

## SMALLEST Case Study Moffat CAN



### Brief description of a community group

**Moffat CAN** is a community-run not-for-profit company and charity, launched in May 2009. Moffat is a small town and rural community. Moffat CAN has 102 members altogether.

Moffat CAN was created broadly to reduce the carbon footprint of Moffat. The organisation decided to implement a renewable energy project as it seeks to take the opportunity to create an exemplar of sustainability for education and awareness purposes; to facilitate a sustainable business for the future; and to mitigate the impact that business has on carbon emissions.

The structure of the project team is as follows: Board of Directors and an operational team of 3-4 people (a mixture of paid and unpaid volunteers funded by the Climate Challenge Fund).

### Contact made with advisory services in the region

Moffat CAN is actively making contacts with many advisory groups in order to exchange knowledge, experience and to allow for cooperation. Moffat CAN approached: International Resources and Recycling Institute, Business Gateway, CRNS, CES, Community Composting Association, Scottish Allotments and Growers Society, Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens, Nourish Local Food Organisation, Carbon Free Food, and other community groups in Bute, Forres, Golspie, Kintyre, Fairleigh.

Moffat CAN is an Associate Member in the SMALLEST project funded by the Northern Periphery Programme

### Examples of particular barriers/challenges in trying to develop the project

Money is always an issue. The challenge of generating enough volume to make a commercially viable entity applies to all renewable energy propositions considered by Moffat CAN. The scale of its ambitions means that the barriers are sometimes proportionally greater. For example, the planned new recycling facility targeted by Moffat CAN must overcome the hurdle of the Dumfries & Galloway Council's commitment to Energy from Waste, which seeks to maximise waste volumes diverted from other forms of recycling.

## Moffat CAN Projects:

### **GROW ALLOT project**



GROW ALLOT explained: Greatly Reduce/Reuse/Recycle Our Waste And Lead Local Organic Trade).

Moffat CAN received an Old Church Depot and Drying Green from the local Council for a nominal sum. The government's Climate Challenge Fund has awarded CAN a grant of £310,000 for the restoration of the building.

The money will be spent on saving the building and making it inhabitable, preparing the land around for allotments and a community market garden, and on creating a sustainable recycling business.

### **Renewable Energy**

The whole operation of Moffat CAN will be based on this building, which will be powered from renewable energy. The plans for renewable energy installation are already in progress, and are judged to be viable. An external panel of leading experts has looked at Moffat CAN's business plan and concluded that it's sustainable and can help create jobs and prepare Upper Annandale for the economy of the future.

### **Freeflow Hydro**



CAN has invited Freeflow Hydro to look at possible micro-hydro electricity generation schemes around the town. Local residents with burns on their land (particularly with a drop of a few metres) are invited to contact Moffat CAN for details.

## Moffat CAN Insulate



Moffat CAN is surveying every house in the town to see whether homes are suitable for extra insulation measures and whether householders can receive free or discounted loft insulation. Local surveyors, trained by the Energy Agency, visit every home to ask detailed questions about home energy use and insulation. The Energy Agency will then collate that information to assess what grants a householder may be eligible for, and to issue a report suggesting ways to reduce fuel bills. The report will contain similar information as in the new Home Energy



Performance Certificate. Every householder who takes part in the survey receives two free low energy light bulbs and have their names entered into a prize draw, with the prize of £200 worth of local shopping vouchers.

Moffat CAN has arranged for the Energy Agency to give a lesson for primary pupils on energy use and energy efficiency to Moffat Primary schoolchildren.

## Moffat CAN Recycle

Moffat CAN collects plastics and aluminium in the town, in two plastics bins at different locations. It can also collect plastics and aluminium directly from households. Moffat CAN recognises that there is a finite supply of resources in the earth and recycling saves energy and carbon, and preserves resources for future generations.



## A Bag is for Life



Moffat CAN is working to reduce plastics waste and litter in the town by introducing a Moffat Bag for Life Project.

Shop-keepers can buy Moffat Bags for Life at £100 per 100, selling on for £1.50 each. The Moffat Ram logo is on one side of the bag - the other has a list of the shops taking part in the scheme. The bag promotes Moffat, and the individual shop.

CAN is also investigating corn starch water/greaseproof bags and Enviropac biodegradable takeaway food containers as an alternative to polystyrene.

Plastic bags create litter in the streets and on trees and bushes, block drains and watercourses. 47% of windborne litter is plastic bags. Plastic bags choke wild (and farm) animals. It has been estimated that a million seabirds, marine creatures and wild animals are choked each year by plastic bag debris. If you switch to a bag for life for a year, rather than plastic bags, you will save 56kg of carbon (Carbon Trust figures).



Membership of the project is free and all members will receive a newsletter telling them about the project's progress.