

SUMMER 2021

FarmEnergy^{NI}
NEWSLETTER



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The new report by RNI/KPMG

COVER STORY

FENI SUPPORTS NEW REPORT

Following the success of the FENI contributed “Independent economic review of small-scale wind in Northern Ireland”, Farm Energy NI has given further support and financial backing to another report “An analysis on the future role of Distributed Generation in Northern Ireland”.

The report was written by KPMG on behalf of the distributed renewables sector in Northern Ireland. The report aims to support continued engagement between industry and policy makers, highlight the benefits of Distributed Generation, the opportunity to optimise existing assets and provide economic argument for further, albeit larger, distributed assets. Within the report, Distributed Generation is defined as any renewable generating asset below 5MW which is either connected to the distribution network or behind-the-meter.

This report was commissioned by RenewableNI to provide context and support to the Energy Strategy response that the Distributed Generation sector can play an important role in achieving several policy objectives. These include decarbonisation, diversified generation risk, rural job diversification, grid optimisation and reduction in fuel import reliance...



“2021 is a strategically important year for the renewables sector”

photo: @jryoung

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Welcoming the report, Steven Agnew, Head of RenewableNI said; “2021 is a strategically important year for the renewables sector as we look forward to the publication of an energy strategy that will help us reach our decarbonisation targets, while also creating growth opportunities. It is therefore important to recognise the contribution of Distributed Generation, as this report shows, has far reaching positive benefits.”

RenewableNI is a trade association which represents over 40 businesses in the renewable electricity industry in Northern Ireland, fostering knowledge exchange, sharing best practice, and supporting policy development. Farm Energy NI are an integral part of this association representing our members interests and lobbying on their behalf.

NI Energy Strategy Update

Farm Energy NI continues to represent its members to ensure your voice is heard. We have now submitted our response to the strategy, supporting many of the arguments put forward by RenewableNI. The consultation is now closed, publication of the Final Energy Strategy is the last stage in the process expected to be released in November 2021.

In March 2021 Department for the Economy (“DfE”) published a consultation paper on the options for an updated energy strategy for Northern Ireland. The consultation sought the views on a number of aspects of the energy landscape, including decarbonisation pathways for transport, residential heating, and power generation.

On Thursday 17th June, Farm Energy hosted a webinar on the NI Energy Strategy to discuss the consultation and hear the thoughts of our members. We were delighted to have Meabh Cormacain (Department for the Economy), and Steven Agnew (RenewableNI) provide presentations and take questions from our members.

Members Profile: **CLADY HYDRO**

Last month Farm Energy paid a visit to Leonard Wilson, Clady Hydro situated on the Clady Water, Dunadry, Co Antrim. A stone's throw from Leonard Wilson's Farm once stood the Clady Bleach, Dye and Finishing Mill, strategically positioned by the Clady Water and Six Mile Water for its source of power. This mill powered two large breast wheels and a turbine.

Moving to the present day, Leonard's installation comprises of a 20-kW bespoke Ossberger Crossflow hydro turbine, exploiting a net head of 5.4 metres and a maximum flow rate of 600 litres of water per second at full power, providing enough power for domestic use.



During the nineteenth century, this area was once at the heart of the flourishing flax and linen industry, largely dependent on water-power and on an adequate supply of river water to produce not only flax but also power the large number of bettling mills, threshing mills, paper mills, spinning mills and spade mills dotted along the river valley.

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Leonard installed a screen cleaner in August 2020 as leaf debris can lead to significant loss of income. It operates even in exceptional leaf fall and high abstraction conditions. The screen has

greatly increased the energy yield of the hydro-power system, eliminating debris maintenance and meets fish and eel screening regulations.



Water quality has improved significantly on the Six Mile Water in recent years and Leonard is keen to see trout and dollaghan flourishing in his local waters.

Hydro power has advanced somewhat since the day of the industrial revolution and hydro will continue to advance in the future green economy.

Members Questionnaire

FENI would welcome feedback on their Customer Satisfaction Survey. This will be emailed to existing clients but can also be responded online

IN BRIEF

Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) Offers

Farm Energy NI continue to secure the best financial returns for our members exported electricity. We currently have a number of products available including a 3-year fixed PPA deal that includes annual increments.



This arrangement protects your renewable investment from fluctuating market rates and provides income security over a longer term than an annual PPA.



Updated Web Portal Design

We have recently completed updates to the web portal. This includes a new layout, date picker for invoices and a News Section. The News Section is exclusive to our 'Trading Members' and will be used to bring you offers and opportunities. We will be shortly launching a mobile version of the portal giving you access to your generation/invoices on handheld devices.



Member Network Events

Farm Energy would like to announce the resumption of its Member Network Events. These events have been popular with our members and is an opportunity to gather, mix and listen to our words of wisdom!

