

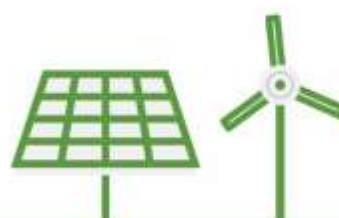


# GREBE

Generating Renewable Energy  
Business Enterprise



Northern Periphery and  
Arctic Programme  
2014-2020



## Case Studies Report on Awareness and Understanding of Funding

Options for Renewable Energy Businesses

August 2017



[www.grebeproject.eu](http://www.grebeproject.eu)

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## The GREBE Project

### What is GREBE?

GREBE (Generating Renewable Energy Business Enterprise) is a €1.77m, 3-year (2015-2018) transnational project operating to support the renewable energy sector. It is co-funded by the EU's Northern Periphery & Arctic (NPA) Programme. It focuses on the challenges of peripheral and arctic regions as places for doing business, and helps develop renewable energy business opportunities in areas with extreme conditions.

The project partnership includes the eight partners from six countries, Western Development Commission (Ireland), Action Renewables (Northern Ireland), Fermanagh & Omagh District Council (Northern Ireland), Environmental Research Institute (Scotland), LUKE (Finland), Karelia University of Applied Sciences (Finland), Narvik Science Park (Norway) and Innovation Iceland (Iceland).

### Why is GREBE happening?

Renewable Energy entrepreneurs working in the NPA area face challenges including a lack of critical mass, dispersed settlements, poor accessibility, vulnerability to climate change effects and limited networking opportunities.

GREBE, as an ongoing project, will equip Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups with skills, developing confidence to overcome these challenges and use location based, natural assets for RE to best sustainable effect. The renewable energy sector contributes to sustainable regional and rural development and has potential for growth.

### What does GREBE do?

GREBE supports renewable energy start-ups and SMEs:

- To grow their business, to provide local jobs, and meet energy demands of local communities.
- By supporting diversification of the technological capacity of SMEs and start-ups so that they can exploit the natural conditions of their locations.
- By providing RE tailored, expert guidance and mentoring to give SMEs and start-ups the knowledge and expertise to grow and expand their businesses.
- By providing a platform for transnational sharing of knowledge to demonstrate the full potential of the RE sector by showcasing innovations on RE technology and strengthening accessibility to expertise and business support available locally and in other NPA regions.
- To connect with other renewable energy businesses to develop new opportunities locally, regionally and transnationally through the Virtual Energy Ideas Hub.
- By conducting research on the processes operating in the sector to improve understanding of the sector's needs and make the case for public policy to support the sector.

For more information, visit our website:

<http://grebeproject.eu/>

Follow our Blog:

<https://greberenewableenergyblog.wordpress.com/>

Like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/GREBEProject/>

Follow us on Twitter:

[https://twitter.com/GREBE\\_NPA](https://twitter.com/GREBE_NPA)

## Introduction

The key objective of this work package:

***To identify and promote opportunities for policy to provide an effective supporting framework for sustainable renewable energy business (both new and emerging).***

The main focus of this report will be on the support and benefits that each business has received. Throughout this report we will see how the supports and benefits helped each business in terms of creating employment, finance or diversifying.

The requirements for WP3.3.1 is to create two case studies of renewable business which have received funding in each partner region will be prepared and these will focus on funding mechanisms, criteria, application practicalities and business outcomes and innovations in the funding area. The case study findings will be documented so that they are available for dissemination on the project website and through other promotional channels outlined in WP 7 including the online training & networking platform [renewablebusiness.eu](http://renewablebusiness.eu)

The catalogue is organised by GREBE partner region in the following order:

- Finland,
- Iceland,
- Ireland,
- Northern Ireland
- Norway,
- Scotland

A short introduction on the methods and types of supports in each partner region is provided. Information for each partner region is it then organised under the following categories:

- Financial Support , (grants, loans, equity investment)
- Taxation or welfare supports or concessions for businesses
- Soft supports e.g. mentoring, training, specialist advice, networks
- Research and Development supports
- Social and Community supports (focused on not for profit)
- Other – e.g. Incubation space or office space etc.

## GREBE Case Studies

All Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) play a major role in our economy, particularly in rural areas. Registered SMEs contribute up to 60% of total employment and up to 40% of national income (GDP) in emerging economies. From research an estimated, 600 million jobs will be needed in the next 15 years to absorb the growing global workforce. In emerging markets, most formal jobs are generated by SMEs, which also create 4 out of 5 new positions. However, access to finance is a key constraint to SME growth. Without access to capital, many SMEs languish and stagnate.<sup>1</sup>

### Selected case studies per region

Partner Region	Financial Support	Taxation or welfare	Soft supports	Research & Development	Social & Community	Other
Finland	X		X	X		
Iceland	X		X	X		
Norway	X			X		
Northern Ireland	x					
Republic of Ireland		X		X		
Scotland	X		X		X	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table1: Case studies of supports selected for each partner region and support category.**

From the table above we can see the final results of the case studies which received support mechanisms.

Overall there were a total of 11 case studies completed. The following case studies are based on businesses within the renewable sector which have received support to maintain their business. The selected case studies for each partner region were categorised under a specific supporting mechanisms.

Below we can see the variety of support mechanisms that each case study will be categorised under.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/financialsector/brief/smes-finance>

## Categories of support type:

### 1. Financial Support

*Financial resources provided to make some project possible (grants, loans, equity investment).* There was a total of 60 financial support systems throughout the six partner regions. Many of these support systems focused towards funding for SME's. For example in Finland, a popular funding support was the 'Finnvera loans'. Finnvera has a portfolio of loans, which have been developed to cover the financing needs in all stages of an enterprise.

[https://www.finnvera.fi/eng/node\\_2686/Loans](https://www.finnvera.fi/eng/node_2686/Loans)

### 2. Taxation, welfare supports and concessions for businesses

*Welfare is the provision of a minimal level of well-being and social support for business without current means to support basic needs.* Welfare is largely provided by the government from tax income. Throughout all of the partner regions there was a total of 25 taxation supports systems. In Ireland the taxation supports were quite popular, for example the 'Employment & Investment Scheme'. The Employment and Investment Incentive Scheme offers investors up to 41% tax relief on their total income in return for investing in new, ordinary shares in qualifying SMEs for a three year investment period.

<http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/it/leaflets/it55.html>

### 3. Soft support systems

*Mentoring, training, specialist advice, networks.* Soft support was the most popular support system throughout all of the other categories. In total there was a number of 40 soft support systems available. A popular soft support system in Scotland was the Scottish Enterprise 2015 - 2018. The investment fund is designed to drive the growth of renewable energy in Scotland through supporting businesses and community organisations to develop their own local renewable projects. The Renewable Energy Investment Fund (REIF) is a discretionary fund with no minimum or maximum deal values stipulated; projects are assessed on a case by case basis.

