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Shetland Charitable Trust hosts energy summit

Under the community planning umbrella, Shetland Charitable Trust (SCT) is co-ordinating efforts by a wide range of local agencies to conserve energy, reduce the isles' carbon footprint and ultimately save public money.

SCT manages the Shetland Maintenance Forum, consisting of NHS Shetland, Shetland Islands Council, Shetland Recreational Trust, Shetland Arts, and Shetland Amenity Trust. The Forum has recently been expanded to include Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service and Northern Constabulary.

In the past the forum has shared information on issues like health and safety, training and scheduling specialist contracts.

With all agencies trying to become more energy efficient, SCT is planning an Energy Day on Friday 6 August, which will include a visit to Shetland Amenity Trust's new wind turbine at their Staney Hill workshop, a visit to the council's heat pump at Gremista, as well as a number of presentations on renewable energy and energy conservation.

SCT principal officer Mary Anderson said: "Shetland Maintenance Forum has always been a useful tool in encouraging Shetland's public bodies to work together more closely.

"In the light of tight public budgets it is all the more important that we work together to save money while at the same time protecting the services we deliver.

"Energy, its production and consumption, has become a very topical issue over the last few years. We are keen to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels and to do our bit to save the planet."

Ends

Notes for editors:-

Shetland Charitable Trust is an independent organisation set up in 1976 to manage income from Sullom Voe oil terminal on behalf of the community.

Its funds are currently worth around £200m, with £170m invested on the world markets and £30m in the local economy.

Each year it distributes around £10m to local groups and projects, including Shetland Recreational Trust, Shetland Amenity Trust, Shetland Arts Development Agency, the rural care centres, and 17 voluntary groups.

It owns Shetland Leasing and Property Developments Ltd (SLAP), Shetland Heat Energy and Power Ltd (SHEAP) and 90% of Viking Energy Ltd.

SCT's policy is to pass on the oil funds to future generations by investing them in a self sustaining way.

More details about Shetland Charitable Trust can be found at www.shetlandcharitabletrust.co.uk