Day in January 2010, and in May 2010 all schools participated in a visit from Kerr MacGregor with his Solar One van, a specially equipped demonstration van carrying a solar-powered bicycle and train as well as having its own solar hot water installed.

In March 2011, a visit by touring group Eco Drama with their Magic Van was arranged for all the Islay primary schools, and arrangements were made for children from Colonsay to travel to Mull to participate in performances there. Eco Drama performed their play ‘The Isle of Egg’ and delivered their ‘Recycling Heroes’ workshops with all the children.

“A really great time was had by all! Even the youngest children in the school came away with a deeper understanding of looking after our world. We got lots of ideas for things we could try here - not just in the school, but suggestions we could make for possible island enterprises in the future.”
(Head teacher, Kilchattan Primary School)



Pupils at Port Ellen Primary School enjoyed their visit from Eco Drama

Energy clinics

In the early stages of the project it became apparent that the project officer was often answering queries outside the office – in the street or while shopping – and it seemed that some people were reluctant to visit or call the office. ‘Energy clinics’ were held in various locations around the island, including the CyberCafe in Port Ellen, Debbie’s Coffee Shop in Bruichladdich and Bo Frois tearoom in Portnahaven, where an informal chat could be had over a cup of tea, while still offering the chance to arrange a private home visit if preferred. These were advertised locally with posters and external advertising and resulted in a number of extra enquiries, mainly related to the insulation lists. As time has passed and the project profile has increased, this reluctance to make deliberate contact seems to have eased and callers to the office are more frequent.



Debbie's - coffee and energy advice

Solar Thermal workshops

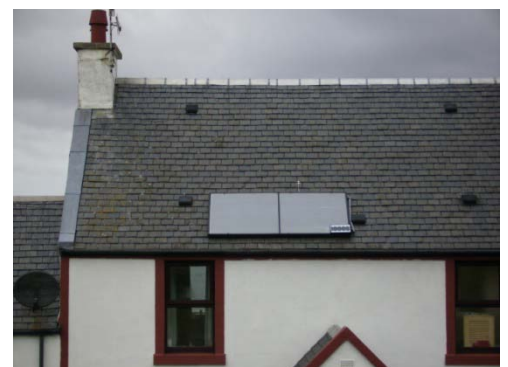
During June and September 2010, three one-day workshops were held where participants were able to build their own solar thermal water heater. Workshops were led by Kerr MacGregor, who also runs the successful Solar One project. A total of 18 people took part, and 10 of the panels are currently installed (several attendees are in the process of building new houses, one was away from home for several months and decided to wait until after the winter before installing; two ‘just haven’t got round to it.’) All materials were supplied – and Kerr even threw in a few tunes on his solar-powered chanter.



Building solar panels in Bowmore Hall

“What a great course it was! Kerr made it a most interesting day with the information he gave, as well as guiding us in constructing our solar panels...” (Dr. Senior, Bridgend)

“We put our panel up the next weekend.... it was great to stand in the shower and know all that hot water was free!” (Workshop participant, Bowmore)



Free hot water!

The workshops not only provided a number of people with a carbon-free method of heating their water, but illustrated how some renewable technologies need not be complicated – or expensive.

Renewables roadshows

With many of the enquiries to the office relating to domestic renewables, it was clear that the Islay public wanted to know more but were having difficulty finding the information they needed. To remedy this, two Renewables Days were held in Bowmore Hall during the project, on 30th January 2010 and 29th January 2011. The date was chosen deliberately to avoid the busier months of the year when there are other regular events, and also as a time when farm work is not at a peak – i.e. before lambing - as many of our enquiries had come from farmers. The first of these days, in 2010, was organised as a purely drop-in event, attended by 6 accredited installers as well as advisers from the Energy Saving Trust and Scottish Natural Heritage. An education officer from Allenergy ran children’s activities throughout the day. Tea, coffee and lunches were served by the Islay High School Hospitality Group, as a fundraising project for them. This proved a great success, as provision of food and drinks, as well as keeping the exhibitors happy, also encouraged visitors to linger in the hall and exchange views and information, turning the day into a very relaxed social occasion. Over 150 people attended and IET gained 20 new members. Feedback from visitors was encouraging – of those who responded,

- 81% claimed to have only a basic understanding of the various technologies before the event.
- 100% felt their understanding had been improved by attending.
- 40% were actively considering installation prior to the event, while 55% had thought about installation but taken no action prior to the event
- 100% felt they were now more likely to consider installation



Renewables Day - fun for all the family

“...encouraged by the info we have received today about possible grant aid and future income...”