<http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/attract-investment/renewable-energy-investmentfund/overview>

### 4. Research and Development Supports

*A set of strategic, catalytic, proactive, and capacity-building activities designed to facilitate individual faculty members, teams of researchers, and central research administrations in attracting extramural research funding, creating relationships, and developing and implementing strategies that increase institutional competitiveness.* A total of 14 supports were available across the partner regions. In Iceland they had the Icelandic Research Fund (IRF). The IRF awards funding to research students and defined research projects led by individuals, research teams, universities, research institutes, and companies.

<https://en.rannis.is/funding/research/icelandic-research-fund/nr/527>

### 5. Social and Community support systems

*(Focused on non-profit)* A total of 14 support systems focusing on social and community support were available across the partner regions. From the case studies received, only one received social and community support, this case study was based in Scotland. This support was called SMART SCOTLAND which provides grants to SMEs to help undertake technical feasibility studies, and research & development (R&D) projects that have a commercial endpoint.

<http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/develop-new-products-and-services/smart-scotland/overview>

## 6. Other

*Incubation space or office space etc.* There were a total of 8 'other' supports available. One of the most popular supports was the Enterprise Space / Incubation Space based in Ireland. The Galway Technology Centre (GTC) provides a dynamic office space with business support services in a connected network of entrepreneurs, high growth companies, investors and support agencies.

<http://www.gtc.ie/>

## Case study overview

Finland had two case studies called Bio10 Ltd and Power Ltd. The business aim of Bio10 is to focus on the treatment of bio waste, production of energy and fertilisers, expertise and training services. This project received a few supports which helped with its success, there were financial supports, soft supports and research and development supports. The business aim of Power Ltd was to provide energy services and electricity production which will produce heat and power for the co-located dairy farm, machine works and a household.

Iceland had two case studies completed for their region BMJ energy Icewind and Extreme energy. The business aim of BMJ energy is to focus on developing and selling small hydro power stations to local households. The aim is to see more of these types of hydro systems installed in various places throughout Iceland. The second case study which Iceland provided was called Extreme Energy the main focus of this case study was on wind turbines. Overall the two case studies received supports such as R&D, soft supports and financial supports.

Northern Ireland completed one case which focused on an AD plant based which received funding. This case study was called Bridge Energy (NI) Ltd AD Plant. The main aim of the business is to diversify and improve the economic sustainability of the farming operations, while providing better utilisation of farm wastes and reducing the CO2 footprint of our enterprise. This AD project received 100% funding.

Norway completed two case studies based on their region. The first case study was called Eidesvik Offshore ASA. This is an offshore shipping company, and operates vessels within supply, seismic and subsea. The company is operating ships/supply vessels all over the globe. The business aim is to promote the use of batteries on shipping vessels at sea. The second study was called Gardermoen Campus Utvikling AS and it was based upon a completely new hospital at Gardermoen with a combination of several innovative energy solutions. Both of these case studies received supports for financial and research & development.

Republic of Ireland completed two case on behalf of their region. The first case study was called Arigna Fuels. Arigna Fuels was established to provide clean, affordable, efficient, environmentally friendly, smokeless fuels to the Irish and UK markets. The second case study was called EcoSmart External Insulation Ltd. They are an energy efficiency company based in Castlerea, Co. Roscommon in the West of Ireland. EcoSmart External Insulation Ltd, provide external insulation services nationwide to all parts of Ireland. Supports received

Scotland completed two case studies called GlenWyvis Distillery and Surf 'n' Turf: Orkney Hydrogen. This Business aim for GLENWyvis Distillery is to have a new community-owned distillery producing whiskey & gin powering from the use of innovative renewable energy technologies at the distillery. The second case study Surf 'n' Turf provides community-owned wind turbine and EMEC with equipment to convert and store the surplus energy as hydrogen. The hydrogen is compressed by EMEC's electrolyser, stored and transported to Kirkwall for off-site use.

Further business supports for each partner region can be found at:

<http://grebeproject.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/GREBE-Business-Supports-Catalog.pdf>





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## Finland



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## Finland

### What kind of agencies offer support to SMEs?

In Finland, the business supports of renewable energy are largely governed by the state, regional authorities, and public sectoral agencies. Local business development companies, owned by the municipalities, link SMEs to the public support programmes. Universities and research organisations provide research and development services and number of associations operate in specific themes and offer soft supports.

### Is it clear to the SME where they should go for support?

The first contact for SMEs is usually local development company operating in a district (sub region) level. They provide support in business planning and development, and link companies to the regional authorities and sectoral agencies and funding sources/programmes. Many companies are also members of the business associations that can advise them in finding the most relevant supports.

### Is there one agency which is the first place for businesses to go?

Enterprise Finland, governed by the Ministry of Employment and the Economy, has established a business support portal (<http://www.yrityssuomi.fi/en>). It provides necessary background information on business establishment, funding sources, business routines (taxation, permits, audits, employer obligations etc.) and contacts to the supporting agencies.

### Are business supports restricted to certain types of business, or enhanced for certain types of SMEs (e.g. only available for manufacturing or for exporters)?

Business supports are mostly generic, not focused on certain types of businesses. Financial supports focus much on the business establishment phase and reaching the business growth through internationalisation or product/service development.

### Are there special supports for RE businesses?

RE businesses have tailored financial supports: energy support (Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment), and feed-in-tariff (Energy Authority). In addition, RDI (Research, Development and Innovation) activities are supported through the EU funding programmes. Soft supports (advisories, training, development programmes, mentoring) have often thematic contents but are available for all sectors.

## Finland - Case Study 1: Bio10 Ltd.

**Introduction on Business:** Bio10 Ltd. was established in 2007 to treat organic waste and produce biogas based energy and both organic and conventional fertilisers. In addition, the company provides expertise and training services in biogas, waste treatment and recycling.

**Business Aim:** Treatment of bio waste, production of energy and fertilisers, expertise and training services

**Project web address:** <http://www.bio10.fi/etusivu/>

**Cost:** Investments to date (2007 and 2016) 7.5 M EUR

**Funding mechanisms:**

- The Rural Development Programme for Mainland Finland, support for the business establishment and development (applied from the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment): 185 000 €
- Energy Support (investment support) from the Ministry of the Employment and the Economy 1.3 MEUR
- The Rural Development Programme for Mainland Finland, investment support for biogas (applied from the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment): 130 000 €
- Support for recruitment/Pay subsidy: total of about 50 000 € during last 10 years
- Applications in process: RDI support of 650 000 € for recycling of fertilisers (EIP – European Innovation Partnership and Government Key Project on Recycling of Fertilisers)
- Involvement in public RDI projects of the regional partners, such as KARELIA UAS, University of eastern Finland and local development companies.

