

## **Minutes of POFRE Planning Group, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

**Present: Nigel Moore (Chairman), Eric Long , Connor Maguire, Cathal Ellis and David Trimble**

**Apologies: Chris Osborne, Terence Patton and Linda Walsh. (Also Gareth Gormley and Christopher Johnston at the last minute due to the weather conditions.)**

### **1. . Seminars programme and speakers**

The programme has been printed and the remaining issue was to identify a farm biogas case study. (Since the meeting Donald Montgomery has agreed to take the case study)

Chairpersons proposed for the seminars are as follows:

Energy storage	Eric Long
Wind power	Gareth Gormley at 4.00 pm Charlie Kilpatrick at 7.00 pm
Grid connection	Eric Long
ROCs	Gareth Gormley
Finance	UFU
GHG's	Peter Scott
RHI	Terence Patton
Planning	Seamus McAlinney

### **2. Trade Exhibition**

30 exhibitors have confirmed their bookings, leaving space for 10 more.  
**Action: C Ellis** is to circulate the list to team members for consideration.

### **3. Tours**

Two tours will run immediately after the Heat from Biomass seminars with an additional one scheduled at 4.30 pm.

### **4. Publicity**

There has been good press coverage already with more articles in the pipe-line. Farm Week will do a feature on w/e 14<sup>th</sup> February and efforts will be made to get the full seminar programme in all the papers.

The local press and radio interviews are priority areas.

**Action: C Maguire** to liaise with the local press.

**Action: N Moore** to contact the Press Office re radio interviews.

**Action: C Osborne** to arrange for the UFU text alerts to members.

## **5. Programme plan**

**Action: D Trimble** to forward the number of people requiring an evening meal to C Maguire.

Additional signage will be needed due to the new layout. **Action: C Maguire.**

**Action: D Trimble** to write to the seminar speakers and include a request that they review their presentation for the seminar.

## **6. Facilities**

A revised risk assessment will be required for the new layout. **Action: C Ellis.**

A site plan should be on display in the entrance foyer to show visitors the locations of the seminars and the trade exhibition. **Action: C Maguire.**

## **7. Evaluation of the event**

**G Gormley** is to draft the visitor evaluation form and recruit the team to carry out the face to face exit interviews. In addition Gareth suggested also using Survey Monkey as a pilot to obtain additional feedback. This was agreed, with the proviso that it would need to be carried out immediately after the event.

## **8. Date of next meeting**

This will be on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 2.00 pm** in the Manor Suite on Greenmount Campus.

**The Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive 2015**

Cathal Ellis, Renewable Energy Technologist, CAFRE, Greenmount Campus

Since the Renewable Heat Incentive, (RHI) was launched in November 2012, there has been a significant interest in renewable heat technologies, particularly Biomass Heating by farmers. Many within the poultry sector have made the conversion from gas-based heating to water based biomass heating systems. Most have found not only a saving in energy costs, plus the value of the RHI payment which can be as much as £10,000 per house, but also an improvement in bird health conditions due to the nature of heat distribution using a water based system. The majority of installations will be paid back within three years.

DETI are currently looking at expanding the RHI scheme to include Air Source Heat Pumps, Bioliquids, heat only biomass above 1MW, Combined heat and power from biomass or Bioliquids, biomass direct air and deep geothermal. It is also proposed to simplify procedures relating to metering and to introduce an 'uplift' tariff for biomass district heating schemes. Whilst still at the proposal stage it is anticipated that consideration and finalising of amendments will be undertaken during 2015.

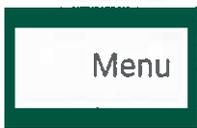
CAFRE are currently undergoing RHI accreditation for their 300kW woodchip boiler at Enniskillen Campus. To gain experience of the available options, accreditation at Enniskillen Campus will be carried out using metering and heat loss calculations. Further accreditation for new wood pellet boilers recently installed at Loughry Campus, Cookstown will be carried out on the basis of metering only.

The current proposals for the RHI and progress with accreditation will be discussed during the Practical On-farm Renewable Energy Event being held at Enniskillen Campus on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February from 1pm. As in previous years, the event includes a trade show with over 40 stands, plus seminars on Renewable Energy Technologies and Issues with Renewable Energy Installations. Attendance is free and pre-booking is not required.

For further details contact Connor Maguire at 028 6634 4853 or [connor.maguire@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:connor.maguire@dardni.gov.uk)

Caption for Photograph:

Cathal Ellis discussing the Renewable Heat Incentive with..... at the new Food Incubation Centre Energy Cabin at Loughry Campus, Cookstown.



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# Introduction to Renewable Energy seminars February 2015

Date published: 27 January 2015

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Notice of Renewable Energy seminars February 2015.

## Documents



[Introduction to Renewable Energy seminars February 2015](#)

Word (14 KB) ([https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/can-renewable-](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/can-renewable-technologies-save-you-money-press-release-27012015.docx)

[technologies-save-you-money-press-release-27012015.docx](#))

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## Can Renewable Energy Technologies save you money?

Garrett O'Sullivan – Renewable Energy Technologist (CAFRE)

In recent years much has been written on the need to diversify our energy use away from fossil fuels to renewable energy technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The question for many, however, is what impact could it have on my business? Will it save me money?

The College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) is running a series of workshops to introduce farmers and growers to renewable energy technologies. The workshops are aimed at those who wish to know more about existing and emerging renewable energy technologies.

The workshops will cover the potential benefits of the technologies for your business including:-

- Payback on a renewable energy investment
- Financial support available for each of the technologies
- Grant funding including Renewable Heat Incentive and Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs)

The technologies covered include:

- Biomass heating systems, Solar PV and hot water systems, Wind power and Heat Pumps

The seminars will be held on the following dates

<b>Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Strabane</b>
<b>Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Coleraine</b>
<b>Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Downpatrick</b>
<b>Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Dungannon</b>

**All seminars begin at 7:45pm**

To book a place at one of the workshops, please contact Greenmount Technology Admin on 028 9442 6770, or [denise.andrews@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:denise.andrews@dardni.gov.uk). For further information speak to Garrett O'Sullivan on 028 9442 6869 or [garrett.osullivan@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:garrett.osullivan@dardni.gov.uk).

Note the full range of renewable energy technologies will be covered at the Practical On-farm Renewable Energy event on Enniskillen Campus on Wednesday 18 February, running from 1.00 to 9.00 pm

*Photo Caption:* Learn about the potential of renewable energy technologies at a series of Introductory Workshops run by CAFRE in February.