# **HYDRO**

# Ben Mor Hydro Shared Ownership Project





## Locogen won the Best Community Engagement Award at the 2017 Scottish Green Energy Awards for this Ben Mor Hydro 500kW shared ownership project.

The Ben Mor Hydro project was originally a joint venture between Coigach Community Development Company (CCDC) & Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) with the aim of developing a 'run-of-river' hydro project near Achiltibuie, NW of Ullapool. The project achieved planning consent in 2014 and Locogen were then appointed as project managers & owner's engineer early in 2015 to take the project through the construction phase.

Towards the end of 2015 it became clear that CCDC and SWT could not commit additional funds to the project due to the outstanding property and crofting law issues and a fast approaching FiT deadline that looked likely to be missed. Keen to see the development through to its fruition, and building on the strong partnership established between Locogen, CCDC and SWT over the previous 12 months, Locogen agreed to enter into a shared ownership arrangement with CCDC & SWT to deliver and

operate the project. Locogen provided the capital and expertise needed to resolve the issues and build the project, whilst providing an ongoing share of revenue for the life of the scheme to CCDC & SWT. The project started construction in May 2016 and was commissioned in December 2016. The scheme is a typical 'run-of-river' hydro scheme consisting of a Coanda screened intake, 2.5km buried penstock and Gilkes pelton turbine contained within a larch cladded powerhouse. This is a particularly high head scheme with a gross head of 302m and a rated flow of 2051/s, which delivers 500kW electrical output.

The project benefits the local community by providing a secure revenue stream for the life of the scheme. The funds, amounting to over £1m, will be reinvested in the local community via new initiatives which will ensure the ongoing sustainability and enhancement of the local area.





"This is an outstanding example of a project that was started by an exemplar community organisation, striving to develop green energy projects to generate income for the benefit of all. The project was then seen through to its completion by Locogen, who were equally driven, building on the strong relationship already established through their previous engagement with the community. It's a fantastic result for us all!"

Ian Muir, CCDC's Chair

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The Locogen Group, an award-winning pioneer in the sector, has been established since 2009 as a consultancy, developer, installer and operator of renewable energy assets.

Our team of engineers, project managers and technical consultants has delivered hundreds of renewable energy projects around the UK, covering wind, solar, hydroelectric and anaerobic digestion technologies. We take projects from initial concept through feasibility, design, consenting, due diligence, construction, commissioning and operation.

We have developed and operate wind, solar and hydro energy portfolios of our own. We also have a large Asset Management client-base which benefits from our experience; this volume allows us to spread costs and keep our services competitive. We are recognised as a proactive, honest and professional company, and our flexible services are renowned within the sector.

We have a national presence, with a UK-wide network of engineers and technicians giving us a quick response time, ensuring project down-time is low and system performance is maximised.

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