**Loan/Grants etc:** Finnvera loans/guarantees (entrepreneur loan, bridge financing, guarantee for bank loans)

<http://grebeproject.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/GREBE-Business-Supports-Catalog.pdf> page 15

**Issues with funding:** Process depends much on the person working in the funding providing agency/authority. National level supports have included good instructions; regionally there is some variation in available guidance. Entrepreneur has been active in negotiating supports at the national level and has been able to utilise several types of supports for his business establishment and development purposes. TEKES Programmes were not considered applicable, as they do not allow invested RDI infrastructure to be in operational/economic use.

**Business Outcomes:** Available Energy Support was essential for the business establishment in 2007. In addition, latest research and development funding provides opportunities to improve the business.



Image No. 1 Bio10 Ltd.

## Finland - Case Study 2: Kuittila Power Ltd. (CHP Plant)

**Introduction on Business:** Kuittila Farm, situated in Nurmes in eastern Finland established a small scale (140Kw) CHP plant in December 2012. The CHP is based on the gasification of wood chips and provides bioenergy to the farm and co-located engineering works

**Business Aim:** Energy services and electricity production; producing heat and power for the co-located dairy farm, machine works and a household.

**Cost:** The budgeted investment cost of the CHP –unit (40 kW of electricity, 100 kW of heat) was 223 000 €'s, grid connections and removal of old grid constructs was 70 000 €'s and land construction, base and district heat network was 109 000 €'s. Total project cost 402 000 €'s.

**Funding mechanisms:** The project received 35 % public investment support (Energy Support) from the local Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment.

**Issues with funding:** Funding was applied for a new technology (35% support level). The definition of new technology was not clear for the funding provider and it required negotiations and evidence on the innovativeness of the technology compared to the other energy systems in the region.

**Non-financial support:** The project of Kuittila Pover small-scale chp was part of the Rural Development Programme co-financed Pielinen Karelia Bioenergy Networks and Flows Project of Pielinen Karelia Development Company PIKES Ltd. and Karelia University of Applied Sciences (2011-2014). A feasibility study was taken to estimate the profitability of the chp in different Energy Support (investment support) levels. In addition, project supported the entrepreneur in investment project planning, and contacting technology manufacturer.

<http://grebeproject.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/GREBE-Business-Supports-Catalog.pdf> - page 11

**Business Outcomes:** A new micro-enterprise with annual turnover about 60 000 €'s, improved energy self-sufficiency, lower energy cost of a farm and other businesses. The electricity produced used mostly locally. The surplus is sold as farm power, a product of Oulu Energia. Farm Power electricity is generated using micro and small scale generating plants used principally for generating electricity for the producers' own needs. The case has demonstrated the chp-technology in a real operational environment. It has been disseminated both nationally and internationally and thus supported the market development of the technology manufacturer. The demonstration is available through the E-Farm Service.



Image No. 2 Kuittila Power Ltd.

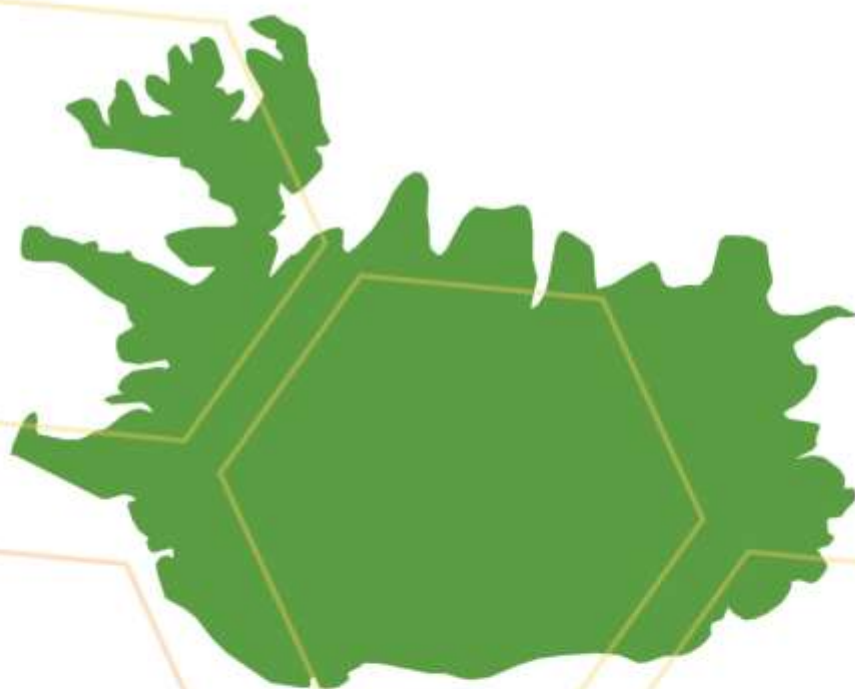


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## Iceland



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## Iceland

### What kind of agencies offer support to SMEs?

There are few different agencies which support SMEs in Iceland e.g.. ICI, development agencies in the country and other advisory and accounting offices. Each agency has a different role and focuses on businesses of different size, potential or area of focus. There is some variety of supports for enterprise of all kinds in Iceland. These include access to finance, management development, mentoring supports, business development programs, market supports and trade promotion. Some of these supporting institutes are state supported and other private owned.

### Is there one agency which is the first place for businesses to go?

In Iceland ICI plays the role of the 'first-stop-shop' support service for micro and small businesses. ICI receives revenues both from public and private partners. ICI is located in each region. ICI provides advice and direction, to anyone who wishes to start or expand a business. ICI can also provide or point out funding for projects that meet certain criteria (generally with regard to export potential) and other non-financial supports such as training and mentoring. Local development agencies also play an important role for SMEs. Companies with clear high growth potential can be fast-tracked to the next level of support available from ICI to help them start, grow, innovate and win export sales in global markets through Enterprise Europe Network (EEN). Promote Iceland also assists Icelandic companies seeking to grow internationally through competence building programs as well as international events, such as trade fairs, press trips, and trade delegations. This is done in close cooperation with Icelandic embassies and consulates abroad, as well as bilateral chambers of commerce. They can provide funding, links and supports for companies - from entrepreneurs with business propositions for a high potential start-up through to large companies expanding their activities, improving efficiency and growing international sales.

### Is it clear to the SME where they should go for support?

It is not clear to SME's where to go for support in Iceland. SMEs can receive basic information on ICI webpage, they though need a better online tool which sets out the variety of supports available to all enterprises across all sectors.

### Are business supports restricted to certain types of business, or enhanced for certain types of SMEs (e.g. only available for manufacturing or for exporters)?

There is a particular focus on research and development and on businesses with export potential.

### Are there special supports for RE businesses?

Iceland is in a unique position, about 85% of total primary energy consumption in Iceland is derived from domestically produced renewable energy resource. There are specific research and development fund for RE owned by the government.



