



RESPONSIBLE ISLAND *prize*



3RD PRIZE WINNER
THE ORKNEY ISLANDS UNITED KINGDOM

Orkney Islands

3rd Winner of the 2019 RESponsible Island Prize

The Orkney Islands in the United Kingdom are the 3rd winner of the 2019 RESponsible Island Prize. The Islands will receive a €100,000 cash prize for their proposal 'Orkney – the Energy Islands'. The 3rd prize was awarded for the share of renewable energy produced by innovative energy technologies, the environmental and socioeconomic sustainability and impact, citizen and community involvement, and the replicability of the solution.

The RESponsible Island recognition prize rewards achievements in local renewable energy production for electricity, heating, cooling and transport on islands. The name refers to the combination of renewables (RES) and responsibility.

Islands often have high local energy costs but can benefit from the transition to renewable energy sources such as the creation of local jobs and sustainable tourism. The more than 2000 inhabited islands in the EU are ideal test labs to develop innovative energy technologies and can serve as energy transition models for small communities in general.

Orkney - the Energy Islands

The Orkney Islands have been a home to, and centre of, renewable energy innovation for more than 60 years, with ground-breaking wind test sites located in the islands from the 1950s to the present day. Over the last 20 years there has been a marked diversification in activity: starting with energy efficiency; then deploying wind turbines to decarbonise electricity; establishing a world leading marine energy cluster; introducing innovative heating, as well as hydrogen, energy storage and balancing technologies; and latterly addressing decarbonisation of the whole energy system. Throughout this amazing progression the Orkney Renewable Energy Forum (OREF) and its membership have been a force for logic and reason within policy and planning processes, have encouraged and supported pioneering innovation, helping each other achieve major advances and breakthroughs.



Excellence in Sustainability, community and citizen involvement

The Orkney energy revolution has been led, inspired and supported from within the community and involved participation at every stage.

In Orkney there are over 300 jobs related to renewables; over 700 individual energy generators and technology investors; and there are 12 large scale and numerous micro community wind turbines providing clean energy and income locally.

Careful planning, the local supply chain and good stewardship by developers mean these developments have had minimal negative impact on the local environment or community but have had major benefits to the economy.



Supporting this process, OREF has been a forum where all those interested in renewables can meet, discuss and debate issues, and finding the most appropriate ways to move forward.

How can the example inspire other islands and communities?

Many parts of the unique Orkney energy ecosystem can be used to help other communities and regions across the world. Literally tens of thousands of visitors have come to Orkney, to look and learn, then either contributing locally or absorbing understanding to be applied elsewhere.

Likewise, Orkney based experts and equipment have also gone all over the world to help facilitate, encourage, and inspire other communities to achieve their own sustainable energy solutions. The Orkney Islands are truly the Energy Islands of the Future.



For further information and contacts please visit: <http://www.oref.co.uk/>; <https://www.orkney.com/>