

Annual Report

FREDS Marine and Bioenergy Networks

Delivery of the Networks in the first year: 2005-2006

Introduction

This report has been compiled for the funding partners and steering group members of the Marine and Bioenergy Networks, and summarises the work of these Networks on completion of their first year of operation. The document outlines the background to the Networks, their objectives and the work delivered over the first year, before projecting the work programme for the second and third years.

Funding for the three-year programme has been committed by the following organisations:

Scottish Executive:	£10,000 per annum (covers Marine and Biomass)
Highlands and Islands Enterprise:	£10,000 per annum (covers Marine and Biomass)
Confederation of Forest Industries:	£5,000 per annum (covers Biomass only)

Background

In summer 2004 and spring 2005 the Forum for Renewable Energy Development in Scotland (FREDS) published reports on the development of the marine and biomass energy sectors in Scotland.

Both reports create similar responsibilities for Scottish Renewables, namely to establish two networks to aid industry discussion on sector development (in marine and bioenergy).

Scottish Renewables informed the Scottish Executive in March 2005 of how it proposed to take this work forward, and provided a business plan for delivery of these network commitments.

The Business Plan proposed the following key points for delivery of the networks:

- Host quarterly network meetings of key partners.
- Provide regular mailings to network stakeholders on key sector issues
- Act as a focal point for discussion on key issues
- Provide a focal point for feedback to and from the relevant FREDS groups, and an audience for updates on progress of the FREDS work programmes.

The common deliverables of the Networks will be reported on in the next section. However, the two Networks have evolved into different initiatives with distinct aims, objectives and characteristics, and will therefore be reported on separately in this document.



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE



Common Deliverables

The initial programme is due to run for three years, commencing in 2005 and to be reviewed against the key deliverables in 2008. These deliverables are set on an annual basis and reviewed each year. The common deliverables are as follows:

Staff Resource

- *To recruit a dedicated full-time member of staff to manage the delivery of the two Networks and to coordinate with network members.*

Jenny Hogan was appointed in November 2005 as Development Officer (Marine and Bioenergy), employed by Scottish Renewables on behalf of the two Networks, and based in the Scottish Renewables office in Glasgow. Her time is split equally between the two Networks.

Ms Hogan will be leaving Scottish Renewables in February 2007. Scottish Renewables is now actively recruiting for a replacement and hopes to have someone in place by the Spring of 2007.

Quarterly Meetings

- *For each Network hold four meetings per year of key partners.*

These meetings involve key agencies and groups involved in these sectors to interface with industry representatives in discussion of relevant issues. Industry representatives were mostly selected from Scottish Renewables' membership.

At these meetings, discussion on key development issues is facilitated, with the Development Officer acting as secretariat for these groups, and coordinating delivery of key actions/agreements from the groups. The meetings have been productive, aiding communication between key stakeholders from a range of sectors, and resulting in a number of actions which have been progressed.

Network Open Meetings/Seminars

- *Hold one meeting of both groups annually.*

Scottish Renewables has organised and run two annual seminars both for the marine and bioenergy sectors since November 2005, helping to promote the work of the Networks, and communicate key issues to other industry players and organisations on developments within the sectors. These events have been very successful and well received by delegates.

Network Bulletins

- *To produce bulletins for each Network twice per year that will be sent to all interested participants. These Bulletins will update stakeholders on the latest industry and policy developments within the biomass and marine energy sectors.*

The Bioenergy Network has received two formal bulletins in addition to ad hoc email briefings. The Marine Energy Network has received one formal bulletin, in addition to ad hoc email briefings. This has been due to a delayed start in establishing the work programme and considerable work pressures over the year. However, additional actions as set by the steering group have been undertaken, providing value to the Network through other measures. These are detailed in the subsequent sections.

Network Reports

- *To produce one annual report detailing the work and achievements of each network group to funding partners and interested parties.*

This document is the first annual report submitted to funding partners and steering group members. It will be available on the Scottish Renewables website for other interested parties to access.

Scottish Bioenergy Network

As recommended by FREDS, the Bioenergy Network aims to coordinate activities and bring together those working in both the supply and the demand sides, including the responsible public sector agencies, facilitating links between suppliers, processors and generators. FREDS' Biomass Energy Group (BEG) suggested that the Network oversee the development of comprehensive data and advice and coordinate with groups aiming to deliver that advice. It also aims to identify gaps and opportunities within the sector to be developed, and implement actions (or advise on other appropriate organisations to implement actions).

Clear links have now been established between the Forestry Commission Scotland and the Bioenergy Network, and indeed FCS is represented on the Network steering group.

Steering Group

The steering group was established at the end of 2005, and meets quarterly to discuss key development issues and deliver actions and agreements. The group consists of representatives from Scottish Renewables (Co-Chair), ConFor (Co-Chair), NFU Scotland, Forestry Commission Scotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Executive and an industry representative.

The group agreed to include biomass and biofuels from forest, agricultural and 'waste' materials for the generation of heat, electricity, CHP and transport fuels within its remit.

