

Open Event **LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH NORDIC COOPERATION**

MAY 24TH 2018

Merlin Thurso Cinema
Ormlie Road
Thurso
KW14 7QU



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



GREBE



North Highland College
University of the
Highlands and Islands



Northern Periphery and
Arctic Programme
2014-2020



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WWW.GREBEPROJECT.EU

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Conference Programme

Wednesday 24th May 2018

Merlin Cinema, Thurso, Ormlie Road, KW14 7QU

09.00 **Coffee and registration**

09.30: **Conference opening**



Official opening and welcome address

Professor Stuart Gibb, ERI Director and UHI Vice Principal



Scotland and the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme

Kateryna McKinnon, European Manager, Highlands and Islands Enterprise

10.00 **Session 1. Safeguarding environmental resources**



Circular Ocean

Dr Neil James Environmental Research Institute, North Highland College UHI



In pursuit of innovative and sustainable solutions for marine plastic waste, the Circular Ocean project seeks to inspire enterprises and entrepreneurs to realise the hidden opportunities of discarded fishing nets and ropes in the Northern Periphery & Arctic (NPA) region.

www.circularocean.eu



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**Arctic Preparedness Platform for oil
Spill and other Environmental
Accidents**



Dr Neil James Environmental Research Institute, North Highland
College UHI

The APP4SEA project, financed by the Northern Periphery and Arctic
Programme will contribute to environmental protection of the Arctic
waters and saving the habitual lifestyle of the local communities. It will
improve oil spill preparedness of local authorities and public
awareness about potential oil tanker accidents at sea.

<http://app4sea.interreg-npa.eu/>



ADAPT Northern Heritage



Dr Diana Valero, Perth College UHI

Sustainable Heritage Areas:
Partnerships for Ecotourism

Adapt Northern Heritage is a project supporting
communities and local authorities to adapt northern cultural heritage to
the environmental impacts of climate change and associated natural
hazards through community engagement and informed conservation
planning. Official opening and welcome address.

www.adaptnorthernheritage.eu

10.35 Comfort break

10.45 Session 2: Developing sustainable communities



Making it Work

Heather Urquart, Rossal Research
Consultancy



A Framework for Workforce Stability in Rural and Remote
Locations...developed through a 7-year international partnership
building investment recommendations and practical tools for
administrators, supported by evidence and grounded in Northern, rural
and remote experience. <http://rrmakingitwork.eu/>



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Sustainable Heritage Areas: Partnerships for Ecotourism

Carsten Herman, Historic Environment Scotland



SHAPE focuses on a transnational set of sustainable heritage areas (SHAs) with diverse experiences of sustainability and regional cooperation involving stakeholders in heritage management, tourism, and governance. shape.interreg-npa.eu



Regional Innovation in the Nordic Arctic and Scotland with a Special Focus on Regions with Large-Scale Projects

Magnus Davidson, Environmental Research Institute, North Highland College UHI



REGINA aims to develop planning methods and processes supporting local communities facing the development of large-scale, resource-based industries. <http://www.reginaproject.eu/>

11.30 Session 3: Sustainable resources & energy efficiency



e-lighthouse

Eddie Boyd, Highland Council



e-lighthouse.eu
TOWARDS ENERGY EFFICIENT COMMUNITIES

The e-lighthouse project will support actions that increase the energy efficiency and uptake of renewable energy in buildings and thus contribute to the decrease in carbon dioxide emissions from the building sector. www.elighthouse.eu



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Local Energy Communities

Pauline Leonard, Western Development Commission, Ireland



The LECo project shall respond on the needs of remote communes and settlements for a sustainable energy supply. The goal is to combine new innovative technologies with locally available natural resources, and to raise awareness of energy efficiency and possibilities to use the renewable energy.

