

Forum for Renewable Energy Development NI – 17th Feb 2011

In Attendance: Connaire McGreevy (Rozell Renewables), John Kinney (Glantek Alliance), , Christine Hutton (Rural Generation), Leanne Breen (Action Renewables), Rowena McCappin (Dimplex), Ursula Toman (NI Energy Agency), Stephen Dunn (SDS Energy), Mark Compston (Kingspan), Enrique Lopez (Kedco NI), Willie Donaghy (Smartgrid Ireland), Chris Williamson (UFU) – sorry if anybody has been omitted

Apologies: Gwyneth Compston (NIE Energy), Paul Entwistle (Balcas), Eamon Connolly (Sipfit)

1.0 Chair opened the meeting

2.0 DETI Committee Report into barriers to the Development of Renewable Energy Production and its associated contribution to the NI Economy

The Report was officially launched on Thursday 17th Feb in Stormont

For those of you who couldn't attend the launch and didn't get a copy of the report please access it at

http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/enterprise/2007mandate/reports/2010/Report_14_10_11R_v1.htm

FREDNI need to give feedback on the Report

Action FREDNI Executive Committee to pull together the feedback from the FREDNI members. WE ARE CALLING ON FREDNI MEMBERS TO GIVE US THEIR FEEDBACK ON THE REPORT URGENTLY – PLEASE SEND IT TO rowena.mccappin@dimplexrenewables.com
THANKS

3.0 RHI in NI

Chair advised that the written question posed to the NI Assembly by FREDNI on the RHI will be answered orally on the 1st March. We then have the opportunity to revert with a second question should we feel necessary. Chair also advised that he has had confirmation that there is £25M available for the launch of an NI RHI. An economic Impact Assessment should be complete by April 2011 and consultation will begin in June 2011 and run for 12 weeks. The RHI should be implemented by the end of 2011. The challenge for the NI Government will be the long term financing of this scheme.

4.0 Invest Northern Ireland

Chair advised that the meeting with Invest NI on the 14th February was positive. Invest NI were delighted to see the formation of an Industry led body for the Renewables Sector in NI. They commented that it is not easy for them to interact currently with the Renewables Sector in NI due to the number of various bodies and associations all representing different interests. They would welcome one unique voice representing the sector from FREDNI.

INI commented that they saw the Renewables sector as a way of getting NI out of recession. Connaire McGreevy will have a follow up meeting with Olive Hill (INI) and DETI in the near future.

FREDNI needs to be prepared for this meeting with more facts and figures e.g. possible job creation in the Renewables Sector.

Action FREDNI executive committee to pull together this info. WE ARE CALLING ON FREDNI MEMBERS TO SEND ANY SUPPORTING INFO THEY MAY HAVE TO rowena.mccappin@dimplexrenewables.com ASAP - THANKS

INI have been invited to join FREDNI

5.0 DARD

Chair advised that the meeting with the DARD committee on the 8th February was also positive. Planning and Grid Connection issues were discussed. DARD has invited NIE to orally discuss these issues.

Action FREDNI executive committee – pull together more facts and figures and European case studies on how farmers can boost their income by diversifying from only food production to for example energy production. WE ARE CALLING ON FREDNI MEMBERS TO SEND ANY SUPPORTING INFO THEY MAY HAVE TO rowena.mccappin@dimplexrenewables.com ASAP – THANKS

6.0 NIE

It was agreed that a meeting should be requested with NIE

Action: **Action FREDNI executive committee**

7.0 Development of FREDNI

It was agreed that we should contact other key players in the Sector in NI to invite them to join us – such as BENI (Biomass Energy NI).

Action FREDNI executive committee to pull together this info. WE ARE CALLING ON FREDNI MEMBERS TO ADVISE ASAP ON ANY OTHER BODIES / ASSOCIATIONS / COMPANIES THEY FEEL SHOULD BE INVITED TO JOIN TO rowena.mccappin@dimplexrenewables.com THANKS

Once we have as many members as possible, it was agreed that we should take a step back and focus on our manifesto, agenda and message before we proceed any further.

It was also agreed that a position for a Renewables transport coordinator be opened.

8.0 Sub Group Meetings

Chair requested that the three sub groups should meet as soon as possible

9.0 Smart Grid Ireland

Willie Donaghy from SGI gave a brief introduction to Smart Grid Ireland. Please see supporting PDF presentation.

Willie advised of the 'Smart Devices & solutions make smart homes' event taking place in Antrim on the 15th March. Please see e-mail from Willie sent to you on 18th Feb.

Willie accepted an invitation from Connaire McGreevy, seconded by John Kinney to join the FREDNI Executive

10.0 Next meeting will take place 21ST April – time to be confirmed