



Wallacetown Energy Project: Background

At a Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown Community Council meeting in April 2021 the Community Council representatives for Wallacetown provided an insight into the multiple challenges facing their community. The Council made a commitment to attempt to do something significant in partnership with the Community that would change their future for the better. This saw the launch of the Wallacetown Community Energy Project.

To manage the project and to attract funding, the Community Council supported the establishment of the Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown Community Association as a charitable organisation. This allows the Organisation to seek funding for the project. The Association with full charitable status was established in August 2021. The project plan was to identify public, (school) buildings that could be used to host solar panels to generate electricity. The community would then be in a position to sell the energy generated to the Council to power the school buildings and to sell the surplus energy to the National Grid and create a Wallacetown Community Fund. The three school buildings identified were: Newton Primary School, St John's Primary School and Wallacetown Early Years Centre. At the beginning of the project we engaged with the school pupils to design a logo for the project. The winning logo, (individual and Poster) was incorporated into this banner.



The success of the project so far is due to the work of the Working Group which has representation from Wallacetown community, the Community Association and South Ayrshire Council. In the community we have support from the three Head Teachers, the support team based in Wallacetown, from the Council and from the Riverside Trust. We also have a number of other external bodies supporting the project. These include the University of Strathclyde and Ayrshire College. This ensures that education is a significant element of this project in terms of making it sustainable.

Project status

Having successfully completed all the necessary feasibility studies we are now in the process of seeking the capital funding to make the project live. It is our aim to make the project go live in 2024 and we will continue to keep residents updated via our newsletter and our website once it is up and running. The Association welcomes comment on the Energy Project and any of the other initiatives we are involved in.

Community Representatives Support

The Community Association greatly values the support we have received from our community representatives in relation to the Wallacetown Energy project. The Association is in regular contact with councillors and officers of South Ayrshire Council and liaises with other organisations and individuals having a responsibility for issues affecting the life of residents in Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown.

Allan Dorans: "As the Member of Parliament for Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock, I am delighted to be able to support the Wallacetown Community Energy Project. This fantastic community led project is an outstanding example of how individuals and a local community, working in partnership with voluntary and statutory organisations from a wide range of sectors, can achieve great objectives which benefit everyone."

Siobhian Brown: "As constituency MSP for Ayr, it's great to hear that the Wallacetown Community Energy Project is going from strength to strength. I applaud the ambitious vision project co-ordinators have for transforming the community into a climate village, addressing issues of deprivation, tackling fuel poverty, boosting low employment rates, and increasing sustainability. It represents values we should all hold. I believe the innovative approach is one that could be adopted in communities across Scotland to help transform the landscape of our country. I offer the project my full support and wish them well for the future."

Martin Dowey: "As Leader of South Ayrshire Council I was delighted to meet members of the Association to discuss the Wallacetown Community Energy Project. It was an informative meeting regarding their ambitious plans. The Energy Project is partnership working at its best. Not only will the solar panels help to reduce the Council's carbon footprint, but income would be generated to use for community projects, it's a win for everyone involved. The project has my full support providing the appropriate permissions and consents are met."

Energy Project: Educational Involvement



One of the key aims of the Energy Project is educational involvement. This started at Newton Primary School with a competition to design an energy logo for our project. The judging panel consisted of members of the Wallacetown Community, Education Scotland and Home Energy Scotland.

Pictured above are pupils from Newton Primary School and St John's Primary School. Also pictured (From left to right) is Louise Gray, Head Teacher of St John's, Alan Roseweir, Community Association Chair, Denise Sommerville, Chair of the Community Council (also a member of the Energy Working Group) and Colin Love, South Ayrshire Council and Working Group Member. The other Head Teachers involved in the project are Fiona McAvoy Head teacher of Newton Primary School and Diane Lodge Centre Manager of Wallacetown Early Years Centre.

As a prize the overall winner and the class have experienced a STEM day out at Dumfries House. The Energy Project has also engaged with the University of Strathclyde who are providing support and advice. Ayrshire College are also providing support. Education will continue to be a key sustainable element for all our energy projects.

Energy Project: Aims and Ambitions

A core aim of the project is to improve the lives and benefit the community of Wallacetown. The priority and focus will be to achieve a NetZero sustainable solution in terms of the carbon footprint, energy saving measures and to develop educational pathways having a positive impact on current and future generations. Each Wallacetown group and organisation will have the opportunity to make application to access funding for their identified project once the project goes live and funds become available.

From Our Ward Representatives (Cont'd)

Denise Sommerville: "Writing as Chair of Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown Community Council it is clearly important that we fully support the Wallacetown Community Energy Project and endorse the fantastic work that the Community Association and Working Group have achieved by developing this initiative. Having a Community owned energy company in Wallacetown will not just elevate fuel poverty, it will help give a lost community back their hopes and aspirations of a better life. When council budgets are being stretched to the limit, with little money for investing in community led projects, this one could bridge that gap. We will continue to support the Community Energy Project as a very valuable asset to the residents and a working model for other communities within South Ayrshire and even further afield.

Come and Join Us

This Community Association, relies on and gets its strength from its members who are all in their own way representatives of the community they live in. We welcome their thoughts and those of other residents in Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown. Our quarterly newsletter keeps members updated on what is happening in their area. We also engage with our local councillors on a regular basis. In the past we have held election hustings and taken every opportunity to challenge and/or support our political representative as and when required. Membership is free and for a membership form please contact: fswcamember@gmail.com

Website

As an aid to community involvement the Community Association will be launching a website shortly.

Community Association Goals

The Association seeks to represent all permanent residents within the Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown communities. We welcome all residents who wish to join as members. This newsletter is published in good faith. To comment please contact:

fswcamember@gmail.com

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