

Press Release

Date: May 2008

Subject: Opening of Inverbain hydro scheme

Pupils to learn about sustainable renewable energy

Schoolchildren were given an insight into the workings of sustainable energy with a series of fun interactive workshops.

npower renewables and its education partner, independent charity CREATE (Centre for Research, Research, Education and Training in Energy) invited pupils from Shildaig, Torridon, Kinlochewe and Applecross Primary Schools to take part in a programme of events aimed at educating young people about climate change, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The visit coincided with the official opening of the nearby npower renewables Inverbain Hydro Scheme on Thursday May 22. The scheme is capable of generating around one megawatt (MW) of clean electricity, which is enough to supply the domestic needs of up to 900 households.

Sandy Carter of CREATE said: "The programme gets pupils to think about climate change and how it is affecting others worldwide, as well as investigating the power of the wind, water and sun as renewable energy sources. The feedback we get from the schools is always very positive and we also suggest to teachers ideas of activities they could do with the children to take it forward."

The students, aged 6-11 years, learned about how other children across the world are affected by the onset of climate change, from sea levels rising in the Maldives to ice melting in Greenland, and actions we can do to slow down its impact.

The children will also be given the opportunity to visit the scheme. The scheme, which was completed in 2005, boosts npower renewables' hydro profile to ten operational sites in Scotland, with a total output of around 15 MW, and a further two in development.

Inverbain project manager Andy Clayton said: "Inverbain has been a very successful scheme, we have worked closely with the local community from the initial stages and we would like to thank them for being supportive during construction. We look forward to continuing to be a part of this community for as long as the scheme is in operation.

"This is our tenth scheme in Scotland, with a further two in the pipeline, maintaining our position as a leading developer of small hydro schemes in the country."

Landowner and member of Kinloch Woodlands Charitable Trust, Richard Munday, said: "This scheme shows how renewable energy can be generated with minimal environmental impact. The keys to success were a genuine commitment to the environment from inception, early consultation with the community and a first class workforce and site supervision. All concerned with the scheme deserve to be congratulated. We look forward to Inverbain Hydro Scheme generating green electricity for many years to come."

Ends

Notes to Editor

- The Inverbain hydro scheme has a minimum 50 year design life and is made up of an intake weir, a powerhouse and a buried pipeline, approximately 1.5 km in length. The powerhouse is where the kinetic energy (energy produced by movement) is converted into electrical energy. This is achieved with the use of a turbine and a generator. This electricity is fed into the National Grid distribution network.

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