

WIND FARMS BRING BENEFITS

Scotland has an ambitious target to generate 100 per cent of its electricity consumption from renewables. RES believes that local communities should benefit directly from hosting wind farms in their area.

We propose to establish a Community Benefit Fund which will allow local people to benefit from the wind farm.

It is up to the local community as to how the fund is managed and spent, and this is something which we will be consulting on in the coming weeks and months.

Community funds are operating successfully at other RES wind farms in the UK. At Forss Wind Farm, in the Highlands, the fund has been spent on the erection of Christmas lights, swimming training camps, sports equipment for the local beaver group and educational trips for students.

At Kelburn Wind Farm, in North Ayrshire, the fund supported a residential art trip to Arran for pupils at Largs Academy. The fund has also supported groups such as the Organic Growers of Fairlie who look after an organic garden in the local community, the Millport Pipe Band and the Largs RNLI.

The community fund at Black Hill Wind Farm in the Scottish Borders has been used to prevent a local nursery from closing.

RES actively engages with local communities at all stages of the planning, construction and operation processes for our wind farms. In addition to our existing Community Benefit Funds we are committed to exploring innovative ways in which our wind farms can bring tangible benefits to the local communities hosting them, including the potential for discounting electricity bills.



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Members of the Hill of Towie Wind Farm Community Fund committee receiving a cheque from Gordon MacDougall of RES. Richard Lochhead MSP, is also pictured.

Photo: Newline Scotland

For illustrative purposes only

BENEFITS OF WIND



THE IMPORTANCE OF WIND POWER

- Wind is free and infinitely available;
- Wind energy enables us to generate our own electricity without reliance on foreign imports;
- Wind adds to the fuel mix of the UK, ensuring we don't rely on any one source;
- Wind energy is not subject to fuel price rises or the uncertainty of global markets;
- Wind energy helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- When a wind farm becomes operational the energy produced does not produce harmful by-products;
- Wind energy, when operational, has no requirement for drilling or mining;
- Wind farms leave no significant adverse legacies for future generations.

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Slieve Divena Wind Farm, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland
Turbines: Nordex N80, 2.5MW, height to blade tip of 101m.
Photo: RES
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THE LIFE OF A WIND FARM



BUILDING AND OPERATING A WIND FARM

If planning consent is granted, construction can begin. Construction typically takes 12-18 months, with activities carefully programmed to minimise disruption for local people.

One of the first things we do on a site is to prepare the access tracks, which will allow the turbines to be delivered, erected and serviced.

The wind turbines stand on concrete foundations; these give the turbines a firm base on which to stand for the 25 year life of the wind farm. The top of the concrete foundation lies up to one metre below the normal ground surface and is filled in with soil, so the land right up to the base of the turbine tower can be used.

The wind turbines are delivered in parts and assembled on site using a crane. The blades, towers and nacelles are transported to the site on special heavy goods vehicles with a police escort. The nacelles are the box-like structures at the top of the tower which house the gearbox and generator. These enable the movement of the blades.

Once operational, a wind farm not only provides renewable electricity to the national grid network, it also provides a Community Benefit Fund for local people to invest in local projects.

Decommissioning is a much less onerous task than construction. Most of the infrastructure is removed from site including the turbines and the substation. If it is deemed better for the environment, turbine foundations can be left in the ground and covered over. The aim would be to return the site as close as possible to its original state in line with best practice guidance.



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Construction at Hill of Towie Wind Farm, Moray

Turbines: Siemens, 2.3MW, height to tip of 100 metres.

Photo: Scotavia Images/RES

For illustrative purposes only

YOUR VIEWS COUNT



WE BELIEVE IN MEANINGFUL AND PRODUCTIVE CONSULTATION

The aims of our consultation process are to:

- Engage early with the community to facilitate a constructive consultation process; to help RES understand and address concerns.
- Assist the local community in understanding the benefits and impacts of the proposed wind farm.
- Add value and improve the quality of our proposal through meaningful and productive consultation.
- Work with the community to define the structure of the community benefits offered as part of the development.

The first stage in the consultation process is to submit a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) to the Local Planning Authority, which sets out how we will consult with the local community over our plans. Listening to what local residents and the wider community have to say about our proposals is an integral part of the consultation process and we welcome your comments and suggestions. Before we submit a planning application, we will create a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report, this documents the community engagement process and steps we have taken to adapt our proposal, if necessary.

At this stage we are inviting local residents to submit comments directly to RES. Once an application is submitted there will be the opportunity to submit representations directly to the Local Planning Authority.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the feedback form and let us know your thoughts. We'd like to hear your views about the exhibition and what we are proposing.

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COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

RES is one of the world's leading independent renewable energy developers. The company has been at the forefront of wind energy for more than three decades. We are a privately owned British company and grew out of Sir Robert McAlpine. We play a vital role in developing and constructing projects that contribute to Scotland's energy supply. RES has developed and/or built over six and a half gigawatts (GW) of wind capacity worldwide. In the UK, we are responsible for the development of around 10 per cent of the current wind energy capacity.

In Scotland, RES has built nine projects, including the recently completed Hill of Towie Wind Farm in Moray and Kelburn Wind Farm in North Ayrshire. Our Scottish development team is based in Glasgow.

At RES we are proud of our reputation for designing projects that optimise power performance whilst minimising any effects on local people and the environment. We work closely with communities, local authorities and independent experts to ensure our wind farms are built to the highest standards.

We want to be good neighbours and will listen to and address any questions or concerns you may have.

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- Operational / Constructed
- In construction
- In development / In planning

