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I have read the NINES project report relating to Shetland with care and much interest. My comment will be brief, in that I do not have access to detailed information relating either to the pattern of power consumption in Shetland or the detailed cost calculations of the NINES project.

The project is not ambitious enough.

The aim should be to provide Shetland's entire electricity needs without any fossil fuel consumption. Tidal, wave and wind schemes are the options, of which only tidal power is predictable. The question that needs to be addressed is how best to store the plentiful, but inconsistent, supply of renewable power in order to be able to access it on the days when renewable sources provide less than demand.

Clearly managing demand is one part of the solution, but the main solution lies in investing in a power storage scheme. The most obvious in the Shetland context involves a water-pumping scheme. On good days surplus power would be used to pump water to a reservoir, and on days when demand exceeds immediate supply, that water is released from the reservoir to generate electricity through a hydro-electric scheme. I would suggest several locations exist in Shetland where the topography would allow a reservoir of sufficient size to be built.

This is a more expensive option, but the long-term rewards to the Shetland consumers in the form of greatly reduced energy bills might well be widely acceptable. Furthermore there would be the advantage of security of supply to Shetland in the event of world oil shortage or inflation,

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