

Board of Directors

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David Cameron

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Directors
Donnie MacKay

NHT/NHTC Directors
Iain MacSween
Steve McCombe

Barbara MacKay

Company Secretary
David Wake

Chairman's Report

Year ending 31st October 2012

From the Development Officer's Report that follows, you will read that progress has been steady across a number of small projects, with the Trading Company ending the year with a surplus.

Progress on the larger projects i.e. the Business Units and the Renewable Hydro-electric Scheme has been slower than we would have liked. However there still remains enthusiasm for the projects and we will continue to provide the dedicated work required to make these projects a reality.

The merging of the Isle of Scalpay with the North Harris estate will add more opportunities for the Trading Company. During the next twelve months, I hope that both the Scalpay community and their directors will contribute to further work by us.

As always we look for new progressive business ideas coming from all parts of our community. Again, during this coming year, I believe that we as a Trading Company Board should be in a listening mode. We have an open-door policy and would be delighted to have your thoughts.

Finally, I would like to thank David Wake, our Energy Development Officer, and the Trading Company directors for their time and energy during the year. We also appreciate the support of the North Harris Trust Board and their staff.

Development Officer's Report

Year ending 31st October 2012

The North Harris Trading Company (NHTC) is the wholly-owned subsidiary of the North Harris Trust (NHT). It manages "green" projects on behalf of NHT.

The year to November 2012 has seen NHTC continue to work on renewable energy projects to help build a sustainable income for the Trust. It also continues to operate the North Harris Community Recycling Site.

The Bunavoneader Hydro-electric project stalled this year. The UK Government's review of the Feed in Tariff, the scheme which guarantees payment for electricity generated, caused uncertainty over the earnings of the hydro-scheme. This in turn stopped banks working on projects throughout the country. SSE, the manager of the local electricity grid, then informed us that it was revising its grid connection date to 2015. The Trust's bank changed its lending policy and would no longer lend on hydro schemes. Most of these hurdles have now been overcome; a new grid connection date in 2014 has since been received and work is once again underway to fund the scheme.

In July we had a visit from the CEO of Windflow Technologies. He came from New Zealand to re-affirm his interest in forming a Joint Venture with the Trust to develop the Monan Windfarm. This project has also had to wait for a new grid connection date.

Following on from the partnership with Community Energy Scotland Trading that installed small wind turbines at Scaladale, three further machines were installed in West Tarbert. These are connected to three social housing units, and along with HHP's installation of heat pumps, are contributing to a significant reduction of energy costs for the tenants.

The Trust has started to investigate the possibility of re-developing Huisinis Public Toilets. The first stage of the plan has seen two small wind turbines installed. These are now powering the toilets, with excess electricity being exported to the grid. An application for funding was made to the Investing in Ideas fund to engage an Architect for the project. This was initially rejected, but we have since been successful in gaining funding for a Feasibility Study.

The Westwind turbine at Urgha has not performed as well as forecast this year. Firstly, the company that installed it went into administration at the start of the year. This meant that a number of minor tasks were never completed. Community Energy Scotland then negotiated to return a number of machines to the manufacturer for upgrade. The Urgha machine was decommissioned in May and didn't return for 10 months. This has significantly reduced the Urgha Site profitability.

The North Harris Community Recycling Site has continued to grow. With the withdrawal of Community skips throughout the island, the number of visitors to the site has continued to rise. This year saw further investment in the site, with pallet racking being installed in the shed.

North Harris Trading Company

Company Number: SC275446

The Zero-Carbon Business Unit project took a significant step forward with the award of £32,000 of development funding from Big Lottery. Following the receipt of Planning Permission in May, an Invitation to Tender was advertised to engage an Architectural Team that will see the project through to completion. Rural Design, based on Skye was appointed, and have since progressed the project to a point where we could submit a further Lottery application. The Development Funding has also allowed us to carry out a Community Consultation exercise. This highlighted the need for economic development in North Harris and good support for the project.