



Scotland's first urban community hydro launches Share Offer that targets 7% return

Aberdeen Community Energy (ACE) has today announced that its flagship community renewable energy project, The Donside Hydro, is now open for investment.

The hydro project hopes to raise £500,000 through a Share Offer that will offer investors a target 7% return on their investment.

On track to complete construction and begin generating electricity by October 2016, the project will create a sustainable income for the local community by selling clean, renewable electricity to the national grid. The project is expected to generate many thousands each year for a community fund and enough electricity to power the equivalent of around 130 homes annually.

ACE has developed a detailed guide to the Share Offer, that includes full financial projections and example investment scenarios.

The repayment of capital investment will take place annually over 20 years, beginning in year two. Investors will receive a portion of their capital plus the interest each year, until the amount is fully repaid in year 20. Projections show that for an investment of £1000, the total return over a 20 year period would be just over £2500.

Sinclair Laing, founding director of ACE said: "We are so pleased to have finally launched the Share Offer. Construction began in early June and the Donside Hydro is taking great shape, but our work is far from over. We are hoping to raise £500,000 over the next five weeks, which seems quite daunting but we've seen similar projects across Scotland raise similar amounts in the same time frame, so we know it can be done.

"We're calling on people from communities across the UK to support us. If you are passionate about green energy and sustainable communities or even if you're just looking for a solid return on your investment, then please take some time go through the Share Offer document and get in touch to find out more. The minimum investment is £100 and the maximum £100,000, so we hope to attract a wide range of investors."

Kevin Stewart MSP said: "The Donside Village community are to be applauded for their efforts in making their hydro scheme a reality and I hope that folk will get behind them by investing in the project through their community share offer."

Shares will be sold for £1 each and should be regarded as a long term investment.

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Notes to editors:

About ACE

Aberdeen Community Energy is a Community Benefit Society which was set up in 2014 by the Donside Community Association (DCA) to build, own and operate the Donside Hydro Scheme on behalf of the community.

ACE's vision is to deliver on the founder's ethos of Donside Village as a sustainable community, one that truly works for both its inhabitants and natural riverside setting, while delivering a project that is aligned with local, national and EU policy on energy, climate and sustainable communities.



About the DCA

Donside is a sustainable community nestled on the banks of the River Don. Built in 2012 by social landlord Tenants First Scotland (now part of the [Sanctuary Group](#)), the development is a mixture of affordable homes offered for sale and lease.

The Donside Community Association (DCA), was established by the community in February 2013 to act in the best interest of its residents. The DCA takes on roles and responsibilities to develop Donside and the community through site improvements and the organisation of events and activities designed to bring the community together. It also aims to act as a voice for Donside at a local level through involvement and engagement with local networks, Community Councils and other partner agencies.

<http://acenergy.org.uk/>