

# could heat our homes

## which flows around granite could be extracted by drill rig and used



CLEAN HEAT: George Wood, director of Jigsaw Energy, one of the companies behind the Hill of Banchoory Geothermal Energy Project

"Basically you put the water back in the same place. You use the heat, the water goes back again and then replenishes itself.

"We have chosen a number of sites where we can do the tests. We'll build a map from that and find the most prominent site.

"The whole purpose of the project is to connect the energy source to Banchoory. If it is successful we could get the wider area connected.

"In the long term it certainly seems a good way of providing heat, obviously at no cost to the environment."

He added that assessing the cost of the project, and how much it could potentially save customers, would form part of the next stage of the research and would depend on running costs.

Mr Wood said: "Once it is up and running the costs are very low."

The first phase of work has been made possible by a £50,000 grant from the Scottish Government's geothermal energy challenge fund.

Mr Ewing, who is SNP MSP for Inverness and Nairn, said the ideal outcome of the research would be "a delivery model which reduces carbon emissions, is self-sustaining and is economically viable".

He added: "This is part of the wider approach to support the development of a resilient heat system that enables households, organisations and industry to transition to an affordable low carbon heat system and seize the economic opportunities that this transformation offers."

### ENERGY BY BLAIR DINGWALL

Although Aberdeenshire would be the first area of Scotland to harness geothermal technology to heat homes, it is already in use in several countries across the globe.

And Michael Felliks, of Cliff Geothermals, re-visited the model for the Banchoory project was the "city of light" - Paris. About 120,000 proper-

### "You have the heat from the granite near to a developed heat network"

Banchoory councillor Linda Clark said many people in Banchoory said a new solution to heating homes was needed.

She added: "It is an excellent concept. We have to

find other ways of heating homes. A lot of homes here use oil and it is expensive and gas is not always available.

"You have to be innovative and forward-thinking

### Hot-spot: North-east of Scotland 'huge potential'

The north-east of Scotland is one of the areas with the highest geothermal potential in the UK.

George Wood, of Jigsaw Energy, said there were a number of potential sites in Aberdeenshire, one of which is close to Banchoory.

He said: "There are a number of sites they'd like to carry this re-

search out at. There is one near Ballater too."

Michael Felliks of Cliff Geothermal, added that the drilling process presented none of the uncertainties of fracking.

He said that geothermal systems used a "completely different technology".

Mr Felliks said: "We are not fracking. Fracking is all about fossil

and I would like to personally applaud that. We have to do something to find alternatives."

UK operations manager

for Cliff Geothermal Ltd, Michael Felliks, said the first phase of the work was a "feasibility study" for the project.

He added: "When you talk about energy we often just talk about electricity. This is a very good project, a very strong project.

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ties in the French capital are heated using water naturally warmed up in the Paris Basin. Greater Paris boasts the world's largest concentration of geothermal wells connected to local heating networks.

Mr Felliks added: "If you are looking to compare this to anywhere, it is Paris. Under Paris there are reserves of hot water.

"There are something like 45 geothermal heat systems there.

"Only Airport in Paris is heated using geothermal. It is not generally that well known."

The system is only in

### "If it goes ahead it will be a dream project really"

place at one location in the UK, at Southampton, but is used in Sweden, Germany and regions of

Africa. Iceland is the pioneer of geothermal energy, where it heats about 87% of the country's buildings.

Mr Felliks added it was an "extremely long-lasting" technology, with the oldest system in the world in Boise, Idaho, in America, having been operating since 1892. He said: "If it goes ahead it will be a dream project really, an important project. I hope it will be a great thing for Banchoory. It could be groundbreaking."

Paris uses reserves of geothermal water for heat

But anti-windfarm campaigner Lynnday Ward, of Kiltarny, said: "Fergus Ewing should listen to local people and stop cosyng up to those with vested interests at their expense."

### WINDFARMS Anger Over end to subsidy

Energy Minister Fergus Ewing is chairing an emergency summit meeting later this week to discuss the impact of the UK Government's decision to end subsidies for onshore wind projects.

He is meeting with representatives from the renewables industry in Glasgow on Thursday to listen to their concerns which will be fed back to UK Energy Secretary Amber Rudd.

The UK department of energy and climate change has announced it is closing the Renewables Obligation (RO) for onshore wind from April 2016 - a move that industry body Scottish Renewables claims could cost £3billion investment and 5,500 jobs.

Mr Ewing said: "The proposals have a disproportionate impact on Scotland as about 70% of onshore wind projects

### "Demonstration of the strength of Scotland's renewables"

in the UK planning system are here."

Figures released by environmental charity WFP Scotland showed that wind turbines in Scotland provided 620,144MWh of electricity to the National Grid in June. It said it was enough to supply, on average, the needs of 70% of households - 17million homes - which is an increase of 120% on June 2014 figures.

Highland SNP MSP Mike Mackenzie said: "These outstanding new figures are a welcome demonstration of the strength of Scotland's renewables industry, showing the incredible strides made in producing clean, sustainable energy."

But anti-windfarm campaigner Lynnday Ward, of Kiltarny, said: "Fergus Ewing should listen to local people and stop cosyng up to those with vested interests at their expense."