



Esk Energy (Yorkshire) Limited

Annual Report: April 2012 - March 2013

2012-13 saw the culmination of years of hard work with the installation and commissioning of the Whitby Esk Energy turbine – Eureka! We are grateful for the financial and moral support from our shareholders and other funders: North York Moors National Park Sustainable Development Fund, North Yorkshire County Council Community Fund, Key Fund, CO2Sense and Naturesave. We have benefited greatly from the support provided by the Co-operative Enterprise Hub.

Construction

May 2012 saw the start of construction leading to the commissioning and exporting of electricity to the national grid from the 12th December 2012. Construction was made more difficult due to the second wettest summer on record.

Generation

Since commissioning, up to the end of March 2013, we exported 40,120 kWh of electricity which was sold to Co-operative Energy. Due to a brake failure this is not as high as we would have hoped but our insurance will cover the loss of revenue during this period. We are also still working with the contractor to achieve the design output of 50kW. The contractor has identified that the design output is not being met mainly due to an unexpectedly high head loss at the inlet and outlet.

Feed-in-Tariff

Ofgem are still considering our application to the Feed-in-Tariff scheme due to the complexity of our funding and changes to rules during the pre-construction phase.

Working with local residents

We have responded positively to comments and complaints from local residents with regards to noise and the visual aspect of the site as issues have arisen. Tree planting was undertaken with the help of some of the shareholders and other supporters. To help minimise the visual impact of the concrete and kiosks, plans were put in place to paint these brown as soon as weather conditions permitted.

Working with the fishing community

We have actively supported a forum hosted by the North York Moors National Park Authority with the Environment Agency and the River Esk Action Committee to ensure appropriate monitoring is undertaken to ensure that fish are not adversely affected by the operation of the turbine.

Working with other community hydro groups

Esk Energy is a member of a community hydro forum and share lessons learnt with other community groups.

Shareholders

We now have 104 shareholders, with a total of over £160,000 raised through the share issue. Once we have been trading for four months we will be able to apply to the Enterprise Investment Scheme on behalf of shareholders which will allow some people to claim tax relief.

The project team

During the year, the Whitby Esk Energy project team consisted of the Directors: Andrew Maisey, Colin Mather, Mike Ford and Sarah Stead supported by Caryn Loftus, Debbie Trebilco, Geoff Banner, Mike Loftus, Peter Jones, Steve Smith and Stephen Larkin.

Milestones in 2012-13

May 2012

- Work starts on site
- TV presenter Adrian Pitches visits site to mark start of construction
- [Article in The Guardian online](#)



July 2012

- Work on site despite the second wettest year on record.

September 2012

- Turbine arrived on site in September.



November 2012

- Competition for children at Ruswarp Primary School to name the turbine. The winning name Eureka! was suggested by Katie Simpson and Tizzy Bridge.

December 2012

- The turbine was commissioned and generation started on the 12th December 2012 (12/12/12).

The next twelve months

Working to reduce losses in order to increase the maximum output and annual output.