



In December 2007, turbine 15 at the Earlsburn wind farm was commissioned to generate electricity for the benefit of the community of Fintry. In an exciting new era for our village, the revenue acquired over the turbine's prospective 25-year lifetime will be used to meet the existing and future challenges of energy supply and responsible usage. Now that an income is beginning to arrive, it is timely to reiterate the purpose of the Fintry Development Trust (FDT) and to highlight the initial philosophy of the founder members who have worked hard and selflessly to create a unique opportunity for Fintry. Gaining status as the UK's first carbon neutral community has shaped a proud landmark in the history of our village and the Trust has created an opportunity to achieve a great deal more. Improving the energy efficiency of Fintry in the years ahead will certainly rely heavily on the finances generated by turbine 15, but the FDT will strive to incorporate into its methodology careful planning, practicality, innovation and an awareness and understanding of existing and emerging technologies.

The key aim of the FDT is to attain the above goals by serving the community rather than the individual. Our first exercise was an obvious and quick scheme to tackle energy inefficiency across the whole district. The Clyde Installation team has now reached a significant part of the village, with loft and cavity wall insulation having been carried out in several properties. Not resting on their laurels, the FDT directors simultaneously submitted a grant application to the inaugural round of the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund, to cover the cost of home insulation in Fintry. The application was successful and the amount granted (£67,541 on 17 September 2008) was the second highest award from a total Government commitment of £705,700. Consequently, the capital acquired to date from turbine 15 remains largely untouched and we can look forward to initiating the next range of schemes earlier than expected.

It is anticipated that subsequent FDT activities will be governed by the following principles and actions:

FDT is committed to a range of projects which will reduce the carbon footprint of the wider community and make energy saving possible in a wide range of ways.

It is NOT about making equal payments to individuals in the community. Some projects will benefit many and some will benefit a few.

There will be a rolling programme of support. We will work with the Menzies Hall Committee and the Fintry Sports Club to further improve the heating and insulation of our main community buildings. A quality energy science workshop for senior pupils at Fintry School has already been established to educate the next generation of decision makers.

In future years, we expect that our activities could cover a range of areas, including domestic energy use, transport and food production. Future schemes might therefore include -

- The adoption of alternative, low or zero carbon energy provision such as wood-chip based CH, solar panels, small wind turbines and ground or air source heating.
- The provision of shared, environmentally friendly transport for the community as a means of linking us to local amenities such as cinemas, shops and popular events.
- Village allotments and local orchards.

These and other ideas will be launched, over the years, with clear conditions and deadlines about who may provide the service and how subsidies and support will be managed. The sequence may suit some and not others, but the FDT will endeavour to make sure that each scheme will be amenable to a majority of the Fintry populace. We are keen for the membership to make their own suggestions for possible ideas and schemes and even encourage people to take the lead on their proposals with the support of the FDT.

For more information look at our website: [www.fintrydt.org.uk](http://www.fintrydt.org.uk) or if you have any questions email: [info@fintrydt.org.uk](mailto:info@fintrydt.org.uk)