

Solutions for Microgeneration to Allow Energy Saving Technology Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013

Key facts

Managed by International Resources and Recycling Institute and includes 9 partners from 8 European countries.

Part-funded by the Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013, which helps to create innovative products and services for the benefit of the programme partner countries and Europe as a whole.

The Northern Periphery Programme is itself part of the EU Interreg IVB programme.

Project duration June 2009 to June 2012.

Who SMALLEST can help?

SMALLEST aims to assist small rural communities looking to adopt renewable energy solutions from the Northern Periphery region, which includes Scotland, Northern Ireland, Faroe Islands, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Greenland, Norway, and Ireland.

How can SMALLEST help communities?

SMALLEST offers communities a free advisory service that can:

- help identify optimum microgeneration solutions for renewable energy by integrating with and enhancing existing advisory services
- help to assess planning and commercial capability

- support business modelling solutions relating to renewable energy
- provide access to trained and qualified professional and practical support for renewable energy implementation and maintenance
- provide contact details of existing renewable energy advisory services

Funding opportunities

Scottish communities can benefit from funding available from SMALLEST, Community Energy Scotland, CARES and Big Lottery. In order to accurately assess your needs and available funding options please contact the SMALLEST team on 01382 308517 or Community Energy Scotland on 01349 860120. For funding options in other countries please contact specific SMALLEST partners – details can be found on the back page.

IRRI has new ideas for resource use

International Recycling and Resources Institute is a pioneering organisation which is pushing forward new ideas for resource use by linking creative thinking in the public and private sectors with the questing powers of the academic sector on an international basis. IRRI is dedicated to work against wasting the world's resources.

Working together across Europe

SMALLEST partners met in June 2010 in Scotland to discuss renewable energy activities among communities in North-East Scotland. Partners were introduced to the



CARES programme, run by Community Energy Scotland (CES). CES is a European leader in the renewable energy advisory service it supplies to communities. The meeting resulted in

the development of a standardized support process for communities when converting from traditional energy generation to renewable energy generation.

SMALLEST in Norsjö

The municipality of Norsjö has about 4400 habitants on a surface a little bit bigger than the City of London. Half of the population lives in the town of Norsjö and the rest in small villages.

Forest industry constitutes a large economic base in the region with factories producing timber, stairs, windows, furniture or wood for heating. A lot of the wood biomass is sold to the neighbouring municipalities to generate heat and for the electricity production. The

majority of households in Norsjö are heated with wood, wood-chips or pellets. The three largest hydro-power plants in the municipality produce a total of about 1.3 TWh/year.

During spring 2010 the Municipality of Norsjö visited several communities to discuss the benefits of SMALLEST. As a result we are working with communities from Bastuträsk on a village based heating network. This village has rather high energy needs with a care home, small food business, apartment

buildings and several private houses. The wood biomass would come from the surrounding forests and should generate a win-win solution for local residents and forest owners. The SMALLEST project also commenced an investigation into a farm based biogas plant in Norsjö. Energy produced by the plant will be used for heat and power production of the farm and neighbouring houses. Currently, there are very few small farm based biogas plants in the northern part of Sweden, so the plant would be the first of its kind.



Iceland – famous for its hot springs, geysers and... active volcanoes

Development Centre of East Iceland

East-Iceland is a remote area which faces many of the same challenges as other areas in the Northern Periphery Region. It is thinly populated with an uneven age structure and its inhabitants are spread over a vast landscape. However, unlike many areas of the Northern Periphery Region, there is a surplus of relatively cheap renewable energy sources such as geothermal and hydropower across

Iceland. The majority of communities in East-Iceland benefit from this, but not all can. The SMALLEST project can provide these less fortunate communities with alternative energy options.

With so many natural resources available renewable energy is not constantly on peoples mind in Iceland. However more

and more people are starting to realize the importance of treating our natural resources in more sustainable manner. Through the SMALLEST project we hope to create more awareness among the public and community leaders about the possibilities of renewable energy and stimulating more efficient energy use with future generations in mind.



Action Renewables and the University of Ulster demonstrate that good things come in the 'SMALLEST' packages

Northern Ireland

On the 28th May 2010, SMALLEST project partners Action Renewables and the University of Ulster held a project launch at the Ecos Centre in Ballymena, Northern Ireland. Terry Waugh, Deputy Director of Action Renewables commented: 'In the past, rural communities and organisations have found it difficult to find the guidance and assistance needed to implement energy saving projects

in Northern Ireland'. Derek Bond from the University of Ulster continued: 'By providing training, business advice and information on each of the technologies, the SMALLEST service will address existing barriers, making renewable energy solutions more accessible to all regions of Northern Ireland – no matter how remote.'



