**5 September 2016**

**UK’s widest Archimedean screw turbine installed at the site of Scotland’s first urban community hydro in Aberdeen**

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Aberdeen Community Energy (ACE) has today welcomed the arrival of several items of technical equipment worth around £340,000 that will form part of the Donside Hydro, including a 25 tonne Archimedean screw turbine.

The turbine, which was manufactured in the Netherlands by Landustrie Sneek BV, began its journey to Aberdeen on Friday 2 September and arrived with police escort to the site at around 10pm on Sunday 4 September.

At just under five metres wide, it’s the largest diameter screw ever to be installed in the UK.

The screw, as well as other essential pieces of key equipment including the gear box, generator and otter and debris protection screen, was installed by crane today, Monday 5 September. All equipment will be housed within a flood protected turbine house, which was recently re-designed as a result of the floods the area experienced in winter 2015/16.

Sinclair Laing, ACE Founding Director said: “We’ve passed a number of exciting milestones, as the project has developed, but seeing the kit arrive for installation today has really brought it all to life. To say that the community is excited to see the technology in front of us - rather than in plans - would be an understatement.

“With the Community Share Offer already nearing its £500,000 target and the installation of the kit today, we are very much edging closer and closer to a fully operational, community owned hydro in the heart of Aberdeen city.”

On track to complete construction and begin generating electricity by the end of September 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.

The screw weighs 25 tonnes, is nine metres in length and 4.7 meters wide. It can produce 100kW and will draw a max of 10 cubic meters per second from the river. It was designed by ManPower Consulting Ltd.

Other key partners in the hydro construction include Highland Eco Design, responsible for civil engineering, logistics and overseeing construction.

**ENDS**

***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 Goup*](https://www.sanctuary-housing.co.uk/)*), 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/>