## Iceland - Case Study 1: BMJ energy

**Introduction on Business:** BMJ energy was founded 2008 and is owned by Bjarni Malmquist and SER ltd(Startup Energy Reykjavik) The start of the company was when Bjarni designed and installed a small hydro power plant on the family farm. In fall 2009 Bjarni graduated from Reykjavik University as electrical engineer with emphasis on design and construction of load control system for small hydro power stations. The goal is to maintain this project. Develop and penetrate the market with low – cost but secure control system for small home hydro power plants. Furthermore explore and develop control system on the speed of the generator of which the goal is to utilize the water power in the home stream in the best possible way. The system needed to explore is to achieve the best possible control over the water source both in terms of electricity utilization and supply. The company's main focus is on production of at highest 30kW hydro power stations aimed to power partly or fully household and simultaneously the control system for household hydro power stations and last but not least spareparts.

**Project website address:** <http://www.bmj.is/>

**Business Aim:** The main goal is to focus on develop and sell small hydro power stations to local households. The aim is to see more of them on various places in Iceland. The idea of being able to produce electricity and therefore be sustainable in that category. Less buying from large power plants and more.

**Cost:** Construction cost for one turbine used for testing is \$6.5 USD/Watt. Mass manufacturing will reduce the price to about \$4USD/Watt. Payback will depend heavily on location since average wind and local Feed-in tariffs.

**Funding mechanisms:** In 2016 BMJ energy received in total 14 million ISK from Rannís (Icelandic Center for Research) equally divided on 2 years. From its foundation in 2010, BMJ energy has received in total 5 million ISK from various companies and institutions. These are Landsbankinn (bank), Nýsköpunarmiðstöð Íslands (ICI), Íslandsbanka (bank) and Orkusjóði (energy fund).

<http://grebeproject.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/GREBE-Business-Supports-Catalog.pdf> - page 37

**Business Outcomes:** The grant from Rannís was the most effective one and has given BMJ the possibility to put more energy into research and development. BMJ receives each year 40% in first quarter, 40% in second quarter, and 20% the fourth quarter. The same plan repeated in year 2.



**Image No. 3 BMJ Energy Ltd.**



## Iceland - Case Study 2: Icewind – Extreme energy

### Introduction on Business:

IceWind designs and manufactures small vertical axis wind turbines for telecom towers and residential applications such as homes, cabins and farms. IceWind is a privately-owned startup which was founded in 2012 but development goes back to 2008. In 2008 Anemometer was designed as a final project in University of Iceland. With energy prices on the rise, there is a need for focusing on renewable technologies. The IceWind vertical axis wind technology has been designed in response to the growing demand for renewable technologies. It demonstrates that turbines can be an elegant, quiet, durable, cost effective and nearly maintenance free solution for energy production. They also provide installation and maintenance services for the IceWind windturbines and related installed equipment, such as battery checking, solar cell installations and the installment of logging equipment. IceWind is currently a licensed dealer for IC-Meter, specialized in analysis of indoor climate and energy issues.



Project website address: [www.icewind.is](http://www.icewind.is)

**Business Aim:** Increase the amount of renewable energy suppliers in territories which deal with harsh weather conditions where conventional energy solutions are not applicable.

**Cost:** Construction cost for one turbine used for testing is \$6.5 USD/Watt. Mass manufacturing will reduce the price to about \$4USD/Watt. Payback will depend heavily on location since average wind and local Feed-in tariffs.

**Funding sources:** Startup is funded with grants from Rannís 2013 14 million ISK and 2016 from the fund Vöxtur in Rannís (figure unknown), government and private, as well as investors. Electricity supply in Iceland is already green, so no tariffs. Non-financial support: Active cooperation with the University of Iceland. Tests and development.

<http://grebeproject.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/GREBE-Business-Supports-Catalog.pdf> - page 37

**Business Outcomes:** The project is ongoing and has had significant support from government and private funding. Plan is to go to market in middle of 2017. Currently seeking partners all over the world in marketing, manufacturing and distribution. Multiple test sites are up and running.

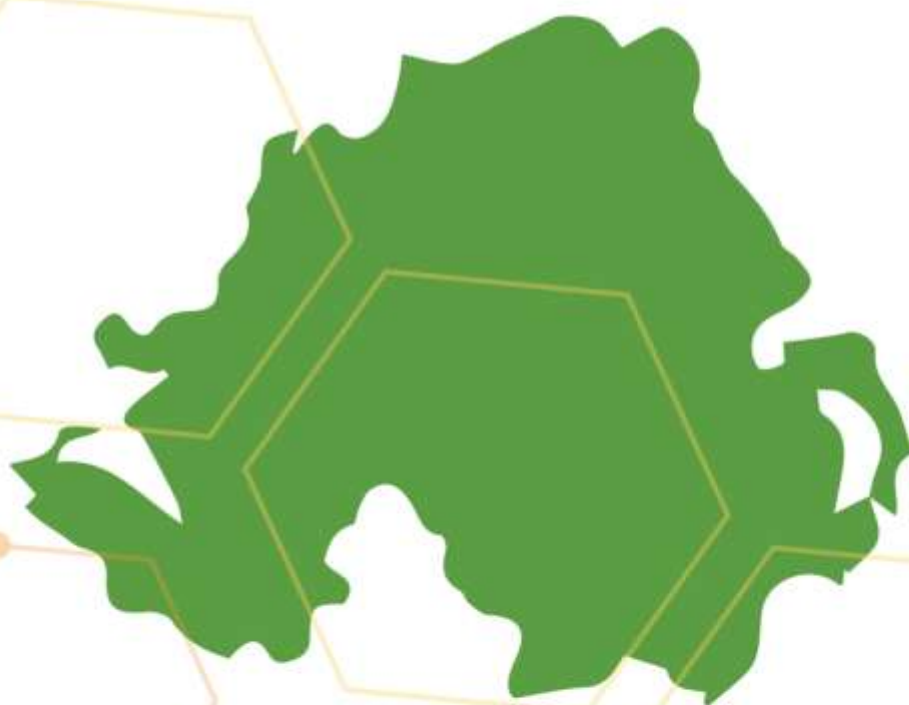


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## Northern Ireland



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## Northern Ireland

### What kind of agencies offer support to SMEs?

In Northern Ireland there are 2 main agencies which offer support to SME's Invest NI Invest will support many types of business; however they are very interested in businesses linked to improving the environment. Created a suite of six funds totalling more than £170 million to help SMEs with high growth potential, to forge ahead. The start-up financial support is generally limited to businesses that intend to sell outside Northern Ireland. Innovation Vouchers offers up to £5000 to 'purchase' specialist knowledge from one of 39 respected universities, colleges and research organisations throughout Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. This knowledge can help you to expand, improve or create new products, services and processes.

