

Tiree Renewable Energy Company Ltd

A company limited by shares, registered in Scotland, Company No: 292914,
Registered Office Units 1 & 2, The Island Centre, Crossapol, Isle of Tiree, PA77 6UP,
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VAT Registration No: 895036301.

TREL Chairperson's Report for FY 2020

AGM 8 November 2021

This is the Chairperson's report for Tiree Renewable Energy Company Ltd covering 2020.

In this report I will first cover the standard performance and financial figures. Issues with Tilley persisted past the 2020 year end, so I will give you a summary of how that situation has been resolved in the current year, and lastly, if I may, I would like to reflect on what Tilley has achieved over its first decade of operations and draw some lessons for the future.

For 2020, TREL was able to donate over £177,000 to the Trust, taking the total paid to the Trust in the ten years since Tilley started running to £2.4 million. There can't be a person on the island who hasn't benefited from well over a hundred grants and projects that the Trust has provided using this money from Tilley.

In terms of energy, we generated a total of 1.1 gigawatt hours in 2020. This was around a third of the generation in previous years due to failures in the spring and again the autumn. Even so, this would be enough to power around 300 family homes for a year. We have now generated over 30 gigawatt hours since Tilley started operating.

Covid made 2020 a difficult year for us all, and it turned out that not even Tilley was immune to its effects. Covid restrictions meant that Enercon had problems getting repair crews out hence repairs took longer than normal, and late in the year Enercon decided that the generator was beyond economic repair and would have to be replaced. As you will probably all be aware, the replacement was completed a couple of months ago.

What you may not be aware of is that the costs of this, including most of the cost of lost income were covered by our maintenance contract and insurance. For that, we have to thank the Directors who were so diligent in the way they set up the commercial deal behind TREL in the first place. Some of those Directors are still on the board, but in particular I would like to thank two who have since moved on to other things: Ian Tainsh and Steve Thomson, who put in a huge amount of work shaping those commercial aspects in the early days.

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And that diligent approach to project preparation and delivery continues to this day in the Trust Group. Through a series of projects – the Noost, Broadband, Buth a Bhaile, Harbours and now the Fuel Station – the Trust group and its staff have developed a great reputation as a reliable project delivery vehicle with the likes of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the Lottery and the Scottish Government. For evidence, you only have to look at the complex logistics for the turbine repair that were handled so competently by Phyl, Kate and Shari in the office, and previously by Andy Wright and Louise Reid before they moved into new careers.

That competence, together with being able to contribute financially, thanks to Tilley, means the Trust has been able to bring in a great deal of additional funding from other sources. It's not that the money from Tilley provides the last bit of financial icing on the cake for these projects. What's happening is that HIE, the Lottery, Marine Scotland, and the like, know that that when they bring the financial main course to the table, we'll already have set the table, and be standing with the starter ready. And probably ordered the taxis too!

So to bring this back to TREL, now that Tilley is back up and running, and the original loan is almost paid off, we're looking forward to ten more years of providing income to the Trust to support many more projects of all shapes and size and make a real impact on the lives of everyone in Tiree.