



Newsletter – April 2021

Welcome to the latest Morlais newsletter – bringing you updates and the latest about the development.

Morlais is Menter Môn's tidal stream energy project which aims to benefit local communities, the economy and climate.

If you would like to contact the team, please email us on info@morlaisenergy.com.

Consenting process

Due to the pandemic restrictions the UK's first virtual public enquiry was held entirely on-line as part of the Morlais consenting process. The inquiry ended mid-March with closing submissions from all parties. The final decision by Welsh Ministers is expected during the summer. The Marine Licence process is also on-going, Natural Resources Wales is responsible for providing consent on this aspect of the project.

In the meantime, we continue to engage with our stakeholders and partners to ensure that they are informed and updated about the project and benefits.

For further information on this process click [here](#).

To see the Morlais time line click [here](#).

Hydrogen Hub

In the last newsletter we brought you news that the proposed Hydrogen Hub in Holyhead had received confirmation of Welsh Government funding. Since then, a further £4 million has been allocated by UK Government in the recent budget announcement as well as additional funding from Welsh Government. This funding will now allow the project to move ahead.

Once developed it is hoped that the Hub will produce hydrogen using renewable energy from projects such as Morlais. And, like Morlais the Holyhead Hydrogen Hub proposal is a Menter Môn project so will be locally owned with benefits also staying local.

COP 26

Most readers will be aware that the UK is due to host COP26 in November - this is the UN's Climate Change Conference. The summit will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. We are looking forward to the event, and to contributing by raising awareness on how Morlais aims to reduce carbon through

the production of clean energy, and we will be actively engaging with the community in the lead up to November.

Look out for the #Togetherforourplanet and #RaceToZero hashtags on our twitter accounts over the coming months for latest news on how Morlais will play a part in the battle against climate change.

[Together for Our Planet - Together For Our Planet \(ukcop26.org\)](https://www.ukcop26.org)

Engaging on skills and supply chain

We have recently been contacting key stakeholders and training providers to take part in our Skills and Training Working Group and the Supply Chain Working Group.

The groups will meet every two months for project updates on progress and opportunities for the supply chain and developing skills. More importantly the meetings will provide a platform for discussion and knowledge sharing between partner organisations and stakeholders.

Invited representatives include Bangor University, Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, North Wales Economic Ambition Board, North Wales Regional Skills Partnership and the Isle of Anglesey County Council.

We will bring you updates from these meetings via our social media channels and future newsletters.

Marine Energy Wales

Marine Energy Wales is the representative body for our sector. Each year they publish a 'State of the Sector report'. This is due to be published in May and includes an article on Morlais as well as other developments in this sector over the last 12 months. To read in full visit the MEW [website](#).

Careers Wales Event

Creating jobs and training opportunities are key benefits which Morlais aims to bring to Anglesey. With this in mind we are always keen to meet young people and share the potential Morlais offers with them - we were therefore pleased to attend another Careers Wales 'Choose your Future' virtual event in March along with our sister projects, Selkie and the Holyhead Hydrogen Hub. As students choose their career paths it's important that they're aware of the wide range of opportunities available to them locally and through Menter Môn projects and how they can develop appropriate skills.

Team update

Hannah Thomas recently joined the team following Danial Ellis Evans's departure. Hannah is from Moelfre on Anglesey and went to Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones, Amlwch.

After graduating in Business and Management from Cardiff Metropolitan University she took a year off to travel South America before returning home and to work on the Morlais project.

This is what Hannah had to say about her new role: "I saw the effect of climate change with my own eyes when I was travelling so when I came back, I knew I wanted to do something to help tackle this global issue. I feel very lucky to be working on a project like Morlais which means I can learn about a whole new sector which is so important in the battle against climate change.

"Working for Menter Môn also means I can give something back to the island and that I can work close to my family and friends, and where I grew up."

Croeso i'r fhm Hannah. Welcome to the team Hannah!

Selkie Update

Selkie's first marine energy [networking](#) session in collaboration with Hwb Menter/Enterprise Hub was held in January. Eight businesses from the Selkie network attended, along with seven members of Hwb Menter/Enterprise Hub.

The project also hosted its fourth [webinar](#) on 23rd February on the topic of *Skills for the Marine Energy Sector* which brought together representatives from a range of key organisations to explore the needs of the industry. Over 95 people attended the event.

Between May to September Selkie will hold 'Meet the Expert' knowledge transfer sessions. Topics will be unique for each session and cover areas like funding, tenders, legal matters, insurance, fabrication and manufacturing for the marine environment.

For further information about Morlais please do not hesitate to contact us on email info@morlaisenergy.com or visit our website www.morlaisenergy.com.

Who we are? Menter Môn is a social enterprise with a focus on ensuring social, economic and environmental benefit to local communities

What we are doing? Developing the necessary infrastructure to enable tidal stream technology to be deployed to generate electricity

Where are we doing it? The development area is off the west coast of Holyhead in an area designated by Crown Estate for the development of tidal stream energy

Why we are doing it? We want to ensure the project benefits the local community by bringing economic opportunities to the area as well as tackling climate change