

# Kinetic Kraft & Metallic Models

## **Background to OCA's Caithness Arts Week project**

OCA is looking to build upon its track record of project delivery with a community led renewable energy project of national significance. There are abundant renewable energy resources in Caithness and OCA is hoping to use some of these in its plans.

OCA wants to create a modern day destination centred on the community and its children. OCA wants to incorporate educational areas, linking to potential skills training, giving a route to new jobs both directly and indirectly. OCA will emphasise the benefits of sustainable living with use of green energy and practices, as well as developing a major eco tourism site. The Renewable Energy Park will combine the best initiatives to enhance community life but also provide a source of jobs, income, food and a sense of community. Founded on community involvement, it will be a showcase for renewable energy technologies, and energy efficiency and energy saving measures.

Renewable energy presents an opportunity for the people of Caithness to bring together many strands from history, the present and the exciting future to build a renewable energy park. This people's park will allow people to explore and understand these new technologies whilst the community works together to develop a safer, cleaner future.

The combination of community projects with visitor attractions and children's activities will provide a park that is on both the renewables and tourism trail in the Highlands. As a contrast to the history of Caithness with its interesting archaeology, we want to establish a unique arts project.

We will be seeking funding for an artist in residence to work with the community and engineers to develop a series of 'kinetic art' installations for the park. These will co-exist with a variety of wind turbines that will make up the wind power section of the park. We are hoping that this will present an ideal opportunity for an emerging artist to weave together the threads of wind power, looking at themes, modern and historical, such as sailing ships used in the now defunct herring industry, trees bent over in the Caithness wind, through to modern turbine installation for power generation.

We hope that the artist will work with local groups including our children to also weave their interpretations into the designs, looking for synergy with the various turbines that will be part of the installation.

## **Caithness Arts Week project for children**

As a forerunner to these ambitious plans, we will be running a children's event during Caithness Arts Week in September 2006. Our after school sessions, that run from Monday to Thursday, cater for young children as well as teenagers (under 8, 9-11, 11-14). We hope to deliver the project to 40 - 80 children in the Thurso area. For the Arts Week, these sessions will be run as a taster for things to come, looking at arts and the renewables.

### Sessions planned

<i>Under 8 s</i>	<i>Monday 18th September 2006</i>	<i>4.00 – 5.30 pm</i>
<i>8 year olds</i>	<i>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2006</i>	<i>4.00 – 5.30 pm</i>
<i>11 -14 year olds(girls)</i>	<i>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2006</i>	<i>6.00 – 7.30 pm</i>
<i>9 -11 year olds (boys)</i>	<i>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2006</i>	<i>4.00 – 5.30 pm</i>
<i>9 -11 year olds (girls)</i>	<i>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2006</i>	<i>6.00 – 7.30 pm</i>
<i>11 -14 year olds</i>	<i>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2006</i>	<i>6.00 – 7.30 pm</i>

The under 8s and 8 year olds will construct small paper windmills in paper and plastic from kits supplied by the Energy Savings Trust. They will also be encouraged to design and build their own windmills and kinetic objects in string, straws and coloured paper and to draw and paint images that reflect what they have learnt about renewable energy.

## **Kinetic Kraft & Metallic Models**

The older participants will use metal sheet and wire to explore sculpture work by making small scale models. As well as looking at movement in the wind, we will also explore other renewables such as solar power and the young artists will be encouraged to incorporate these themes into their work. They will also be encouraged to draw and paint relevant images. They will become familiar with working with metals on the small scale and it is hoped that this work will lead into our plans for larger scale kinetic art sculptures working with an installations artist in years to come.

The finished artwork will be exhibited in Thurso Library from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

### **The Community Partners Programme**

The Community Partners Programme (CPP) groups meet regularly each week (apart from Mondays) at the Ormlie Centre and this Caithness Arts Week project is an ideal opportunity to increase our membership by making more young people aware of what we do. The CPP has been running for 5 years now and was based on the premise of giving young people the opportunity to have a voice in their own community. They found out about children's rights and worked on community projects and fundraising ideas. At present we have over 40 members aged between 8-14years and are open to all young people not just those who live in Ormlie. Our activities include arts and crafts, role play, team building games and, above all, having fun.

### **How your students can become involved**

The sessions will be held in the Ormlie Centre in Henderson Street, Thurso. Participants from all Thurso schools are welcome although places are limited. Registration will take place on Thursday 14th September between 4.00-5.30pm at the Ormlie Centre.

Consent forms will need to be completed by parent/guardian and can be returned at the start of the relevant session.

For further information please contact Sue Rainbow, CPP Co-ordinator, Ormlie Community Association, 108 Marr Terrace, Thurso, Caithness, KW14 7SW  
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