

ALIENERGY

Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

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 A Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in Scotland (SC211429) and recognised as a Scottish Charity (SCO32495)

ALIenergy is a sustainable energy charity based in Argyll and Bute, Scotland. It was established in 2000 by Argyll and Bute Council under the EU 'SAVE' programme. Part of a network of energy agencies across Europe, ALIenergy's aims are:

- To help people with fuel poverty and energy efficiency issues
- To encourage community renewables and local energy economy
- To reduce carbon emissions and mitigate climate change.

ALIenergy was incorporated on 27th September 2000 (SC SC211429) and achieved charitable status on 15th January 2001 (SCO32495). To date the charity has been largely dependent on grant income. In the past, Argyll and Bute Council provided some core funding. This ended in 2017, but Council continues to give various in-kind help, such as payroll services.

A small amount of core funding is provided through the Argyll Wind Farm Trust from the SSE Tangy 2 windfarm development. This underpins a range of charitable activities and is typically between £5k and £10k per year. ALIenergy's annual turnover is currently around £400k.

In July 2017 a wholly owned trading subsidiary was created, ALIenergy Ltd. Its aim is to create income to support the aims of the parent charity. The trading subsidiary was incorporated on 21st July 2017 (SC571709). Currently one project is being run through the subsidiary.

We currently have a staff team of 11 working on a range of projects in three areas:

- Renewable Energy and Local Energy Economy
- Education and Skills Development
- Affordable Warmth

Staff team

Dr Lynda Mitchell - Manager	Rachel McNicol – Deputy Manager
Dr Carole Shellcock – Projects and Business Development Officer; Local Energy	Tara Livornese – Affordable Warmth Team Leader
	Jenny McLeish – Affordable Warmth
Richard Airlie Gilbert – Finance Manager	Georgie Thomas – Affordable Warmth
Gemma MacDonald – Finance Officer	Katie Evamy – Affordable Warmth; Education; Local Energy
Cynthia Carswell – Office Manager	Michael Wall – Affordable Warmth; Education

Current and Recent Projects and Activities

Renewable Energy and Local Energy Economy

Algal Solutions for Local Energy Economies (ASLEE) is a collaborative project between ALLenergy, systems manufacturer Xanthella and six other organisations: Woodlands Renewables, Ardnamurchan; the University of Stirling's Marine Environment Research Laboratory, Machrihanish; FAI Aquaculture, Ardtoe; VCharge UK; University of the West of Scotland; and Wood. The project is developing the use of modular photobioreactors with submerged LED lighting as a transactive load and demand side management tool in the manufacture of algal products using intermittent electricity from local renewable energy. The algal products are intended for use in the local aquaculture sector as feedstocks for oysters, wrasse and salmon. The ASLEE project is funded by the Scottish Government's Local Energy Challenge Fund and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

ENBIO (Energy Bioeconomy Project) – here we take the ASLEE concept one step further by focussing on the circular economy aspects of the model: investigating the use of local waste streams of nutrients (eg from agriculture, aquaculture or distilleries) and carbon dioxide (eg from fermentation or combustion processes) as feedstocks in the algal photobioreactors; and producing human nutraceuticals rich in essential omega-3 oils (Chlorella, Spirulina). ENBIO involves ASLEE partners Xanthella, ALLenergy and Woodlands Renewables and is funded by Zero Waste Scotland.

GeoAtlantic (funded by ERDF Interreg Atlantic Area) – this project is investigating geothermal energy potential around the Atlantic coast of Europe. The GeoAtlantic project aims to encourage transition away from fossil fuel dependence; promote the use of renewable energy from the ground; and facilitate uptake of geothermal energy or ground source heat technologies. The project will improve knowledge, develop skills, facilitate technology transfer and new business, and provide funding for a demonstration project in each region. ALLenergy is one of 12 European partner organisations across Spain, Portugal, France, Ireland, England and Scotland.

COBEN (Community Benefits in Civic Energy) - ALLenergy succeeded in putting forward Oban as one of four local communities in the HIE area which have been selected through the COBEN project for the development and implementation of a pilot Local Energy Plan, investigating supply, demand and future potential and including electricity, heat and transport. The Plan is now complete and ALLenergy is currently carrying out community engagement work for this project in Oban.