<http://leco.interreg-npa.eu/>

12.00 Lunch and World Café event

13.00 Session 4: Sustainable resources and renewable energy



H-CHP

Brian Whittington, Tighean Innse Gall



The purpose of the H-CHP -project is to promote the uptake of Combined Heating and Power systems (CHP) in the region using solid renewable biomass and gasification methods that will be appropriate for remote households. <http://h-chp.interreg-npa.eu/>



FOBIA

Paula Jylhä, Natural Resources Institute Finland, Finland



FOBIA aims to enhance the business competitiveness of forestry service enterprises in the NPA regions of Finland, Sweden, Scotland and Ireland by: (1) identifying and implementing innovative business models; (2) providing tools for increasing operational efficiency; and (3) developing and piloting the use of digital platforms for knowledge transfer, networking and trading of services. <http://fobia.interreg-npa.eu/>



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13.30 GREBE: Project outputs



Generating Renewable Energy Business Enterprise

Pauline Leonard, Western Development Commission, Ireland



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GREBE focuses on the challenges of peripheral and arctic regions as places for doing business and help develop renewable energy (RE) business opportunities provided by extreme conditions. It supports successful development of SMEs and start-ups in this sector through analysis of advanced RE options, expert business mentoring, transnational models of successful growth strategies, policy analysis and information on funding mechanisms for businesses and support agencies. <http://grebeproject.eu/>



Renewable Energy Policy Learnings

Michael Doran, Action Renewables, N. Ireland



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Renewable Energy is a sector which is heavily influenced and reliant on a supporting policy framework. It requires policy stimulation to enact behavioural change, to incentivise the increased use of RE, to promote R&D in new technology adoption and to encourage investment in new disruptive technologies. The policy development, nature of business development and Governmental structures are very different in each partner region.



Virtual Energy Ideas Hub technology guidelines and knowledge transfer

Dr Robert Prinz, Natural Resources Institute Finland, Finland



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The Virtual Energy Ideas Hub will disseminate technology transfer and new business concepts across the NPA region utilising knowledge and outputs developed within the project. In order to successfully



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introduce new and innovative solutions developed and proven under different operational environments into a new market & business environment, RE Technologies must be tried and tested before they are ready to launch to new markets.

14.30 **GREBE: Entrepreneur enabler scheme**



Entrepreneur Enable Scheme

Una Porteus, Fermagh & Omagh District Council, N. Ireland



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Entrepreneurship enabler schemes have proven to be successful and effective promotional tools in supporting the development of new businesses. This activity within GREBE has developed a mentoring scheme that is specifically designed for the renewable energy business sector.



Diane Moffatt

Mofatt and Robinson

An insight into the GREBE entrepreneur enabler scheme in N. Ireland. The experiences of a mentee.

EES in Scotland: Views from a mentor and mentee

An insight into the GREBE entrepreneur enabler scheme in Scotland. The experiences of mentors and mentees.



John McGlynn

Navitas Scotland



Alistair Murray

VE Energy



Terry Stebbings

Proterra Energy



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EES in Finland: Implementation and expansion

Dr Ville Kuittinen, North Karelia University of Applied Sciences, Finland



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15.30 Panel Session on Local Opportunities through International Cooperation

In an ever changing landscape, we discuss whether international cooperation is important in assisting local development and providing new opportunities.

What are the benefits of international cooperation, particularly with Nordic countries? How can we seek to develop existing and new links with organisations? How do we overcome existing and imminent barriers to ensure our local regions thrive?

Panellists



Dr Lasse Okkonen

Lecturer

North Karelia University of Applied Sciences, Finland



Michael Doran

Managing Director

Action Renewables, N. Ireland



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Linda Stewart

Director of European and International
Development

University of the Highlands and Islands, Scotland



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Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd
agus nan Eilean



Kateryna McKinnon

European Manager

Highlands and Islands Enterprise



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agus nan Eilean



Pauline Leonard,

Western Development Commission,
Ireland



16.20

Closing remarks

16.30

End of Conference

17.00

Networking event and buffet

Caithness Horizons, High Street, Thurso, KW14 8AJ



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