### Is there one agency which is the first place for businesses to go?

Invest NI is the main agency in Northern Ireland, for all sizes of business to achieve the support that they require to help grow their business. Invest NI specialise in wide range of businesses and will give you support in the following areas: develop strategy, improve skills, operate more efficiency, find funding and new markets. Invest NI advertise across all of Northern Ireland via social media, newspapers, posters and they also hold seminars to encourage business to get involved. With their publicity and advertisement they can be easily contacted and will arrange to meet with you to discuss your business development within 2-3 weeks.

<https://www.investni.com/>

### Are business supports restricted to certain types of business, or enhanced for certain types of SMEs (e.g. only available for manufacturing or for exporters)?

Invest NI support aerospace and defence, business services, construction, creative industries, financial services, food and drink, ICT and electronics, legal services, life and health sciences and materials handling, renewables and energy, security and tourism. There are a limited number of areas in which they have no real level of support e.g. retail – although they will support on line selling.

### Are there special supports for RE businesses?

Representatives of renewables in NI, giving advice on renewable energy sector. Provides the companies it represents with knowledge and advice on marine and wind renewable energy projects/ ideas. It has well developed sub groups which are capable of dealing any of these areas:

- Planning & environment
- Markets
- Grid
- Marine energy

Tech start up work to help companies win customers, make key hires, and develop strategies and tactics to achieve the fastest possible growth in the value of the company. Seek to be trusted peers and partners to help entrepreneurs realise their vision with experienced and timely support. With their backing, Founders can focus on customer development and validating their business model. <http://www.techstartni.com/>

## Northern Ireland - Case Study 1: Bridge Energy (NI) Ltd.

**Introduction to Business:** James Cromie was seeking to diversify his farm business away from dairy production to energy production through AD to secure long-term government guaranteed incomes. James Cromie, working in conjunction with his brother, Mr Thomas Cromie, and their late father Mr Tom Cromie started exploring the opportunity of on-farm AD in 2002. They travelled extensively in the UK, Europe and USA to view AD technology and operating plants. After extensive lobbying along with the NI biogas sector to secure adequate government price support, 4no x NI ROC's, obtaining planning permission and electrical grid connection offer and negotiating with AD technology providers and funders with the assistance of their advisors, KPMG, construction of the project commenced in 2014.

**Ownership:** The AD plant is owed by Bridge Energy (NI) Ltd, a company set up to secure funding, construct and operate a 499kW AD plant on the farm of Mr James Cromie.

### Supports and Economic Detail

**Cost:** The total cost of the Bridge Energy AD plant was £3.5 million

**Funding Mechanisms:** 100% project secured equity investment from the UK Green Investment Bank (GIB)/Foresight. Bridge Energy was one of the first two on farm AD plants to be funded by GIB.

<http://www.greeninvestmentbank.com/>

**Issues with funding:** As it was one of the first AD plants in Northern Ireland to be funded through 100% project secured equity investment, there was significant funding challenges.

**Business outcomes:** This project will diversify and improve the economic sustainability of our farming operations, while providing better utilisation of farm wastes and reducing the CO2 footprint of our enterprise.;The ability to produce electricity from the AD plant which can be used on site or it can be sold to the national grid.;The process also creates digestate, a natural by-product which can be spread on the land as a fertiliser, saving famers money and returning nutrients to the land.

The AD sector in NI has secured £250M to £300M of capital investment, most of which is from outside NI. The sector will provide operational incomes of c. £100M per year for the next 20 years secured by contractual and government guarantees. At least half of these guaranteed operational incomes will be spent in the local rural economy on feedstock, operational and maintenance services.



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## Norway



Northern Periphery and  
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## Norway

### What kind of agencies offer support to SMEs?

There are a number of different agencies which support renewable energy businesses in Norway. The business support system is largely funded and organized through public funding:

- Local offices (Municipality)
- Innovation Norway –
- ENNOVA – Specialist instrument on RE innovations (National Agency)
- Norwegian Research Council

Several years ago, the Norwegian Government established Enova, a public agency. Enova has become the Government's most important instrument for reaching targeted goals of energy efficiency and renewable energy production. Enova administers a series of programmes and support schemes (in the form of investment aid) covering various business areas. These include wind power, solar, Hydrogen, and energy efficiency in industry and in buildings. Enova has specific goals, quantified in terra watt hours of energy. - And there is set specific dates for these goals to be reached. Enova is provided with long-term financing. Since 2002, the Government has supplied Enova with 1.5 billion Euros. Enova has an independent board of directors and an independent administration. They decide on the best way to manage the available funds to achieve the set goals. This leads to results!

The Ministry of Energy (OED) has evaluated Enova. It has been a good reminder of the long term character of promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency. It has been a challenge for the agency to develop good support-schemes, to recruit projects and after that to avoid cancellations. It takes time before the solar system, or the wind mill, produces energy – sometimes as much as five years. This reminds us that promoting the development towards a more environmentally friendly energy sector requires long term policies and a predictable framework.

### Is it clear to the SME where they should go for support?

**Researchers** - The Research Council of Norway's programme on Commercialising R&D Results (FORNY2020) promotes innovation based on research results. The programme facilitates the commercialisation of results from projects conducted at publicly-funded research institutions and helps to bring the products and services to the market.

The FORNY2020 programme is designed to trigger the value-creating potential of projects conducted at publicly-funded research institutions. The programme provides funding to newly-established companies based on these projects as well as to Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) affiliated with the research institutions.

The programme seeks to:

- Promote the establishment of new companies based on research results
- Generate growth in existing companies by providing funding to projects based on research results.
- Enhance the professionalism and efficacy of the TTOs affiliated with universities, university colleges, hospitals and independent research institutes in their respective fields.

**Entrepreneurs** – Innovation Norway create value by stimulating to profitable business development throughout Norway. Our programmes and services are intended to create more successful entrepreneurs, more enterprises with capacity for growth and more innovative business clusters. Innovation Norway contributes to:



- Enhancing innovation in Norwegian enterprises and industry
- Building competitive Norwegian enterprises at both domestic and international markets
- Promoting Norwegian enterprises
- Promoting Norway as an attractive tourist destination
- Securing development in rural areas
- Transforming ideas into successful business cases
- Promote interaction between enterprises, knowledge communities and R&D institutions

Is there one agency which is the first place for businesses to go?

The Environmental Portal – is an online tool which gives an overview of the variety of supports available to all entrepreneurs and researchers in the renewable energy sector.

Are business supports restricted to certain types of business, or enhanced for certain types of SMEs (e.g. only available for manufacturing or for exporters)?

There is a particular focus on businesses with export potential.

Are there special supports for RE businesses?

The Research Council of Norway has granted funding of 8 new Centres for Environmental-friendly Energy Research.

