



Conor Murphy <conormurphysf@gmail.com>

FW: Renewable Heat Incentive Debate

1 message

Máirtín Ó <mairtin@newbelfast.com>
To: Conor Murphy <conormurphysf@gmail.com>

Thu, Feb 11, 2016 at 3:28 PM

Mar eolas. Mairtin
Máirtín Ó Muilleoir CTR

From: "aisling@torrentcomplex.co.uk"
Date: Déardaoin 11 Feabhra 2016 14:20
To: Mairtin O Muilleoir
Subject: RE: Renewable Heat Incentive Debate

Dear Mairtin

Thank you very much for returning my call. As per our discussion I have detailed our situation below:

I represent Donaghmore District Community Association (outside Dungannon) who manage the rural community hub called Torrent Complex. www.torrentcomplex.co.uk.
Our annual footfall is 250,000 - more than most of our council ran facilities in Mid Ulster Council area. Our demographic is massive. We have pre-birth to post life projects and everything in between for all ages. The NI disabled Basketball team use our site for training. We are fully inclusive and provide a much needed service to our rural community, surrounding hinterland as well as the wider province for disabled sports.

The council invest £2,500 annually for core costs - this is a tiny drop in the ocean of costs. Every conference I attend they seem to think the 3rd sector will pick up the slack from where there budget cuts are reducing services - how can we do this without financial investment?

In March 2015 when the RHI was launched, as a community and voluntary organisation we saw an opportunity to both help the environment as well as establishing a sustainable small financial annual income for our community that we can reinvest to support our growing responsibilities. Strategically we worked as a community to fund the purchase of the equipment and expensive enabling works on site. As a community/ voluntary organisation supporting over 26 other smaller community groups an a vast footfall with no funding support from any government department or agency, this was not an easy task. We successfully applied to the Carbon Trust for a loan to help us which is valid until March 31st which coincided with the projected closure date for the Renewable Heat Incentive.

We are appalled that DETI can decide over night to disband the RHI - where is the exit strategy in this, why are they not honouring the March 31st date they set and that we were working towards? Our community had to work strategically to enable this project adhering to the projected closure date.

Who will reimburse our expenses; non refundable deposit for equipment? site works including expensive shuttering? Time spent on applications to the Carbon Trust, design time for the site works?

We made a conscious commitment to the future sustainability to our community and users to evolve along with demands we face and the annual RHI was earmarked to enable us to do this.

We are not the stereotypical Wood Pellet user that the press and DETI have referred to. The Assembly cannot forget about us and the repercussions of the decision they make on Monday at the debate to groups like us.

I can't literate my anger and disbelief

I can only hope that common sense prevails on Monday and the 31st March deadline is reinstated. If there is any further information you require my details are below.

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Kind Regards

Received from Conor Murphy on 08/05/17
Annotated by RHI Inquiry

Aisling Brady
TVI Community Development Manager

T:  Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry