**Sparks fly as RGU and AU team up for Go Green Week**

Bike-powered fun at Aberdeen Students’ Association forms part of national week of climate action

To celebrate Go Green Week Aberdeen University Students’ Association Sustainable Futures Project has teamed up with the RGU Go Green team to put on a bicycle-powered film screening of *Voices of Transition*, where audience members are encouraged to participate in powering their own entertainment by jumping on a bike! To take place at the AUSA building in the Old Aberdeen Campus, this event sees a meeting of like-minded individuals on Thursday 12th February.

This free to attend event allows students and local residents to experience first-hand the amount of power required to run a whole cinema set up without mains electricity in a unique film viewing experience. In keeping with People & Planet’s Fossil Free theme for Go Green Week this year, the screening will highlight how much we take mains electricity for granted and encourage people to think about alternative and renewable energy sources.

The event also marks the 1 year anniversary of the much beloved bike generator. Bought by the Sustainable Futures Project last year from London based organisation Electric Pedals, through funding awarded by the Climate Challenge Fund, the bike generator has since been used for discos, film screenings, and bike powered smoothies both at the University of Aberdeen and through loans of the equipment to various community projects and schools.

Emma Erwin, Climate Change Engagement and Events Coordinator for RGU Go Green, said: “We’re really excited to be working with Aberdeen University and bringing our students together, putting the infamous rivalry between the universities behind them!”

*Voices of Transition* is a fully independent, 66 minute-long documentary, directed and produced by Nils Aguilar and released in 2013. Philip Moore from the Voices of Transition team said: “VOICES OF TRANSITION is a documentary film about positive responses to climate change, peak oil and food insecurity. So we're very pleased to be screening the film to students at Aberdeen University, especially within the local context of the oil industry.”

Visit [www.ausa.org.uk/shift/bikegen](http://www.ausa.org.uk/shift/bikegen) to find out about loaning the bike generator for your own event!

**Ends**

For more information contact Rebecca Dunn at AUSA Sustainable Futures on 01224274345 or email powershift@abdn.ac.uk

**Notes to editors:**

* The bike generator was bought from London based organisation ‘Electric Pedals’ a year ago, who came up to Aberdeen to hold a workshop with students building parts of the generator from scratch. For a bike powered cinema, the energy generated from members of the audience cycling together on bicycle generators is combined and used to power a projector, speaker, mixer and DVD player. The cyclists thus become the batteries generating the electricity to power an innovative experience of cinema. All the power comes from people cycling, and it takes up to 4 bikes to power it. Visit [www.ausa.org.uk/shift/bikegen](http://www.ausa.org.uk/shift/bikegen)
* This is a collaborative event put on by 2 environmental student-focussed projects – Power Shift, a part of AUSA Sustainable Futures Project and RGU Go Green – taking place during Go Green Week 2015. The event will consist of a bicycle powered screening of the film ‘Voices of Transition’, along with a talk from Pamela Candea, Managing Director of the Surefoot Effect, free pizza, popcorn, crisps and juice.
* The Sustainable Futures’ Power Shift project is focused on getting students living in Halls to reduce their energy consumption. The project intends to build community amongst students living in Halls, create a positive attitude surrounding energy saving behaviour, and to make students more aware of their environmental impact. Visit [www.ausa.org.uk/shift/powershift/](http://www.ausa.org.uk/shift/powershift/)
* Go Green Week is People & Planet’s annual national week of **climate action** in schools, colleges and universities. This year, Go Green Week will take place between **9 - 15 February. Visit** [www.peopleandplanet.org/](http://www.peopleandplanet.org/)
* *Voices of Transition* is a fully independent, 66 minute-long documentary, directed and produced by Nils Aguilar. It is the fruit of four years’ passionate work and has benefitted hugely from the work of volunteers scattered all over the world. Visit [www.voicesoftransition.org](http://www.voicesoftransition.org)
* By using less energy, Power Shift and Go Green are hoping to encourage people to think about energy saving in their day to day lives. Saving energy not only saves you money on your bills, but reduces the strain we as humans are putting on the earth’s resources and can be a rewarding and community building task too. Everyone can save energy in their day to day lives by following some simple tips such as:
  + Don’t let heat escape! Keep windows and doors closed when the heating’s on
  + Turn electric appliances off instead of leaving them on standby
  + Put lids on pans when you cook to save energy and time – your food will cook faster!
  + Turn of the lights when you leave the room – easy!
  + Boil only the amount of water you need in the kettle.