

Renewable Energy Team (RET) – Review of Activities / Summary of Achievements – 2015

2015 has seen further progress across all areas as RET prepares Guernsey for local macro renewable energy (MRE). Where possible work streams have been completed but the medium / long term nature of MRE means that much of the work is completed over more than one year.

Summary of 2015 tasks and achievements – measured against key areas in RET’s 2015 published strategy

| 2015 Strategic Goals (note some identified as a top 4 goal) | Summary of 2015 progress |
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| <p>Look to ensure that the public and stakeholders are engaged and well informed of where Guernsey is and why with regards to renewables – continuous. (Top 4 priority project)</p> | <p><i>RET continued to engage with the public to ensure informed and balanced debate by publishing findings and reports on its website as well as through the media.</i></p> <p><i>RET’s co-funded PhD into stakeholder engagement effectively concluded in 2015 with an island wide survey showing widespread support for Guernsey making use of its natural resources to generate electricity locally. This was built on with a presence at the “Festival of Social Sciences” in the UK and follow up work with offshore wind project.</i></p> <p><i>RET working with EY on a PV questionnaire.</i></p> |
| <p>Facilitate the enactment of legislation and access to the seabed (including extending access to a 12 mile limit) that will permit macro renewable development in Guernsey waters. – by end of 2015. (Top 4 priority project)</p> | <p><i>Secondary legislation (licensing) completed following public consultation and external review and passed by States in October 2015.</i></p> <p><i>The objective of securing sea bed rights for MRE development and extending territorial sea from 3 to 12 miles was further progressed through a joint project with ERG and St James Chambers. Independent legal advice (jointly with ERG) focused on the risks of acquiring these rights was finalised in 2015 and contributed to knowledge.</i></p> <p><i>Policy Letter to make case for seabed ownership was due to go to this States but ERG advised that Policy Council advised to hold to next States (post May 2016) – policy letter being drafted in late 2015.</i></p> |
| <p>Undertake the next stage of work for a 30MW offshore wind array in Guernsey waters so that an informed decision can be reached on whether to progress to construction – by end 2016 – (Top 4 priority project)</p> | <p><i>“Project Windy Isle” has commenced which is a joint RET-GEL project to fully assess the feasibility of a 30MW offshore wind project in Guernsey waters. The start was delayed later than originally planned with the joint agreement not finalised until Q3 but work was soon underway and an external consultant is being appointed in Q4.</i></p> |
| <p>Have a comprehensive understanding of the renewable resources that Guernsey possesses and their potential regarding wider socio-economic value. (LT)</p> | <p><i>The wind resource continues to be monitored by RET owned equipment and modelled with other data. PV resource and potential SoG projects continue to be assessed and being progressed.</i></p> <p><i>Restricted access to tidal data was eventually lifted in 2015 – first analysis by a University using this data took place in 2015. Other Projects included offshore wind and tidal projects.</i></p> |

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| | <i>Feasibility project into offshore wind (Project Windy Isle) was started (see above).</i> |
| <p>Understand the marine environment and renewable resources to a sufficient level (by end 2015) that there is confidence that development can take place within Guernsey. Refine this understanding to an even more detailed level (potentially in partnership with a developer) in order to accelerate generator deployment.</p> <p>Understand and monitor the costs of generation of the different renewable generating options.</p> | <i>See above.</i> |
| <p>Work with the other Channel Islands and wider international governments to progress renewables including work with the UK (through DECC) and French governments.</p> | <p><i>Channel Island Marine Energy Group (CIMREG), being a CI wide group at political and officer level (including the IOM), to progress MRE continued with Guernsey RET members key in driving CIMREG forward with meetings held in Guernsey and chaired by C&E's Policy Advisor. A CIMREG political summit was held in April 2015 in Alderney.</i></p> <p><i>CIMREG built on MOU and Framework for Cooperation with Regen SW's SWMEP and France's ONEM respectively – they contributed to CIMREG Officer meetings and RET attended conferences in Uk and France to assist with these links.</i></p> <p><i>RET members also attended Chanel Island / La Manche working meeting and summit in France in June 2015.</i></p> <p><i>Discussions with the UK (at Minister and officer level) and France in terms of accessing their energy markets and subsidies / support mechanisms have been slowed partially due to: (1) UK's DECC 2014 policy paper "CfDs for no-UK renewable electricity projects" which clarified the timing of potential support from the UK are due to be considered from 2018; (2) change in Uk gvt and less emphasis on renewables (3) realization that export of Gsy resource is in the longer term.</i></p> <p><i>RET continues to work very closely with all CIs and the Board of GEL with members routinely attending RET meetings and assisting with its work.</i></p> |
| <p>Zone suitable areas for marine renewable following initial zoning looking to progress by end 2015 – to define what further data is likely to be required.</p> | <i>Follow up to first stage of a marine atlas which was completed in 2014 and more data gained from various surveys. However, more progress had been expected in 2015 but was not achieved due to delay in start of offshore wind feasibility project.</i> |
| <p>Develop the best mechanisms for Guernsey with regards to leasing of the seabed to a developer (which may include GEL) looking at potential returns, cost, risk and opportunities of supply of</p> | <i>Work commenced through a comprehensive review of leasing requirements which will be built on in feasibility project for offshore wind.</i> |

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| electricity to the island or for export – by end of 2015. | |
| Develop a solar array at a States' site such that the electricity will be a saving for the SoG – 2015 (Top 4 priority project) | <i>A solar array was not developed in 2015. The airport proposal was shelved due to safety concerns. Ongoing investigations and business plan preparation to look at other SoG sites.</i> |
| Explore the potential for a renewables research/development base. | <i>Continued engagement and projects with various Universities in UK and France (tidal and offshore wind projects), but it is now recognised that a research base is unlikely to be viable in the short to medium term.</i> |
| Encourage and support other renewable projects both within and without the States of Guernsey | <i>Continued proportional engagement with local stakeholders. Meetings with PV suppliers, wave developers, local surveys and media.</i> |