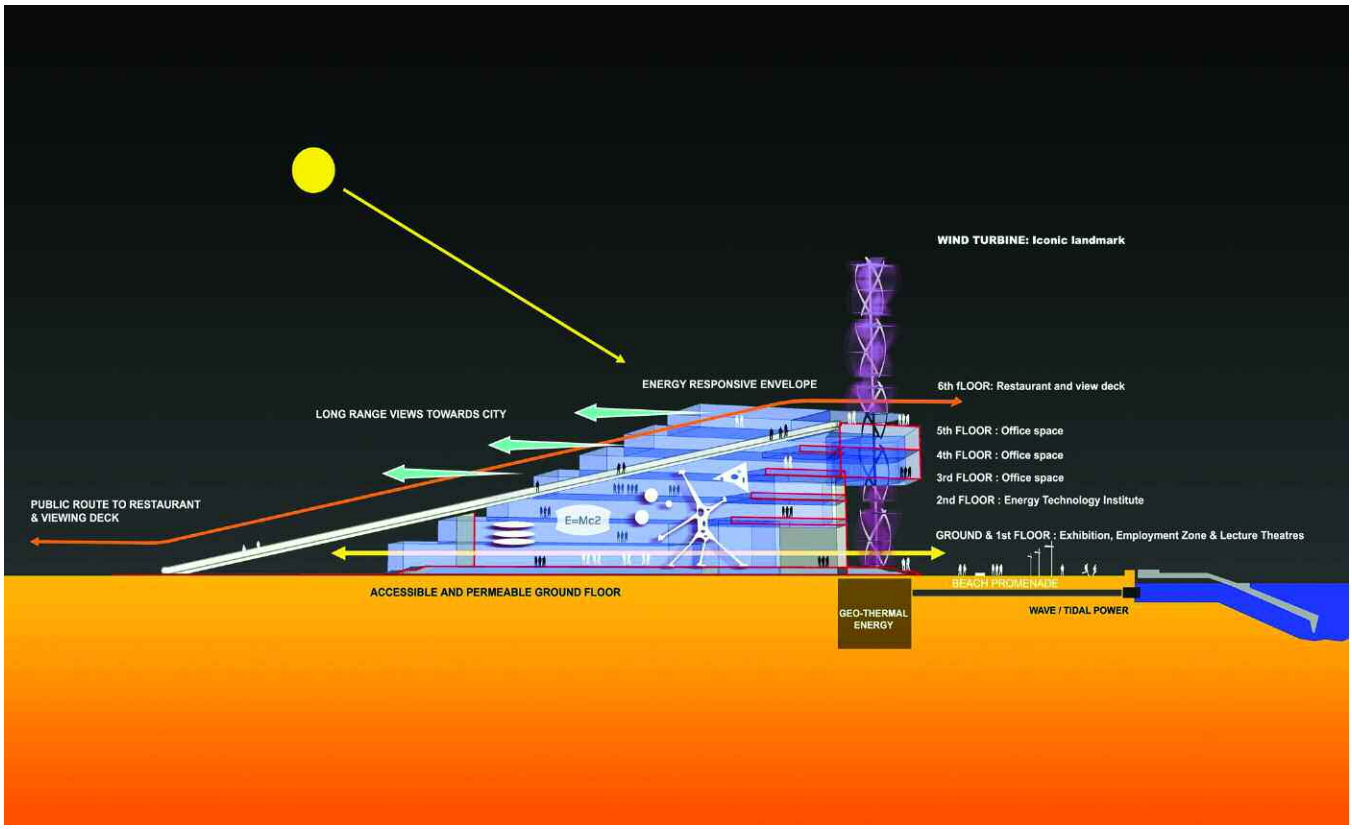
Futuristic energy centre for Aberdeen comes a step closer



EFC sketches show the cross-section

Details of a futuristic energy centre proposed for Aberdeen's sea front were released last month.

Early concept sketches and an overview of the ambitious scheme at Queen's Links were made public by Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG) following a meeting of the council's Resources Management Committee.

The Energy Futures Centre would be a flagship for Aberdeen and Scotland, bringing together Aberdeen City and Shire's world-class energy development expertise in oil and gas and renewables.

The centre would perform a mixed role — as a science centre, a location for key energy organisations, and as a public space to promote, educate and entertain on key energy issues and energy science. It would also have an economic function and feature state of the art renewable energy and energy efficiency technology.

At the recent Resources Management Committee meeting, members backed a recommendation that relevant council officers be authorised to work with AREG to develop detailed business case options for delivering the project. To this end, they approved a partner contribution from Aberdeen City Council of £100,000.

Deputy Leader of the Council and Resources Management Committee convenor Councillor Kevin Stewart said: "This is a very exciting development for the city.

EFC concept sketches show the front elevation

"We envisage a striking facility that will create a focus for Aberdeen's capabilities with the potential to develop new technology and jobs in the energy sector. This is intended to be a truly remarkable building, featuring the highest design and sustainability standards to provide a showcase for not just Aberdeen, but Scotland's pre-eminence in the global energy industry."

Mr Stewart added: "The illustrations released today are intended to provide an impression of the proposal. This is the start of a dialogue and we would very much like to hear what the wider public thinks of the Energy Futures Centre and what it could achieve."

Iain Todd, Aberdeen Renewable Energy Champion, said: "Energy will continue to play an important part in all our lives. The issues of climate change, energy poverty and energy efficiency require individual and collective responsibility and action. The EFC could play a vital role in helping the city to be a true energy capital and to face the challenges and opportunities the future will bring." ■