## Norway - Case Study 1: Eidesvik Offshore

**Introduction to business:** Eidesvik Offshore ASA is an offshore shipping company, and operates vessels within supply, seismic and subsea. The company is operating ships/supply vessels all over the globe. It specializes in the offshore logistics, seismic and underwater operations. The Company owns and operates vessels under long-term contracts. Eidesvik has initiated and been a key player for the development of new environmentally friendly and fuel-efficient solutions since the start of the 2000s. Eidesvik owns and operates a total of 24 ships. There are around 490 permanent employees and an international crew of 150 employees.

**Business Aim:** The project makes it possible for Eidesvik Offshore to use their environmental work and a good commercial solution in a challenging market. Batteries can and should be more widely used at sea. Different types of vessels have significant variations in the propulsion system, operational profile and which operations they perform, so even if there are already several vessels with battery systems on board – there is a need for projects that defines a standard solution.

**Support and Economic Detail:**

**Cost:** NOK 7, 4 millions

**Funding mechanisms:** Enova Energy Fund. Enova SF is owned by the Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy and contributes to reduced greenhouse gas emissions, development of energy and climate technology and a strengthened security of supply. It can be costly and risky for individual businesses to start using the newest and most climate-friendly technologies. Enova can make a financial contribution so that projects can still be implemented. Each year, Enova invests more than NOK 2 Billion of public resources in solutions that help build a green Norway for tomorrow. Since inception in 2001, Enova has helped realize more than 7000 projects that represent energy savings of more than 22 TWh.

**Loan/Grants etc.:** Grants



Image No. 4 Eidevik Offshore

## Norway - Case Study 2: Gardermoen Campus Utvikling AS

**Introduction to business:** A completely new hospital at Gardermoen with a combination of several innovative energy solutions was built. The chosen energy solutions involves: Zone division – which will ensure that the temperature and indoor climate can be adapted to various patient's needs. Façade ventilation system – that recycle energy with 85% efficiency is another new innovative energy technology solution that would be introduced in the project.

**Technology detail:** In addition to providing excellent patient care, LHL has decided that the LHL Clinic Gardermoen will be a prototype project for universal indoor climate and energy.

**Business Aim:** The LHL Clinic – Gardermoen will undoubtedly become the most innovative hospital in Norway, when it comes to energy. The hospital, with its innovative energy solutions, will use 4, 9 GWh less than if it was built according to the current regulations.

**Support and Economic Detail:**

**Funding Mechanism:** Enova Energy Fund. Enova SF is owned by the Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy and contributes to reduced greenhouse gas emissions, development of energy and climate technology and a strengthened security of supply. It can be costly and risky for individual businesses to start using the newest and most climate-friendly technologies. Enova can make a financial contribution so that projects can still be implemented. Each year, Enova invests more than NOK 2 Billion of public resources in solutions that help build a green Norway for tomorrow. Since inception in 2001, Enova has have helped realize more than 7000 projects that represent energy savings of more than 22 TWh.,

**Cost:** NOK 29, 9 millions



Image No. 5 Gardermoen Campus

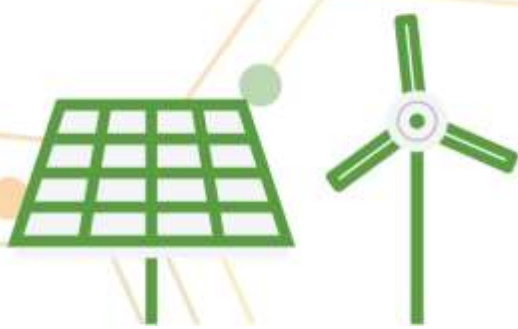


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## Ireland



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## Republic of Ireland

### What kind of agencies offer support to SMEs?

There are a number of different agencies which support SMEs in Ireland. Each agency has a different role and focuses on businesses of different size, potential or area of focus. Although the business support system is largely funded and organized through central government there are a series of local offices which provide the support to local businesses. There is a range of supports for enterprise of all kinds in Ireland. These include access to finance, management development, mentoring supports, business development programmes, market supports and trade promotion.

### Is there one agency which is the first place for businesses to go?

The Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs, <https://www.localenterprise.ie/>) are the 'first-stop-shop' state support service for micro and small businesses in each local area. The LEOs provide advice and direction, covering all government supports and requirements, to anyone who wishes to start or expand a business. The LEOs can also provide funding for projects that meet certain criteria (generally with regard to export potential) and other non-financial supports such as training and mentoring.

Companies with clear high growth potential can be fast-tracked to the next level of support available from Enterprise Ireland (<https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/>) which works in partnership with Irish enterprises to help them start, grow, innovate and win export sales in global markets. They provide funding and supports for companies - from entrepreneurs with business propositions for a high potential start-up through to large companies expanding their activities, improving efficiency and growing international sales.

Microfinance Ireland provides support in the form of loans for up to €25,000, available to microenterprises employing less than 10 people, with viable business propositions, that do not meet the conventional risk criteria applied by banks.

There are also a variety of state backed equity investment funds including the WDC SME investment fund (<http://www.wdc.ie/wdc-investment-fund/sme-investment-fund/>) which operates in Ireland's Western Region. Supports are also available for businesses from LEADER under the National Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/ruralenvironment/ruraldevelopmentprogrammerdp2014-2020/>). LEADER is implemented at a local area through the Local Development Strategy (LDS) which outlines a range of Actions which will be delivered under three main themes one of which is Rural Environment which includes the development of renewable energy.

### Is it clear to the SME where they should go for support?

An online tool which sets out the variety of supports available to all enterprises across all sectors is embedded or linked to over 30 Government websites including Department of Enterprise, Jobs and Innovation website and the websites of the Local Enterprise Offices and Enterprise Ireland. <http://www.supportingsmes.ie/businessdetails.aspx> Are business supports restricted to certain types of business, or enhanced for certain types of SMEs (e.g. only available for manufacturing or for exporters)?

### There is a particular focus on manufacturing and on businesses with export potential. Are there special supports for RE businesses?

There are specific research and development grants available from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) but there is little direct support specifically for renewable energy businesses in Ireland.



## Ireland - Case Study 1: Arigna Fuels

**Introduction to Business:** Arigna Fuels was established to provide clean, affordable, efficient, environmentally friendly, smokeless fuels to the Irish and UK markets. These smokeless fuels are also known as ovoids because of their shape, or manufactured briquettes. As part of their commitment to the environment, the production plant in Arigna is powered by a wind farm (2 x 600 kw Vestas turbines) owned by the company, from which the power output is supplied to the plant. If this output is insufficient, the extra electricity needed is purchased from the E.S.B. The inverse is also true, in that if there is excess electricity generated by the turbines, it is sold on to the grid. In 2010, the company diversified into bioenergy and established Arigna Biofuels Ltd.

**Ownership:** Arigna Fuels is a family owned business established in 2010. This company was founded by the owners of Arigna Fuels which was established in 1994 and employ a team of over fifty people.

