

Sheffield Renewables

- **Local authority area:** Sheffield City Council
- **Stakeholders:** CO2Sense, Sheffield Renewables

Summary

Sheffield Renewables community group was awarded £10,000 to help develop a hydro-electric plant on the River Don in Sheffield.

Background

- Sheffield Renewables is a community based social enterprise that works to make Sheffield more sustainable by developing renewable energy projects. CO2Sense contributed £10,000 towards developing plans for an 80kW Archimedes screw hydro electric plant near Blackburn Meadows in Sheffield.
- The upfront costs of submitting planning permission for renewable energy plants can make it difficult for community groups, such as Sheffield Renewables, to get projects operational.
- As CO2Sense have worked with other community groups in developing hydro schemes in the past, they were ideally placed to help Sheffield Renewables move their Jordan Dam project forward.

Method

- The £10,000 investment was put towards the costs of feasibility studies, design work, landowner and local business consultations, environmental assessments on the proposed site and ultimately submitting the planning application in February 2011.
- The proposed plant will generate 310 MW hours of electricity per year – enough to power around 70 homes, and save 172 tonnes of CO2 each year.
- As well as generating clean electricity, the plant will also earn Sheffield Renewables payments under the Feed-in-Tariff (FIT).
- The profits generated by the project will be used to help fund development work for community renewable energy projects in the Sheffield area.
- As well as benefits to the community, the system has been designed not to interfere with the natural environment of the river. The fish pass incorporated into the plant will help with the salmon migration upstream.

- Sheffield Renewables hope to be generating electricity from the plant by summer 2012, and are working on another hydro electric plant on Kelham Island.

Result - Key outcomes and impact

- Sheffield Renewables has a strong volunteer base, which allows people to get experience in renewable energy and develop new skills. The Jordan's Dam project will mean that they can continue this work with the community.
- The renewable energy plant also provides an ideal educational opportunity for the area, allowing the local community and other renewable energy projects to learn from the development, and raises the profile of renewable energy and sustainability.

Key contact

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References / Links

www.sheffieldrenewables.org.uk