

# Energy-saving project launched with £10,000 bonus for savings

BID TO CUT POWER BILLS FOR HUNDREDS OF HOMES

PS 13/1/10

A £43,000 energy-saving project sponsored by Scottish Hydro Electric was officially launched in an Easter Ross community yesterday.

The West Alness Save (Save And Value Energy) Project aims to help hundreds of households reduce their electricity bills by up to 5% and to

show them how they can use their electricity more efficiently.

If it manages to reduce the energy used over a year, Scottish Hydro Electric will also reward the group with a bonus of up to £10,000 to be spent in the community.

And, to celebrate the be-

ginning of this year-long project, a community energy savings open day was held at Westend Community Centre, Firhill, yesterday with everyone who attended being entered in a free prize draw for an energy-efficient fridge-freezer.

Highland councillor and Alness Initiative chairwoman Carolyn Wilson said the project, which is a partnership between the West Alness, Firhill, Kirkside, Coulpark and Westford residents groups, the Alness Initiative and Highland Council's housing and property service, would not only benefit Alness, but also the wider Highland area.

She said: "We know there are a lot of people living in fuel poverty in the Highlands and the council has a strategy that sets out how we are tackling the causes of fuel poverty.

"Projects like this are important to help us understand what we can do to help people heat their homes properly and find ways to help them keep warm at a price they can afford."

West Alness residents wanting to find out more about the project should call 07920 437526 or drop in to Westend Community Centre.



Carolyn Wilson: pointed to benefits