

# Providing electricity across the country



Thanks to EDF Energy, millions of Scots are benefiting from low-carbon power

**S**COTLAND'S existing nuclear fleet capped a superb 2009 with the best output in a decade at Torness and a flawless outage at Hunterston.

As the clocks ticked into 2010, Torness had produced 9.11 terawatt hours (TWh), which is enough power for 1.97 million houses – 86 per cent of all households in Scotland. It is one of the station's best performances since it started generating.

In November, reactor 1 reached a significant milestone of 18 months' safe continuous generation without a break.

Paul Winkle, station director, said: "The figures are there for all to see and I am very proud that the station's team has seen its hard

work rewarded. During reactor 1's impressive run, the station also refuelled 72 fuel channels, which is in itself a significant achievement.

"We must build on that now as we enter 2010 and make sure that we keep our standards high."

Torness employs more than 500 full-time staff and in 2009 avoided the emission of 5.9 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> – this is equivalent to taking 2.1 million passenger cars off the roads.

In January 2009, EDF Energy completed its acquisition of British Energy. This deal was excellent news for customers, employees, local communities, the industry and the UK.

The combination of EDF Energy

and British Energy forms one of the UK's largest energy companies. The new EDF Energy is the UK's largest producer of electricity and the largest generator of low-carbon electricity in Britain.

Through our Climate and Social Commitments, we have launched the biggest environmental and social packages of any UK energy company.

We produce about one-fifth of the nation's electricity from our nuclear, coal and gas power stations, as well as combined heat and power plants and wind farms.

We provide power to a quarter of the UK's population via our electricity distribution networks and supply gas

**Continues on page 2 >>**

>> Continued from page 1

and electricity to more than 5.5 million business and residential customers.

In Scotland, EDF Energy owns and operates two nuclear power stations – Torness and Hunterston B near West Kilbride in North Ayrshire.

Between them, they currently generate enough power to serve more than one-third of Scotland's entire electricity needs including in homes, the public and private sector and across transport networks.

Looking at a five-year average: the average annual output for the two stations between 2003/4 and 2007/8 was 14.76 TWh, representing nearly 50 per cent of Scotland's annual demand.

This work and investment allowed us in 2007 to confirm a five-year extension to Hunterston B's life. Life extension is a key business imperative across our existing nuclear fleet.

The company is a key player in national infrastructure projects, including management of private electricity networks serving four London airports and the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, the country's first major new railway in 100 years, and has published plans to build up to four new nuclear power stations in the UK.

EDF Energy and British Energy together employ nearly 20,000 people at locations across the UK. EDF Energy is part of EDF Group, one of Europe's largest power companies.

EDF is the official energy utilities partner and sustainability partner of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

# Meet the engineers and scientists of tomorrow!

GO4SET programme gives pupils an insight into a career in science

**T**HREE Torness staff members are backing a bid to enthuse youngsters in a career in science as part of the GO4SET programme.

Tim Whitmore, maintenance engineer, Craig O'Donnell, environmental safety engineer, and Gavin Rae, graduate, are supporting a group of youngsters from Dunbar Grammar School through the 10-week Go4SET programme.

The initiative, run by the Engineering Development Trust (EDT), brings together 52 pupils, teachers and industry representatives to encourage young people to fulfil their potential through careers in science, engineering and technology.

The theme this year is "waste and your environment" and the teams have been tasked to conduct a waste audit in their school and produce an account of the waste collection and treatment sites in their local district, in order to understand how the local waste sector operates.

The pupils are very enthusiastic and have been on a site visit to Torness as well as to the Viridor waste management plant in Dunbar. They also attended the Waste Summit, which was held in Edinburgh in December.

Mentors Tim, Craig and Gavin said: "As well as sharing our experience of waste management on a commercial scale, we will help the



Gavin Rae and Tim Whitmore with pupils and staff from Dunbar Grammar School

pupils develop project management techniques to ensure they cover all the areas they need to, but also in methods of developing ideas into solutions."

They added: "Nuclear energy is one of the greenest forms of electricity provision and we hope that by sharing our experience of the importance of looking after the environment, the pupils will adopt these behaviours and encourage their fellow pupils.

"As mentors, we get a great sense of personal satisfaction from helping in this project and encouraging others to follow what has been a very positive experience in the engineering profession and nuclear industry."

Go4SET is a national programme which is part of the EDT's suite of educational schemes aimed at stimulating the interest of young people in science, engineering and technology (SET) at a key stage in their education.

Duncan McSporry, EDT Scotland director, said: "Go4SET encourages young pupils of today to be the engineers and scientists of tomorrow."

Professor Douglas Greenhalgh, head of the School of Engineering and Physical Sciences at Heriot-Watt University, said: "While it is scientists who discover problems and new ideas, it is engineers who fix things and deliver results to all of us which we can use on a daily basis."

Four-year programme offers training in a range of professional and life skills



Seven new apprentices enjoyed a week of team building in the Lakes before setting off to HMS Sultan – a world-class training centre in Portsmouth

## Torness takes on seven new apprentices

IN 2009, Torness hired seven new apprentices. EDF Energy's modern apprenticeship scheme is a four-year programme which not only focuses on the skills required to maintain nuclear power stations, but also the attitudes and behaviours that are essential for the safe operation of our plants.