“Better payback periods than I thought... great to see a good turnout!”

“Costs less than I thought.”

“Making contact with suppliers has made the project feel more real...”

Encouraged by the response to Renewables Day – particularly the visitor who commented, *“Looking forward to the next exhibition!”* a second day was organised the following January. This time the format was changed slightly in response to one or two comments, to incorporate a number of presentations in the adjoining room over the course of the day. Two of these were general introductions to domestic renewables, one focused entirely on woodfuel and the fourth was a case study by a local householder who had installed a 3kW PV system following the previous roadshow. A static photo presentation was also provided by a couple who have installed a 20kW Westwind

turbine in the last few months. This new format proved very popular and the presentations were well-received:

"...reassured that I've made the right decision (to install solar panels.)"

On this occasion over 130 people attended, and 48 signed up as new members of Islay Energy Trust, bringing our total membership to 286, which is more than 10% of those eligible. Again, the day turned into a very enjoyable social gathering as visitors stayed to have lunch or coffee. Exhibitors at the 2011 roadshow all remarked on the high level of knowledge of visitors and the good customer engagement:



"When we do shows like this in Glasgow people often don't even make eye contact – here they're asking very specific questions." (Colin Douglas, En-Solve)

Renewables Day 2011 - a sociable afternoon

Several surveys have been carried out by installers since the 2011 roadshow and one attendee ordered a 4kW solar array on the day. It is clear that events of this sort have a high appeal locally, and we hope that Renewables Day will appear on the Islay Energy Trust calendar of events for some years to come.

Loch Allan Hydro Scheme refurbishment



Loch Allan dam drained for inspection

During 2009, discussions were held with Dunlossit Estate over the possibility of refurbishing the currently disused Loch Allan hydro scheme as a community project. At the time, this seemed an uneconomic proposal, but an informal inspection by a hydro consultant who attended our first roadshow in early 2010 suggested that the advent of FITs could make this a useful project for IET to undertake; although the income generated would be relatively small, it would help with running costs for investigation of other, more profitable ventures. Funding was offered by Community Energy Scotland, Highlands & Islands

Enterprise and Scottish Natural Heritage to investigate the condition of the dam prior to a full feasibility study. Panel engineer Richard Doake of AECOM was appointed to carry out a full dam

study, and although this was not initially a formal part of our project, CCF agreed to cover some investigative costs. Further talks with Dunlossit Estate, who are very supportive of the project, will be carried out in 2011 with a view to securing funding for capital works. If it proves practical, this project will become income-generating in mid-2012.

Home Insulation Scheme

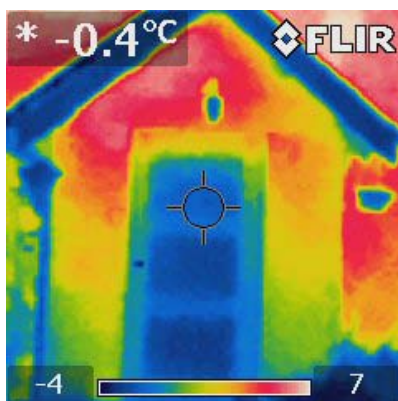
In August 2010, Argyll & Bute Council announced a successful bid to the Scottish Government for funds to deliver the Home Insulation Scheme to the Argyll islands, and Islay Energy Trust was invited by Changeworks and Energy Saving Scotland to participate in delivery of the HIS on Islay, Jura and Gigha. IET publicised the recruitment drive locally and five Home Energy Assessors were recruited on short-term contracts for secondment to Changeworks. Although line management was from Changeworks, the team used the IET office as a base and the Carbon Savings Project Officer and Office Manager were available to help with administration and general queries – in particular, guidance on addresses in areas where street numbering is inconsistent, or where houses have only names but no signs. Regular adverts and articles highlighting the HIS were published in the local paper, and the office also served as a local point of contact for householders, giving the scheme a local presence which contributed to its credibility.



