

MASTS Marine Renewable Energy Forum outreach funding (MESG14): Final Report

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Summary of the project:

The region of the Highlands and Islands covers a large and diverse geographical area which is scattered with potential marine renewable energy sites. The region is home to nearly 33,000 children of primary school age who attend 319 schools. Many of these children live in geographically remote regions which can mean that children have limited access to scientific outreach related to the marine renewable energy developments in their communities. School workshops, science fairs and festivals have proven to be a successful and practical way to engage with children and families in the Highland and Island region.

The objective of this project was to develop a board game centred on the topic of marine renewable energy to educate children about different types of marine renewable energy devices and the physical, environmental and societal aspects which need to be considered when planning such developments in Scotland.

It was anticipated that the game would help to meet the objectives of sustainable development education and the curriculum for primary school children / curriculum for excellence: sciences (energy sources and sustainability).

MASTS MREF funding has been vital for paying for the artist, Claire Gibson to turn our vision of a board game into a playable game and, once completed, will pay for the game to be turned into a hardwearing durable oversized game which can be used by the whole MASTS community. The funding will also contribute to travel and subsistence for us to take the game on tour around the Highlands and Islands region and train volunteers to be able to host future game events beyond the life of the project.

What outcomes have you achieved to date?

We started working on the board game design in January 2016 and have had multiple meetings to determine content and design. At the end of January we employed a freelance artist, Claire Gibson, to join the team and we now have the board, site cards and game pieces completed (see figure below). We have local children lined up to test the game over the summer holidays and we aim to trial the game with Castletown primary school at the beginning of the next school year. We have identified volunteers in the Isle of Lewis, Caithness, Inverness and Oban to help with taking the game on tour once it is ready in the autumn. We have secured additional funding from the MERIKA FP7 project to extend this tour to 15 schools and a science festival in the Highlands and Islands. We envisage that this will be completed by June 2017.



Figure 1: Game board (top left), playing pieces (bottom left) and example renewable energy site card (right). Final board will be approximately 120cm x 180cm and printed on waterproof canvas. Playing cards will be A4.

What outcomes, if any, do you expect to see in the future?

- 2 sets consisting of a waterproof canvas over-sized board, 2 sets of cards for different age groups and a rulebook. One set for the MASTS community, one to remain with UHI.
- PDFs of board (in A0 sections), rulebook and cards available on MASTS website
- Game taken to 15 schools in the Highlands and Islands with a target of 20 children in each school (total 300 children)
- Game taken to the Moray Science Festival (Mar 2017) (footfall of approx. 3000, direct engagement target of 20%)
- At least 3 ERI staff members and 3 UHI staff members trained in the delivery of the game.