We need to have an alternative

Fuglafjørður Municipality, Faroe Islands

In October 2009 a SMALLEST launch event was held in Fuglafjørður in conjunction with the official opening of the Kambsdalur Renewable Energy Centre and in cooperation with the NordSESIL project of Risø National Laboratory in Denmark. Olga Biskopstø, Coordinator at the Association of Outer Islands on the Faroes said: 'The Association and the

Municipality of Skúvoy wants to utilise green energy on the Island of Skúvoy. We don't want to handle oil drums anymore, but we need an alternative.' This fall the Association of Outer Islands and the Municipality of Skúvoy will begin implementing an alternative energy source with active support from the Faroese SMALLEST team.



Training and educating thanks to Inverness College UHI

Scotland

Inverness College UHI recently hosted the first in a series of seminars on all aspects of micro-renewable energy. On Wednesday 21st June at the new Sustainable Energy And Micro-Renewables (SEAM) Centre in Inverness, Colin Sinclair of the Building Research Establishment gave a detailed analysis of the Microgeneration Certification Scheme. Colin was supported by Jimmy Ferguson, of Highland Alternative Energy Limited, in providing an installer's outlook on the scheme. Future events will cover funding mechanisms, retrofitting technology and the Renewable Heat Incentive. SEAM seminars are receiving support from the SMALLEST project and will provide information to installers, home-owners and community leaders to increase their understanding of micro-renewables issues.



SMALLEST in Climate and Energy Programme 2020

North Karelia University of Applied Sciences, Finland

In March 2010 North Karelia University of Applied Sciences (NKUAS) started developing the Climate and Energy Programme 2020 for North Karelia Region. The aim of the Programme is to bring together relevant actors, promote renewable energy and decrease carbon emissions across Finland. NKUAS participates in the Climate and Energy Programme through SMALLEST. The SMALLEST project also assists the Regional Council in arranging informative and interactive seminars with local decision-makers in each its 14 municipalities.

SMALLEST story from Shetland Islands

The Pure Energy Centre (PEC), with their partner Rhesa, are using their experience in renewable energy to help communities in both Shetland and Faroe Isles. Elizabeth Johnson, Business Development Manager of the PURE Energy Centre said: 'Many communities in Shetland have specific renewable projects they are currently pursuing and are able to access skills and resources through PEC and SMALLEST. What has become apparent

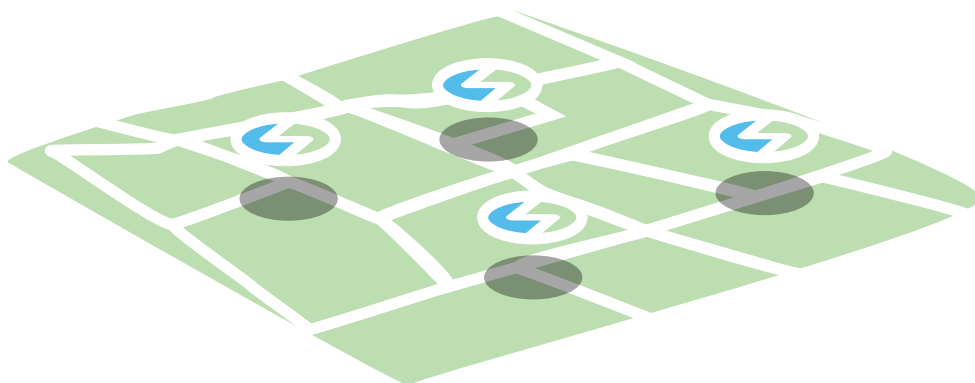
during meetings with community leaders is the need for a strong mentoring service to allow community leaders to gain confidence in planning and progressing renewable energy projects within their communities. One local Shetland community that benefits from SMALLEST is Aith Community Group; the group was recently awarded a grant for a renewable energy project management position in Aith.'



Contact us

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The contact details of partners from other countries are listed below.



Project Partners

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Associate Partners

Quequatta Municipality, Greenland

Runde Environmental Centre, Norway

Upper Eskdale Development Group, Scotland

Moffat CAN, Scotland

Association of Faroese Municipalities, Faroe Islands