Four of our five HIS assessors - easily spotted in the snow!

"IET were instrumental in successfully delivering the door to door areas of the programme and supporting the HIS doorstep assessors. Without their involvement and local knowledge HIS on these islands would have been much more difficult." (Eamon King, Outreach Officer with the Highlands & Islands ESSac)

During the HIS, a thermal imaging camera was borrowed from another CCF project and a number of images taken to be used in publicity. The stark reality of pictures showing heat leakage from homes helped drive home the insulation message, especially as the work was being carried out during one of the coldest spells experienced on Islay in recent memory.



"The picture of my extension roof nice and blue against the red and yellow of the original house roof proved that I was doing the right thing upgrading all the insulation!" (Householder, Port Charlotte)

Thermal image of a poorly insulated porch

The job began with a list of 1800 homes to visit; several hundred of these were identified as second homes and declared void and a very small number of households did not want to participate, leaving around 1300 homes eligible. All immediate enquiries re the Home Insulation Scheme were routed through the IET office to ensure maximum public engagement, and at the time of reporting this is ongoing - householders who for one reason or another missed the HIS assessors are still contacting IET, and being referred to EST for assessment, increasing uptake even further. The final figures for the HIS show that uptake has been excellent, although at the time of reporting survey work and installation are still in progress.

HECs completed	938
Virgin loft referrals	34
Loft top-up referrals	366
Cavity wall insulation referrals	66
Benefit entitlement checks	208
EAP Stage 3 & 4 referrals	188
Social tariff referrals	305

All credit must be given to the team of Home Energy Assessors who worked hard in the most difficult weather – rain, gales, snow, ice and unrelenting cold – to visit all the homes on their list, some of them three times. Their perseverance meant that the HIS engagement figure for the area exceeded 70%, against engagement figures as low as 40% in some parts of Scotland.

Community Impacts

Over the life of the project, public awareness of the need to use energy efficiently, and the role that Islay Energy Trust can play in that, has undoubtedly increased. As already mentioned, enquiries to the office have steadily grown over the past two years and the project is now seen by many as the first port of call for energy-related questions. The availability of the Project Officer for (almost) immediate home visits when required has helped bridge the gap between, for example, EAP referral and delivery, with elderly customers in particular often preferring to deal with someone local on a face-to-face basis in the first instance.

At a survey conducted at the Islay, Jura and Colonsay Agricultural Show in August 2010, over 80% of respondents had heard of the Carbon Savings Project, with almost 50% stating they had taken advice or benefited from the project in some way. 90% of respondents expressed their support for the idea of a community renewables project.

The wide coverage of the various initiatives within the project has resulted in greater awareness of the twin impacts of lower carbon emissions and lower energy costs. Evidence of this was seen at the 2011 Renewables Day, where all exhibitors commented on the generally high level of knowledge visitors displayed, with very precise questions being asked about different technologies. One PV array and one 20kW wind turbine have been installed locally during the lifetime of the project, using expertise from our renewables events, and several more PV arrays are currently being investigated as result of this year's event. Interest in air source heat pumps has also risen sharply – as is apparent from the recent enquiries to the office - and there is a generally widespread awareness of the benefit of renewable technologies, especially in the many new-builds on the island.



