

CNSRP – A look back at progress – 2011

January

Staff move into the new £4M Centre for Energy & the Environment in Thurso, and begin the £3M MaREE research programme, with funding from HIE, ERDF, UHI, Scottish Funding Council.

February

CNSRP Executive Board members in Holyrood to meet Scottish Government's Energy, Enterprise & Tourism Minister, who endorses the 2011-2014 CNSRP Delivery Plan.

March

HIE announces £1.8M towards the £6M first phase of the redevelopment of John O'Groats. The funding package for the £20M Scrabster harbour development is completed.

April

A £110,000 pilot project to boost the teaching and learning of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects in local high schools starts, with funding from DSRL and HIE.

May

Caithness Chamber of Commerce's £2.3M "Make the Right Connections" skills transition programme is officially launched with funding from NDA, European Social Fund and Skills Development Scotland.

June

Highland Council launches its action plan to secure onshore economic benefits from marine energy in the Pentland Firth & Orkney Waters. HIE seeks tenders to deliver its superfast broadband programme.

July

Scrabster harbour's development is underway, with funding from HIE, NDA and Scottish Government. The "Transform" weekend at John O'Groats brings together art, community, tourists and glorious sunshine to celebrate a new dawn for the world famous destination.

August

HIE announces that the £12M additional resources to support economic diversification in Caithness & North Sutherland has been fully committed. Information days on "home-working" opportunities run throughout the area.

September

Caithness Chamber of Commerce launches its "Caithness Oil & Gas Directory 2012" at the Offshore Europe exhibition in Aberdeen. The diggers move in at John O'Groats as work on the former hotel building gets underway.

October

The new £8.7M Engineering, Technology & Energy Centre (ETEC) in Thurso, funded by NDA, Highland Council, ERDF and Scottish Funding Council, receives its first intake of students. The North Highland Regeneration Fund announces loan support for 246 jobs since its creation.

November

CNSRP's Advisory Board agrees to work with Scottish Power Renewables on their plans for tidal energy in the Pentland Firth. The Babcock Dounreay Partnership is named as preferred bidder to become the next Parent Body Organisation at Dounreay.

December

The "Spend It Here" loyalty card is launched by Caithness Chamber, with support from the EU LEADER programme and NDA. Cabinet Secretary John Swinney visits Scrabster Harbour and says that "the development is helping to secure the anticipated benefits of a renewables revolution"