



Highland Eco-Congregation Network
22nd April 2015, 7.30 – 9.00pm
Cromarty West Church
Note of Meeting

Present: Archie McTaggart Cromarty West Parish Church
Anne Thomas Hilton Church, Inverness
Julie Gibson Inverness Quakers
Seonaid McLaren Abernethy Parish Church
Alice Allan Kilmorack and Erchless Church, Beaulieu
Margaret Warnock Eco-Congregation Scotland

Apologies: Richard Mansfield Barn Church, Culloden
Fiona Smith)
Clare McLean) Ness Bank Church, Inverness
Shina Grant)
Iain Macdonald Trinity Church, Inverness

1. Air Source Heat Pumps at Cromarty West

Archie explained how the congregation had decided to install air source heat (ASH) pumps* to heat their large church building, which is now used by only a small congregation. The church halls also have heat pumps and are used by a variety of community and church groups.

* for further information about ASH pumps see:

<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/domestic/air-source-heat-pumps>

The congregation previously relied entirely on an expensive-to-run oil fired system. The move to ASH pumps was partly motivated by a period on winter when the oil fired system was left on for a week by mistake. The tank was emptied (at huge cost) and it proved impossible to get further oil for the following two weeks.

The congregation fortuitously received a visit from a salesman at this time who guided them through registering for the Feed in Tariff (FiT) that was then available and the process of installing the ASH pump units. NB The building is not listed but planning permission was still required.

An update of the electrical systems was also needed for the installation and so the church took the opportunity to rewire the whole building.

The total cost was £30,000. In the winter the oil fired system is still used for one hour before services but, with this addition, the ASH pump system provides a comfortable heat throughout the church buildings at much reduced costs.

All ceilings were also insulated and windows double glazed

The system was installed in 2012 and heating costs have reduced as follows (variations mostly due to the degree of severity of the winters:

2010 - £2,585
2011 - £2,770
2012 - £ 858
2013 - £1,075
2014 - £ 986

Annual servicing is carried out by Black Isle Renewables.

No grants were used to carry out the ASH work and the FITs payments are likely to be substantially reduced by January 2016. The system may also be eligible for Renewable Heat Incentive payments (see <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/renewable-heat-incentive>)

2. News from Eco-Congregation

The Local Networks Seminar will take place Saturday 26th September in Dunblane. It is obviously difficult for members of the Highland network to attend but a full report of the day will be made available on the ECS website.

Climate Justice Baton was launched at the Annual Gathering and will travel through Scottish Churches from April until it is taken to Paris for the UN Summit. The Baton bears the message: "Time for Climate Justice: Churches in Scotland Demand a Deal in Paris December 2015".

See <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/get-involved/events/baton-relay/> .

3. Programme 2015 -16

Monday 18th April 2016 – visit to Barn Church Culloden.

It was also suggested that we invite the Rev Trevor Jamison, Environmental Chaplain to ECS, to a meeting and ask him to talk about the biblical concept of "Dominion".

There was also a suggestion that we try to link to more remote congregations using skype or video links.

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