Guiding the Kilmeny turbine into place

Thanks to the original insulation lists and in the latter stages to the Home Insulation Scheme, at least 20% of households in the project area have installed, or about to install, new or top-up insulation. This will lead to reduced energy consumption and associated carbon savings, but also, importantly, reduced energy bills and increased comfort. In addition, a number of households were referred for benefit entitlement checks, leading to further increase in income in many cases:

“I thought I was quite organised with my pensions – but shortly after I was referred for a check by the Assessor I received a cheque for £1800 for overpaid tax, quite a surprise.” (Householder, Rhinns area)

938 HECs were completed by the HIS assessors, as employees of IET. On the whole, the delivery of the HIS has made the local community more aware of the role IET can play in offering advice and support on a range of issues.

What didn't work?

In every project there are parts of the delivery which work and parts which are less successful. In this sort of project, starting from scratch with a new funder, it can be particularly difficult to judge at the outset what will work and what won't.

Including Colonsay in the project does not appear to have been entirely successful – although the islands are close geographically and IET has until recently had a Colonsay representative on its board, the communities do not have much contact and the islands are quite different in their make-up. Colonsay can be reached from Islay during the summer, but only via Oban from October to April. Although attempts were made to keep the Colonsay population informed on what was available to

them through posters in the local shop and updates on the Corncrake, their online newspaper, feedback was generally slow. A visit to the island produced a few queries and names for the insulation list, although this was then superseded by the HIS. Arranging transport for the six primary school pupils to attend the Eco Drama performance on Mull was perhaps the most high profile achievement – general domestic energy advice would possibly be better received from someone living locally and more easily accessible.

Use of the Home Energy Check forms was initially rather unproductive as they simply produced a report for householders with no follow-up, and no guarantee that IET would be able to access the data in them. They did serve as a useful introduction in some cases, but until they were linked to the Home Insulation Scheme, with referrals being made instantly, it was hard for householders to see the benefit of completing one. With hindsight, it was very fortunate that a full house-to-house HEC campaign was not mounted in the early days of the project, as every household would have had to be revisited for the HIS in any case, which could have led to form-filling fatigue.

The electricity monitors helped to engage people and were useful in helping with behaviour change, but again with hindsight and after talking to other projects, a more structured approach could have been used which would have shown clearer results. Feedback forms were issued with the monitors which were not always returned; closer supervision of use with regular contact would have worked better.

Carbon Reductions

Measuring carbon reduction seems to have been an issue for many projects as there is no single method of applying calculations. In addition to this, guidance from the Energy Savings Trust changed considerably over the lifetime of the project as measuring techniques became more sophisticated – for example the ‘assumed’ carbon saving from verbal advice contacts dropped from 0.9 tonnes to 0.5 tonnes then to 0.14 tonnes as time went on. The calculations below have been based on CO₂ reduction figures from the Energy Saving Trust wherever possible, with all sources quoted at the end. Projected annual savings have been calculated alongside savings during the project lifetime, to give a picture of the ongoing impact of the project on the islands. Some of the largest projected savings will come from the HIS, but as this was not completed until December with installation taking place during January – April 2011, little can be claimed during the project lifetime.

Homes insulated through co-ordinated approach with Energycare Scotland (Pre-HIS): 81

- 62 new lofts insulated (av. 1.5 tonnes CO₂ /loft p.a.)¹ - 11 insulated July 2009, 15 insulated December 09, 21 insulated April 10, 15 insulated August 10
- 12 lofts topped-up (av. 0.5 tonnes CO₂/loft p.a.)¹ - 6 topped up in December 09, 6 topped up in April 10
- 41 cavity walls insulated (av. 1.5 tonnes CO₂/house p.a.)¹ - 2 insulated July 2009, 9 insulated December 09, 18 insulated April 10, 12 insulated August 10

Projected annual CO₂ savings: 160.5 tonnes

Savings over project lifetime: 159 tonnes

(July 2009 installations calculated at 20 months; December 09 at 15 months; April 10 at 11 months; August 10 at 7 months.)