The group also agreed it was adequately representative of both public and private sector interests and of a range of different interests within the bioenergy sphere. The industry viewpoint is represented by Fergus Tickell of Northern Energy Developments, as well as Scottish Renewables, ConFor and NFUS. These organisations bring to the group knowledge and experience in the areas of wood fuel, energy crops, biofuels, electricity, heat, project development and the forestry and agricultural supply chain.

Additional organisations were identified by the group as potentially important contributors to the sector's development, such as SEPA, Cosla, Communities Scotland and the Energy Saving Trust. However, in order to keep the group size manageable, it was agreed that representatives from additional organisations would be invited to individual meetings as and when relevant matters arise. In the meantime, the existing group members would act as conduits between the steering group and those organisations.

Work Programme in 2005-6

The first annual Bioenergy Seminar, hosted by Scottish Renewables, officially launched the Network in February 2006 and included a broad range of speakers covering all sectors within the bioenergy field. The second seminar, held in November 2006, focussed on heat from biomass, and received extremely positive feedback from

delegates. Both events have helped inform and progress the debate on bioenergy in Scotland, facilitating industry coordination and engagement on policy matters.

Network Outcomes

As well as aiding communication between key stakeholders, and in addition to the Network's core deliverables, the group meetings have resulted in the production of the following resources:

- Network mailing list comprising all stakeholders with an interest in bioenergy in Scotland
- Map/diagram showing the organisations and initiatives that affect, or are involved in, bioenergy in Scotland. This provides an overview of the sector and helps identify gaps and opportunities.
- Briefing paper on planning and grid issues relating to bioenergy projects
- Bioenergy Projects Survey. The results detail all biomass projects in Scotland that may be eligible for funding under the Scottish Biomass Support Scheme. It also includes information on barriers to development, and recommended solutions.

Scottish Marine Energy Network

As recommended by FREDS, the Marine Energy Network is industry-led and aims to coordinate learning and information sharing and act as a source of expert advice and information. According to the FREDS recommendations, the Network should balance the need for coordination with the growing importance of industry representation, including the hosting of a major annual conference on marine energy.

Scottish Renewables already has a strong alliance with the British Wind Energy Association, ensuring a coordinated approach to the representation of wave and tidal energy across the UK. Membership of the Scottish Coastal Forum ensures Scottish Renewables maintains communications and coordination with a variety of marine stakeholders.

Through the Network in particular, Scottish Renewables has also established clear links with the Crown Estate, the Enterprise agencies and a number of key marine stakeholders including the Scottish Fisherman's Federation, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, the Ministry of Defence, the British Marine Federation, SEPA and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Steering Group

Scottish Renewables' Marine Group, made up of industry experts from its membership, acts as the steering group for the Network. Both Highlands & Islands Enterprise and Scottish Enterprise attend the occasional meeting, and will continue to be invited to meetings whenever relevant issues arise.

Work Programme

The Network was established in November 2005, coinciding with the first annual Marine Energy seminar, hosted by Scottish Renewables. A second seminar was held in November 2006, both of which were extremely successful and received very positive feedback from delegates.

In addition to the annual seminars, smaller, free events were held targeting a range of marine stakeholders. The first, took place in January 2006 in Glasgow, with the aim of briefing stakeholders from a broad spectrum of marine sectors on wave and tidal energy. A presentation was delivered explaining the range of marine energy devices, the optimum areas around Scotland for project development, and the projected growth of the industry up to 2020. This was followed by an open, panel-led discussion on issues relating to the interaction of marine energy projects, other sea users and the marine environment.

A second stakeholder event was held in November 2006 in Dundee, focussing on 'Other Users of the Sea'. With a similar format, this allowed further discussion between stakeholders on the likely effect of marine energy on defence activities, navigation, safety, fishing, leisure, etc.

Both events were very well attended and received, resulting in strong interest in future events of this kind. Presentations and summaries of the discussions are made available to stakeholders by email and on the Scottish Renewables website.

Work Programme for 2007

Following discussions within the Network steering groups, and the completion of the above deliverables in 2005-6, Scottish Renewables proposes the following work programme for the Networks in 2007, in addition to any other actions agreed by the Network steering groups.

- **Hold quarterly meetings of the Network steering groups** – to coordinate activities, aid communication, identify gaps and opportunities in the sector, and agree actions
- **Hold an Annual Seminar** – for each sector to facilitate networking among stakeholders, promote the work of the Network, and communicate key issues to other industry players and organisations on developments within the sector
- **Produce regular bulletins** – on a 6-monthly basis informing Network stakeholders of policy updates, project developments, events, initiatives and other key sector issues.
- **Produce a Network Report** – at the end of the year detailing the work and achievements of the Networks, and proposed work programme for the following year, to funding partners and interested parties.
- **Create a Networks website** – for each sector as a micro-site of the Scottish Renewables website. This will feature information about the Networks, key publications, meeting minutes, an events diary, links to other important websites and any other information as agreed by the steering groups.

A detailed schedule of the work programme for both Networks is provided in the Appendix.