**Project website address:** <http://www.arignabiofuels.ie>

**Business Aim:** In 2010, Arigna Fuels diversified into biofuels. Their biofuel based products now account for c.10% of their overall sales, and this growth is expected to continue as restrictions on the use of fossil fuels increase. With a move to more biomass-based fuels for domestic heating, more research is required on emissions and potential environmental impacts of torrefied fuels. Arigna Biofuels are rigorously characterising their feedstock feedstock and finished products with advanced analytical technologies, collaborating with many Irish and UK Universities.

### Supports and Economic Detail

**Cost:** The overall cost to develop the biofuels business was in the region of €1.5m, including the development of the pilot plant for bio-based briquettes and ovoids. This cost included a R&D grant from Enterprise Ireland of €300,000, and €1.2million from the company's resources and bank borrowings.

### Funding mechanisms:

**A Research & Development (R&D) tax relief** (<http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/ct/research-development.html>) from Corporation Tax can be available for companies engaged in high value add R&D activities. The R&D Tax Credit gives a company a 25% tax credit for their expenditure on qualifying R&D in a given year.

**The Research, Development & Innovation (RD&I) Fund** (<https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/funding-supports/Company/Eestablish-SME-Funding/R-D-Fund-Large-Projects-.html>) supports the development of new or substantially improved products, services or processes which will have a competitive advantage in their target market. This will enable companies to increase employment through sustainable and substantially increased sales. The fund support R&D or Business Innovation projects. R&D projects involve the resolution of some technical challenges in order to develop new products, processes or services. Business Innovation projects involve the implementation of a new services delivery or production method or a substantive change to the business model of the company. Projects must be non-routine and represent a 'step-up' for the company in terms of the level of RD&I capability. All projects must have clear objectives and activities defined to achieve those objectives set out in a project plan.

<http://grebeproject.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/GREBE-Business-Supports-Catalog.pdf> - page 69



## Ireland - Case Study 2: EcoSmart External Insulation Ltd.

**Introduction to Business:** The owners of EcoSmart External Insulation Ltd. are both from an engineering and architectural background and initially formed a partnership in 2009, after working together since 2007 on construction projects using Insulated Concrete Formwork (ICF). As a result of the economic downturn and subsequent changes in the construction industry in Ireland, the partners decided to continue working together and focus on renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency in construction.

**Ownership:** EcoSmart is a limited company owned by two people from an engineering and architectural background. The owners developed a partnership in 2009 while working on construction projects and energy efficiency upgrades. In 2011, they strengthened their partnership and formed an alliance with a UK based company to form Cara EcoSmart Ltd., where they worked on energy efficiency projects funded by the Green Deal scheme in the UK. In 2013 they founded EcoSmart External Insulation in Ireland.

**Project website address:** <http://www.ecosmartexternalinsulation.ie/index.html>

**Business Aim:** Eco Smart are focused on growing the brand of EcoSmart and the service they deliver, which includes training of teams of sub-contractors. As the owners are from an engineering and architectural background, they have the technical skills and access to a team of experienced and trained sub-contractors.

### Supports and economic aspects

**Funding mechanisms:** JobsPlus (<http://www.jobsplus.ie>). JobsPlus is an employer incentive which encourages and rewards employers who offer employment opportunities to jobseekers on the Live Register. JobsPlus is a simple scheme for employers to access, offering up to €10,000 for a qualifying recruit, payable on a monthly basis over a two year period. The employment you provide must be for at least 30 hours per week and must span a minimum of 4 days in each week

**Issues with funding:** The job must be a full-time position. The job being offered must be for a minimum of 30 hours per week and the employee must work at least four days in any seven day period. The incentive is unique to the employee who has been verified as eligible by the Department and to whom you have been awarded the incentive in relation to. Employers must be compliant with Irish Tax and Employment Laws.

**Business Outcomes:** The use of the JobsPlus Incentive Scheme allowed EcoSmart to employ an accounts administrator and receive welfare support for doing so. Prior to this, the owners (who are engineers and architects) were responsible for all accounts and administration. This wasn't an efficient use of their time, and it was more cost effective to employ a person with experience in administration and accounts to do this work.

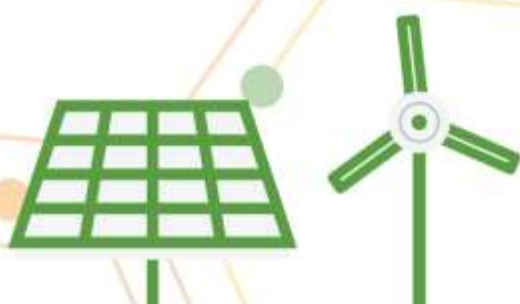


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## Scotland



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## Scotland

### What kind of agencies offer support to SMEs?

Support predominantly comes from central Government, particularly in regard to financial subsidy. This is disseminated at a variety of levels from a UK wide scale to regional agencies, such as Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

QUANGOs and NGOs also provide support to SMEs, the Energy Saving Trust being one of the key agencies in this field.

Membership organisations, such as the Orkney Renewable Energy Forum (OREF), seek to bring individuals and small business together to help achieve certain aims. For example, OREF aims to address strategic issues affecting Orkney's renewables sector through collaboration with members, the local community, key stakeholders, and academics and researchers.

Smaller charities, such as Community Energy Scotland, also aim to provide advice and assistance to SMEs in this sector.

### Is it clear to the SME where they should go for support?

There is a Government website (<https://www.mygov.scot/funding-opportunities/>) which lists various funding opportunities; however, this does not necessarily contain all possible funding sources.

If there is a community element to the project Local Energy Scotland clearly lays out how they can get support (<http://www.localenergyscotland.org/>).

### Is there one agency which is the first place for businesses to go?

This depends on the type of venture:

- If it is a community based business then Local Energy Scotland is the first calling point;
- If it is innovation or research based Scottish Enterprise, or its subsidiaries, is usually the most relevant place;
- For direct subsidy for electricity generated through the feed-in tariff scheme the Energy Saving Trust is the first point of contact.

### Are business supports restricted to certain types of business, or enhanced for certain types of SMEs (e.g. only available for manufacturing or for exporters)?

In Scotland there is a strong focus on community renewable energy projects. These have additional funds available to them through the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES). Through collaboration with communities this fund can be accessed by others. The variety of business supports means some SMEs may not necessarily be eligible to all supports. For example many supports are either exclusively for R&D or specifically state such projects are not eligible.

### Are there special supports for RE businesses?

Yes, probably the most important of these is the subsidy system for electricity generated by renewable sources through the feed-in tariff for small scale projects (under 5 MW) and ROC (now CfD mechanism) (for larger projects). However, feedback from industry shows that the reduced support of government is having a very negative impact. One of our respondents to another element of GREBE termed these changes as a Government "shutdown of renewables", so although there are specific supports in place the strength of these is becoming questionable.