Homes referred to Energy Assistance Package Stage 4 and treated (Pre-HIS): 14

All heating upgraded, all draught-proofed, all insulation upgraded (av. CO₂ savings 3 tonnes/house p.a.)¹

- 10 completed during 2009, 4 completed early 2010

Projected annual CO₂ savings: 42 tonnes

Savings over project lifetime: 49.5 tonnes

(2009 installations calculated at 15 months; 2010 installations calculated at 12 months)

Homes given use of electricity monitor and asked to report behaviour changes: 52

- 39 - turn off all appliances not in use (av. 133kg CO₂ p.a.)²
- 45 - turn off all lights when leaving room (av. 23kg CO₂ p.a.)²
- 26 - turn down heating 1°C (av. 273 kg CO₂ p.a.)²
- 6 - take 5 minute shower instead of bath (av. 491kg CO₂ p.a.)²
- 45 – only boil as much water as needed (av. 29kg CO₂ p.a.)²
- 3 – replace old chest freezer (av. 80kg CO₂ p.a.)²

Projected annual CO₂ savings: 17.6 tonnes

Savings over project lifetime: 22.3 tonnes

(Responses all received in 2009; calculated over 15 months)

Micro-renewables installed following Renewables Roadshow 2010

- 1x 20kW wind turbine (0.539kg CO₂/kWh assuming 40% output – 37.7 tonnes p.a.)³
- 1 x 3kW solar PV installation (av. 1.5 tonnes CO₂ p.a.)³

Projected annual CO₂ savings: 39.2 tonnes

Savings over project lifetime: 17 tonnes

(Turbine installed October 2010, calculated at 5 months; PV installed July 2010, calculated at 8 months)

Attendees at Solar Thermal workshops: 18

- 10 panels currently installed (av. 580kg CO₂ p.a.)³

Projected annual CO₂ savings: 5.8 tonnes

Savings over project lifetime: 3.5 tonnes

(6 installed June 10, calculated at 8 months; 4 installed September 2010, calculated at 6 months.)

Low energy light bulbs supplied to 1500 homes

- 2x 60w replaced by 2x14w in each home (av. 25kg CO₂ p.a. per bulb)³

Projected annual CO₂ savings: 75 tonnes

Savings over project lifetime: 75 tonnes

(Bulbs given out over 18 months of project, calculated at 1500 at 18 months, 1500 at 6 months.)

General domestic energy queries answered in office or by phone, excluding insulation and EAP referrals – 195

195 verbal advice contacts (av. 0.14 tonnes CO₂ p.a.)⁴

(Calculated at 98 over 18 months, 97 over 12 months)

Projected annual CO₂ savings: 27 tonnes

Savings over project lifetime: 34 tonnes

Home Insulation Scheme, delivered in partnership with Changeworks

5 full-time assessors employed locally on short term contracts to visit all eligible homes on Islay, Jura and Colonsa. 938 HECs completed (av. 0.14 tonnes CO₂ p.a.)⁴

Projected annual CO₂ savings: 131 tonnes

Savings over project lifetime: 33 tonnes

(All HECs completed November/December 2010, calculated at 3 months.)

Referrals made to end of December 2010:

- 34 new lofts (av. 1.5 tonnes CO₂ /loft p.a.)¹
- 366 loft top-ups (av. 0.5 tonnes CO₂/loft p.a.)¹
- 66 cavity walls (av. 1.5 tonnes CO₂/house p.a.)¹
- 188 EAP Stage 3&4 (Average CO₂ savings 3 tonnes/house p.a.)¹
- 208 Benefit checks to pension service or CAD
- 321 Social tariff checks to electricity supplier

Projected annual CO₂ savings: 897 tonnes

Savings over project lifetime: 75 tonnes

(Assuming all work completed during February/March 2011)

Projected annual CO₂ savings: 1395 tonnes

Savings over project lifetime: 468 tonnes

CO₂ emissions from project activities:

These must also be taken into account if the true impact of the project is to be judged. Office electricity and travel were judged to be the main contributors, and calculated as follows:

- Office electricity consumption: c. 1400kWh p.a. (Estimate – shared meter)
- Project Officer travel – 3400km

1400kWh x 2 x (0.538kg CO₂/kWh)⁵ + 3400 km at 100g/km (Vauxhall Corsa Ecoflex)⁶: 1.84 tonnes

¹Source: Energy Saving Trust, based on 3 bed semi-detached house with oil central heating

²Source: TZCB spreadsheet, developed by AEA Consulting

³Source: Energy Saving Trust, assuming displaced electricity

⁴Source: Energy Saving Trust

⁵Source: DEFRA

⁶Source: Vauxhall

Who helped?