The seven apprentices will join the 56 others from existing nuclear sites for the first two years of the four-year scheme. The first two years of the programme are spent at the Royal Navy bases at HMS Sultan and Collingwood.

During this period, the apprentices work, rest and play alongside members of the Royal Navy.

The academic and workshop training programme ensures each of the apprentices gains the necessary introduction to engineering and

initial skills development. Part of the programme also covers the development of life skills and communication, with each apprentice being enrolled on the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

Faye Cook, apprentice training co-ordinator, said: "2008 was the first time we put all the company's apprentices into one place for their training. The feedback we got from the apprentices was very, very positive."

Away from the classroom, the apprentices will enjoy excellent sports and leisure facilities under the watchful eye of the centre's own team.

Faye concluded: "It is important to make sure that the evenings and weekends are also planned to a degree as for many of the apprentices it will be their first time away from home."



## A familiar face returns to Torness

TORNESSE Power Station welcomed back a familiar face in 2009, as Paul Winkle returned to take up the post of station director.

Paul, who was former plant manager at Torness, took up the post of station director at Heysham 2 in Lancashire in September 2008, but is happy to be back in his home ground of East Lothian.

Completing his studies at Glasgow University, Paul joined

GEC Alstom as a graduate trainee before joining British Energy in 1996 as a senior engineer covering both of the company's Scottish stations, Hunterston B and Torness.

In April 2002, Paul became maintenance manager at Torness and in 2006 acting plant manager at Hunterston B and then plant manager at Torness later that year.

He said: "I am very excited to

be back at Torness. It is a very interesting time to be part of this industry with energy being so high on everyone's agenda.

"My priorities are to ensure that Torness continues to be one of the most successful stations in our existing nuclear fleet, providing low carbon and affordable electricity to more than one million homes across Scotland."

### Fast fact

**Torness has been running safely for almost 22 years. The rigorous safety regime we operate under reinforces our own culture of conservative decision making and nuclear professionalism, ensuring emerging issues do not become problem issues.**



## Powering drive to fund MS Society vehicle

STAFF and contractors at Torness Power Station powered a drive towards purchasing a new vehicle for Leuchie House in North Berwick.

The wheelchair accessible Fiat Freedom, worth £13,000, will help provide essential respite services to those suffering the debilitating condition, multiple sclerosis, and their carers.

Mark McArthur, charity co-ordinator at Torness, said: "We decided to drive all our fundraising efforts towards the purchase of the car as it offers valuable mobility for guests at Leuchie House.

"Having such a practical goal to focus on inspired staff to dig deep and come up with an interesting variety of activities to raise money.

"I am very proud to be working with such generous colleagues who have not only supported Leuchie House and Berwickshire MS Society this year, but the RNLI as well after their lifeboat was destroyed in a storm in 2007."

"Many of our employees come from the Berwickshire area so we felt it important to also support the local Berwickshire MS branch and hope that we will be able to donate more over the coming months."

Marie O'Keefe, manager at Leuchie House, said: "We are delighted with this generous donation and thank everyone at Torness Power Station for their magnificent efforts.

"I hope that we will be able to continue our partnership with EDF Energy into the future."

# Skills, safety and energy solutions under the spotlight



Ann McKechin, Under Secretary of State for Scotland, is shown around Torness Power Station by Paul Winkle, station director

**T**ORNESS played host to Ann McKechin, Under Secretary of State for Scotland, on her first visit to an operational nuclear power station in 2009.

Ms McKechin met with Paul Winkle, station director, and a number of staff representatives, before taking in a tour of the 22-year-old plant.

During the tour, Ms McKechin heard how nuclear power could continue to provide the majority of the base load of Britain's electricity requirements. She also heard from union representatives about the significant employment and economic benefits offered by the nuclear industry in Scotland.

Paul said: "As part of EDF Energy, we now have a massive opportunity to meet all of Scotland's electricity demands using the varied mix of generation that we currently have.

## Scottish minister backs nuclear energy during visit to station

"We are working hard and making huge investments in our plant to ensure our operations continue to run safely, and we keep attracting the cream of engineering talent to support us now and over the coming years.

"This is an industry with a future and we continue to take on a high number of graduates and apprentices who are attracted to the varied and challenging careers within the nuclear industry in Scotland."

Ms McKechin supported the view that nuclear has a part to play in Scotland's energy future. She said: "Scotland should be a significant exporter of energy in the future if

there is real growth in the industry, but those decisions on investment need to be taken now and not put off for 10 years.

"The skills for the future of the industry are already here in Scotland and we should aim and expect to retain these skills to build for the future. If we lose these skills to another part of the country, the impact on the local economy and the local communities will be significant.

"Scotland should and can be well placed in the future to not only meet our own energy needs, but also to be able to substantially export power to other parts of the UK and Europe."

## Would you like to know more about Torness?

WOULD you like to find out more about what goes on at Torness Power Station? Through EDF Energy's talk service, we can send out a speaker to you, whether it's a school, Rotary Club, council or other

community organisation.

For more information, or if you have any questions about Torness, please contact Ashleigh Dickson on 0136 887 3847 or [ashleigh.dickson@british-energy.com](mailto:ashleigh.dickson@british-energy.com)