The schedule will kick off on Thursday 9th Sept at Millbrook Hotel, Ballynahinch with future events on 7th & 14th October. Further details on the venues and itinerary will appear on our website and the client portal.



Market News

ROCs PRICES

We are pleased to report that ROCs prices have continued to improve over the last few months, with auction prices now at similar levels to those seen at the beginning of 2020. The main reasons for this

are the demand for electricity now back to pre Covid 19 levels as well as the fact that production in the last year is down compared to the previous year. For example, the availability of ROCs generated from onshore wind is down approximately 10% on the previous year; on the other hand, hydro and solar PV remain similar on average to the previous year.

July will see the first of the “CP20” ROCs being issued, for the April generation period. Early indications suggest that load factors on wind and solar were down on forecasts which would in turn lead to less ROCs being available. However, given that suppliers can “bank” ROCs, i.e., carry over some ROCs from the previous year that they have not yet redeemed, along with continued after effects of the global pandemic, there still remains a degree of uncertainty as to how ROC prices will hold up over the coming months.



Project Review

We would like to remind you on our unique Project Review service. A project review is a bespoke FENI service that is personalised to your renewable project. It gives you the opportunity to sit down with a member of our staff and review how your generator is performing and assist with:

- Keeping within regulations set by Ofgem and NIE Networks;
- Having correct documentation for an Ofgem Audit and for Grid Code compliance;
- Review of your generator efficiency;
- Does your site have the potential for Re-powering?
- Is your generator suitable for battery storage?
- Are you maximising your PPA and ROCs income?

For more information contact any member of our Team or book online <https://www.farmenergyni.co.uk/project-review/book-a-review/>

Associate Offers

Cleaver Fulton Rankin is a local market-leading law firm in energy and renewables. They regularly act for local farmers, landowners, and developers of small-scale projects, including single turbine wind projects, hydro, biogas production, and smaller-scale solar development.

Cleaver Fulton Rankin are willing to offer a tailored product to Farm Energy NI members which include a free 15-minute consultation in respect of any aspect of the Members' energy project and its operation.

To find out more, please contact Peter Moorhead on **p.moorhead@cfrlaw.co.uk** or **028 9027 1357**.

**Cleaver
Fulton
Rankin**

Repowered Turbines – Make sure it complies!

Our sister company, Realise Energy Services, are wind energy specialists dedicated to delivering a comprehensive range of high-quality wind turbines and associated services to support the design, supply, installation and ongoing service and maintenance of your repowered turbine project.

We believe how you repower your site will depend on a number of factors and there are a range of options possible as turbines with larger rotors are constrained to operate consistently at 225 or 250kW. It must be remembered that most NIE connections are 415V whilst some larger turbines operate at 690V. These will either need to be capable of being reconfigured to operate at 415V (e.g., Vestas V39) or a 690V/415V step-down transformer situated in the base of the tower will be required (e.g., Vestas V47 & V52).

In order to continue to comply with NIE G59 requirements, the turbine's generator will need to be modified to have a maximum capacity of either 225 or 250kW, depending on the site capacity. This requires re-distribution of the generator's internal copper windings and will be carried out prior to installation. Realise Energy Services have partnered with Northern Ireland's leading NIE-approved specialist to provide this service as part of our repowered turbine solution to customers. This will ensure your turbine meets NIE's G59 requirements whilst maintaining the original main components within the turbine.

Would you be open to selling your wind turbine?

One of our partner companies, 2050 Renewables PLC, are currently interested in buying ROC accredited wind turbine sites particularly in the 150kW to 250kW size. They offer:

- Large upfront payment for your turbine.
- Ongoing annual rental income.
- Offer within 5 working days of receiving your information.

...and the great thing is you may be surprised to hear how much tax relief you can get meaning the money you receive goes a lot further!

If this may be of interest, we would really like to hear from you to discuss the opportunity further.

Please feel free to contact Eddie Mulgrew in the first instance on **028 7930 0606** or **eddie@farmenergy.co.uk**.

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Realise Energy Services are also a NIE-verified supplier and installer of the SCADA and reactive power control solutions needed to comply with NIE SSG SCADA and grid code compliance obligations. As well as being able to offer this solution separately to our customers whether you are repowering or not, we can also include it as part of the repowered turbine solution if needed.

With significant interest and demand for larger turbines to repower existing operational sites across Northern Ireland, post installation support is crucial for maintaining high investment returns and ongoing compliance. Locally based service and maintenance support and turbine monitoring, and an All-Inclusive O&M contract which acts as both a warranty and service contract in one, is therefore an important part of any repowered offering. Such a package results in a “wrap-around” service ensuring a secure and reliable turbine solution that will ensure ongoing compliance with all necessary parties.

If you would like to speak to the Realise team about repowered turbine options or SCADA and reactive power control solutions, please contact us on **0800 042 0251** or email at **enquiries@realise-energy.co.uk** or simply fill out the enquiry form on our website **www.realise-energy.co.uk**