Islay Energy Trust received a great deal of help and support from a number of bodies and individuals during delivery of the Carbon Savings Project. The following is not an exhaustive list, nor is it necessarily in order of merit, but it gives an idea of the scope of the advice and expertise we were able to draw on:

- The Climate Challenge Fund team, and all at Keep Scotland Beautiful, particularly our Development Officers Margaret Hood and Holly Wilson
- Energy Saving Scotland, especially Outreach Officer Eamon King, and all those at the ESSac and Changeworks who were involved in the Home Insulation Scheme
- Community Energy Scotland and Development Officer Felix Wight
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise, with thanks to local officer Eleanor McNab, and Head of Strengthening Communities Kerrie Grant
- Scottish Natural Heritage – thanks to Area Officer Rae McKenzie for advice

- The Community Powerdown network, for sharing information and offering networking opportunities
- ReJig, our local recycling group, for support at events
- Staff and pupils at Islay High School and at Islay and Colonsay's primary schools, for their interest and participation
- The Ileaf, our local newspaper, for affordable advertising and access to editorial space – two things that few other projects appear to have benefited from
- Project Officers of the other Argyll-based CCF projects – Towards Zero Carbon Bute, Big Green Tarbert, South Kintyre Powerdown, Kilfinan Community Forest, Jura Powerdown, who shared in their trials and successes and provided ongoing network support
- Allenergy, for support at events
- Gordon Black of BabyHydro, who spotted the potential of the Loch Allan project and set us on the road to development
- The communities of Islay and Colonsay, for taking the project on board and allowing it to grow

Finally, Michael Watson of Energycare Scotland, who had the commitment and vision to see what we were trying to do on the islands and always made an effort to go the extra mile for Islay. Without his enthusiasm it would have been much harder to get the project off the ground. Michael died suddenly in November 2010, and his contribution deserves to be recognised.

What next?

At the time of reporting, Islay Energy Trust is awaiting a decision on further funding. If successful, our intention is to consolidate our work with domestic households while expanding the advice service to local Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. The Project Officer will be trained in Non-Domestic Energy Assessment, and work in tandem with Energy Saving Scotland to provide local support and advice to small businesses. Work will also be done to upgrade the energy rating of several community buildings.

Islay Energy Trust's eventual strategy is to become self-sustaining, and with this in mind work will continue on the proposed hydro redevelopment at Loch Allan. In addition to this, included in our application is an amount sufficient to complete feasibility studies into 1MW wind and 180kWp of solar PV, and micro-generation solar PV and wind schemes with domestic and commercial partners:

- A potential site for wind development has been identified, and studies are required to assess the wind resource, development potential and to prepare necessary planning and other permissions.
- There are opportunities for the installation of 180kWp of solar PV on two commercial properties - pre-feasibility studies, structural surveys, planning application, legal fees and business cases for both projects will be prepared.
- IET will look into a business model for the supply and installation of solar PV on roofs of domestic properties, community buildings, SMEs, and small wind projects on farms. IET would cover these costs – subject to successful funding - and would receive the feed-in-tariff revenue which would be used to cover operating costs, with the surplus going to IET's Charitable Trust Fund. The owner of the roof or landowner would receive a rent and a

proportion of free electricity. This is a modification of a business model already being used by a number of solar PV suppliers, and feedback suggests that many people in the community would see it as an opportunity to benefit from renewable technologies while contributing not inconsiderable sums to the community.

In summary, the Islay Carbon Savings Project has allowed Islay Energy Trust to build a working relationship with the Islay community, where the Trust is seen as a body which is of service to the island. The Trust's profile is higher and the office and staff have a visible presence on the island. This can only help IET to achieve its main aim – to develop and operate renewable energy projects for the benefit of the community.

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