## Scotland - Case Study 1: GlenWyvis Distillery

**Introduction to Business:** John McKenzie, also known as ‘the Flying Farmer’, used his own farm as a foundation to encourage local renewable energy (RE) production and savings. His farm is harnessing sun, wind, and rain for energy production, resulting in Wind, Hydro (on and off grid), Solar PV, Solar Gain, Solar Thermal and Biomass RE projects. Furthermore, he provided business assistance for the Dingwall Auction Marts Endurance Turbine and the Dingwall Wind Coop, which combined with his own Flying Farmer business, results in more than 1,000,000kW of green electricity for local use, with the excess being exported to the UK National Grid.

### Support and Economic Detail:

**Crowd Funding:** The GlenWyvis in combination with Community Shares Scotland (CSS) launched Community Share Offer to raise over £1.5 million. The community shares funding mechanism was the specialised “MicroGenius” site, which does not collect funds until the “Green Light” point is reached. The “Green Light” point was set at £1.5million, with a maximum of £2.38 million, and was open for 8 weeks.

**Resource Efficient Scotland:** Funded by the Scottish Government under Zero Waste Scotland. The objective behind the scheme is to support businesses looking to decrease costs through improved resource efficiency measures (energy, material resource and water efficiency). Loans are available from £1,000 to £100,000 to assist businesses to reduce their carbon emissions, save money and increase their competitiveness.

**Business Outcomes:** The crowdfunding campaign gathered a grand total of £2,048,060 from 1,949 investors, resulting in surpassing its initial £1.5m target by more than £500,000. Creation of three full-time jobs and a further seven, once the distillery and visitors’ centre are open for business.



The Glen GlenWyvis is 95% zero carbon at present and are currently looking at a feasibility study to install a battery to store our excess energy when they don’t need it. The SME loan scheme will allow them to purchase another solar PV, which brings them one step closer to 100% green goal.



Image No. 6 GlenWyvis Distillery

## Scotland - Case Study 2: Surf 'n' Turf: Orkney Hydrogen

### Introduction to Business:

Orkney is an archipelago off the north-eastern coast of Scotland. There is a plentiful amount of natural resources (wave, tidal, wind and solar), which allows for the electricity to be generated locally from renewable resources. On many occasions the generated electricity is more than what is needed by the local population and the surplus is exported to the UK National Grid. In some instances, a problem arises when there is an over-production of electricity, since the Grid Connection in Orkney is not large enough. This results in curtailment of the production of green electricity and clean energy is unharnessed.

Eday Island hosts the tidal site of the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) and has around 200 residents, which own collectively 900kW wind turbine through Eday Renewable Energy. Both Eday's wind turbine and EMEC's tidal turbines are susceptible to curtailment because of the non-firm grid connection. The curtailment of renewable energy generators, coupled with, the SSE moratorium on new grid connections since 2012, is obstructing investment in RE from both local and inward investors.

Surf 'n' Turf is a collaborative, novel project between Community Energy Scotland, Eday Renewable Energy Ltd, EMEC, Orkney Islands Council and ITM Power. Surf 'n' Turf provides Eday's community-owned wind turbine and EMEC with equipment to convert and store the surplus energy as hydrogen. The hydrogen is compressed by EMEC's electrolyser, stored and transported to Kirkwall for off-site use. Surf 'n' Turf is developing training facilities and arrangements to make use of hydrogen in Kirkwall.

### Support and Economic Detail

**Funding Mechanisms and Criteria:** The Surf 'n' Turf project received £1.46 million in development funding from the Scottish Government's Local Energy Challenge Fund (LECF).

**Local Energy Challenge Fund:** The LECF operates in 2 phases and provides support to large-scale low carbon demonstrator projects, which display a local energy economy approach linking energy generation to energy use. The development phase (1st phase) offers feasibility and development support for project proposals, while the demonstration phase (2nd phase), provides capital funding to deliver projects.

**The Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme (LCITP):** The Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme (LCITP) is partnering with the LECF in the 2nd phase. The LCITP is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and is a working partnership between the Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Scottish Futures Trust and sector specialists. A variety of support mechanisms including project development, expert advice and financial support is obtainable through the LCITP to support the expansion of private, public and community low-carbon projects across Scotland. European match funding to the LCITP is guaranteed up until autumn 2018.

**Business Outcomes:** Orkney has been chosen for the development of a new European pilot project: Building Innovative Green Hydrogen systems in an Isolated Territory (BIG HIT). The Surf 'n' Turf project laid the foundation for communities and energy technology partners to tender for the funding. The BIG HIT project will have a 5 million euros budget prepared for investment in hydrogen as a fuel for transport and heating.



## Conclusion

The main focus of this report was to create two case studies per each partner region. The case studies were to focus on renewable businesses which received a type of funding mechanism to support their business. All partner regions were able to create two case studies however Northern Ireland was only able to provide one case study, so in total a number of 11 case studies were provided for this report.

Partner Region	Financial Support	Taxation or welfare	Soft supports	Research & Development	Social & Community	Other
<b>Finland</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Iceland</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Norway</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>		
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>x</b>					
<b>Republic of Ireland</b>		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>		
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

Action Renewables as work package lead categorised the funding mechanisms based on which each renewable business received under the following categories:

- Financial Support , (grants, loans, equity investment)
- Taxation or welfare supports or concessions for businesses
- Soft supports e.g. mentoring, training, specialist advice, networks
- Research and Development supports
- Social and Community supports (focused on not for profit)
- Other – e.g. Incubation space or office space etc.

When carrying out the report we could see the most popular funding mechanisms available to the renewable energy businesses were Research & Development and also Financial Supports. In Ireland a company called Eco Smart received a support towards creating employment through JobsPlus. JobsPlus is an employer incentive which encourages and rewards employers who offer employment opportunities. On the other hand support mechanisms such as Social Support and Other, were not so much popular throughout the partner regions. From the table above we can see there was only Social Support received and this support was rewarded to a renewable business in Scotland.

Throughout the report we discovered many of the partner regions had a number of funding mechanisms available which supported their renewable business they were Finland, Iceland and Scotland. While Northern Ireland only received one type of support for their anaerobic digestion project.

All of the funding supports discussed throughout this report can be found in the GREBE business support catalogue at: <http://grebeproject.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/GREBE-Business-Supports-Catalog.pdf>





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## Contact

Western Development Commission,  
Dillon House, Ballaghaderreen,  
Co. Roscommon, F45 WY26, Ireland.

Tel: +353 (0)94 986 1441

Email: [paulineleonard@wdc.ie](mailto:paulineleonard@wdc.ie)

## Project Partners

GREBE will be operated by eight partner organisations across six regions:



Innovation Center  
Iceland



## About GREBE

GREBE is a €1.77m, 3-year (2015-2018) transnational project to support the renewable energy sector. It is co-funded by the EU's Northern Periphery & Arctic (NPA) Programme. It will focus on the challenges of peripheral and arctic regions as places for doing business, and help develop renewable energy business opportunities provided by extreme conditions.

