

GreenPower North Argyll community newsletter



Greetings

We would like to extend our best wishes to all of our neighbours, stakeholders and suppliers in North Argyll. GreenPower is a Scottish owned independent renewable energy company which operates the Carraig Gheal Wind Farm near Kilchrenan. We had a busy year in Argyll in 2025, and 2026 is shaping up to be even busier.

Supporting pupils at Oban High

Powering Futures – School Challenge 2025/26

GreenPower staff were pleased to once again support Oban High School's Powering Futures Schools Challenge. The SCQF Level 6 challenges students to solve real-life problems.

The 'Challenges' this year included designing the town of the future, and designing a campaign to promote local sustainable seafood consumption. The programme will culminate in a group presentation in March 2026 to a panel of experts from partner organisations including GreenPower.

Andrew Barnes, Powering Futures Partner Relations Manager said:

"We're thrilled to be working with GreenPower in bridging the gap between education and the future opportunities for the next generation."

Geography and Environmental Science Award

GreenPower has sponsored the High School Geography Prize at Oban High since 2015. Last year's prize (2024/2025) was presented to Jess Jevons by Nick Fennell, Development Manager at GreenPower.



GreenPower's Nick Fennell with Geography Prize Winner Jess Jevons

Design a wind farm - workshop

In December 2025, staff from GreenPower visited the school to work with the Geography and Environmental Science Highers class to run a workshop where pupils learnt about the skills and techniques that are needed to plan and develop a wind farm.

Students were encouraged to understand the concerns and issues of different stakeholders eg community groups, local authorities, statutory bodies etc. The students then designed their preferred layout of the wind farm.



GreenPower's Nick Fennell and Jennie Cowley presenting at the design a wind farm workshop

Carraig Gheal Wind Farm

Carraig Gheal has been in operation since 2013 and in its first ten years it generated well over a million megawatt hours of green electricity – enough to boil a kettle 12 billion times, or to drive a Tesla Model 3 to the moon and back over 12,000 times.

Blade bearing replacement

Keeping a close eye on wind turbine performance and regular maintenance is important. In October 2025, ahead of the winter season and the windiest period of the year, one of our turbine's blade bearings was showing early signs of distress and was successfully replaced. This required a blade to be removed to access the bearing, which is an important component to keep running smoothly. Each bearing is 2.2m in diameter and weighs around 3 tonnes.

Stefan Shaba, GreenPower Asset Manager said:

"From planning to precision engineering, it takes real teamwork to keep a wind farm producing. It was a fantastic collaboration between Siemens Energy, Forsyth of Denny, Forestry Land Scotland, Igne, ALMcCrae, WallaceDS, and our GreenPower team."



Rob Forrest, GreenPower CEO, inspects a wind turbine blade at Carraig Gheal Wind Farm

Carraig Gheal - community benefit awards and applications

The community benefit fund has been running since the project became operational – and has supported a wide range of local initiatives and charities. Funds awarded so far are over £620,000.

The Steering Group, which is chaired and managed by members of the local community, also agreed that each of the five Community Councils surrounding Carraig Gheal Wind Farm would also receive a further £1,000 each into their micro grant pots for the 2025/2026 period.

The last round of awards included a £10,000 grant to the Oban Mountain Rescue Team to fit out a new command vehicle to house state-of-the-art equipment which will help save lives and improve safety for rescue team members.

Robert Kincaid, Treasurer of Oban MRT said:

"It is just fantastic to get a considerable contribution to the funding of our new vehicle. This will really help our charity with our move from an old unreliable control vehicle to a new one. We will gain significantly more technical capability to support our mountain rescue volunteers and other emergency services we work with in the local community to aid safety and assist those in need more effectively."



GreenPower's Eddie Narbett with Robert Kincaid and volunteers at the Oban Mountain Rescue Team, from L to R: Eddie Narbett, Gordon Binnie, Andy Ravenhill and Robert Kincaid

Other projects receiving funds included:

Argyll Field Archers – over £5,000 towards a new 3D archery range

Kilchrenan Village Hall – nearly £7,000 for a new AV system

Dalavich Improvement Group – nearly £9,000 for replacement windows and cladding

Rob Forrest, CEO of GreenPower said:

"I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to the local people that make these decisions on the Steering Group – they put in a tremendous amount of work on behalf of the local community and we are very grateful for their efforts and goodwill."

Avich & Kilchrenan Community Heritables was supported by a £400 micro grant from the CGWFCBF in August as part of KirkFest - Celebrating Our Past, Present and Future.

The most recent funding round for the main grant scheme, which offered grants of up to £10,000 (£20,000 for village halls) and was available to constituted groups only, closed on 31 January 2026.

The Steering Group will meet in April to consider the applications received. Further information on the fund is available on the Carraig Gheal website (<https://carraigghéalwindfarm.co.uk//community-2.html>)

General enquiries can be directed to Jennie Cowley (jennie@greenpowerinternational.com)

Oban Hydrogen project - update

GreenPower is gearing up its plans for building the new **Argyll Hydrogen Hub**, in Oban at Glenshellach industrial estate. Powered by renewable energy, the facility will produce green hydrogen locally, offering a clean, carbon free fuel for transport, public services, and industry. We are keen to engage with businesses and organisations interested in using green hydrogen to plan for its utilization. Please get in touch with the GreenPower team at enquiries@greenpowerhydrogen.com



A visual representation of the Argyll Hydrogen Hub

GreenPower Hydrogen stand at All Energy 2025

Barachander Wind Farm - update

GreenPower is developing the Barachander Wind Farm, the sister project to Carraig Gheal, located adjacent to Loch Nant, in North Argyll.

A second round of drop-in public events were held in August 2025 and we would like to thank local people who took the time to attend and engage with the project team.

Sam Layton, Lead Project Manager said:

"We have already made changes to the layout in direct response to feedback from the community, and it was encouraging to see these welcomed. As the project develops, we will continue to work closely with the community, building on the strong relationship established through the neighbouring Carraig Gheal Wind Farm."

The community benefit fund will be in the region of £325,000 per year, depending on the final number of turbines. GreenPower has also expressed openness to exploring schemes such as community shared ownership whereby local communities can buy a stake in the project.

The exhibition can be viewed online via the Barachander project page on our website: <https://greenpowerinternational.com/current-projects/barachander-wind-farm/>

The planning application for the project will be submitted in Spring 2026.