LEO (Local Energy Oban) – ALLenergy has permission from SSE for an 850 kW grid connection at Moleigh, Oban. The Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) Infrastructure and Innovation Fund (IIF) is providing funding for an options appraisal, being carried out by Ricardo Energy and Environment, to assess different potential options for energy generation, storage, grid balancing, local ownership and local energy use, ensuring maximum local benefit.

Argyll Woodfuel Forum - ALLenergy established and provides Secretariat for Argyll Woodfuel Forum, funded by Forestry Commission Scotland. This project aims to encourage the use of local woodfuel for sustainable renewable heating. Activities include organisation of events and site visits; marketing and distribution of relevant updates and information to interested parties; keeping a database of biomass projects in Argyll and being the key contact point for woodfuel related advice queries in Argyll.

REScoop202020 - The REScoop202020 project (funded by Intelligent Energy Europe) focussed on encouragement and social acceptance of community ownership of renewable projects of all types – cooperative models; examples of shared ownership; community benefits; and knowledge exchange between different European countries. This project is now complete but a legacy has been the establishment of the European Federation of Renewable Energy Cooperatives (REScoop.eu), of which ALLenergy is an associate member - this active network enables continuing involvement and collaboration with a wide variety of European community energy projects and initiatives.

Affordable Warmth

Affordable Warmth for Sustainable Rural Communities project (funded by Big Lottery) provides in-depth energy advice and targeted support to the most vulnerable low income households throughout Argyll. Home energy advice visits are offered along with income maximisation services. Clients are monitored over time and revisited where necessary to ensure that best outcomes are achieved. Training is provided for staff and volunteers who work with the target group to enable them to recognise people in fuel poverty and refer them on to ALIenergy for further assistance.

Money Skills Argyll is a partnership project coordinated by Argyll and Bute Council involving eight local advice providers. Its focus is on achieving an increase in disadvantaged participants with improved money management skills; and a decrease in disadvantaged participants affected by debt as a barrier to social inclusion, using an integrated, multi-agency approach. ALIenergy's affordable warmth team offers home energy visits and provides advice on fuel poverty issues. The project is funded by the European Social Fund, Scottish Government and the Big Lottery Fund.

Young Carers project (funded by Energy Action Scotland) - The target group identified for this project are care leavers and young carers, and the local agencies and organisations who support them. It offers a bespoke energy saving toolkit of energy saving items to young carers and care leavers in Argyll and Bute, as well as providing advice/support, mentoring and awareness raising. The project targets young people who are the main users of energy or manage their energy bills in their homes, either because they live on their own or because they are carers for family member(s).

Affordable Warmth for Health Project, funded by British Gas Energy Trust, was recently completed. The purpose of this project was to forge links between health professionals and the work of ALIenergy's Affordable Warmth Team. Fuel poverty is a proven cause of health issues. Thus, it would make sense for home energy efficiency considerations to be incorporated into the Care Plans for vulnerable patients where the patient's home may not be conducive to good health. The project sought to establish a referrals system to reach vulnerable people who have become socially isolated through fuel poverty and ill health and may be unlikely to take the initiative to seek support for home energy efficiency issues or fuel debt.

Digital Energy Advice in Argyll and Bute, funded by Scotland's Digital Participation Charter, aims to enhance the digital aspects of our activities and promote digital upskilling in our organisation. Through this project, advisors now use tablets during house visits to carry out activities online. All staff members are developing their digital skills. We launched an Instagram account- ali_energy_insta- showcasing photos from our day to day travels across Argyll and Bute, and #argyllenergyhour on Twitter, an opportunity to discuss energy matters across Argyll and Bute, every Friday morning 10-11am.

Education and Skills Development

Bright Sparks: ALIenergy's Education and Skills Development Programme is funded by Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) Beinn an Tuirc Community Benefit Fund of which ALIenergy is receiving the 40% 'Regional Tranche'. The steering group includes ALIenergy, SPR and Argyll and Bute Council. This project encourages and facilitates young people to seek careers in the renewable energy sector, providing events, workshops and careers advice for schools and communities, particularly in the areas of Mid Argyll and the Kintyre Peninsula.