

Community Windpower Ltd (CWL) prides itself on its open community consultation process and community involvement. As part of the Aikengall Community Windfarm project, CWL has already provided extensive economic, educational and environmental benefits to communities in the local area totalling in excess of £112,000 to date.

Substantial funding was provided to start the successful Energy Advice Centre which opened in Dunbar in November 2008. BeGreen Dunbar and District has been set up as a base for the Carbon Neutral Project, which aims to support the town and region in reducing carbon emissions by offering advice to all local residents on energy saving measures, grants and renewable energy technologies.

Other organisations that have benefited from the Aikengall Community Windfarm funding and sponsorship include the East Lothian Junior Agricultural Club, Skate Raw Foundation Project, Dunbar United FC and kit sponsorship for Dunbar Rugby Football Club. Over the past three years, CWL has continued to show their support for local events in the area including various agricultural shows.

Innerwick Parish Council has recently approached CWL to provide funding for the restoration of Innerwick Parish Church roof. CWL have agreed to commit up to £10,000 to assist with the restoration works. In addition, £15,000 has also been provided to fund Dunbar Grammar School's renewable energy competition.

CWL will continue to provide significant funding for local communities as part of the second phase of the windfarm development. Additional funding of £100,000 per year will be allocated to BeGreen Dunbar and District to enable the project to expand and cover a larger catchment area.

CWL have also be in contact with a number of Community Councils within the area of the proposed Aikengall II Community Windfarm, including the communities of Cockburnspath, Cranshaws, Ellemford, Longformacus, Abbey St. Bathans, Bonkyl, Preston and East Lammermuir Community Council area. A community benefits package has been agreed which will provide additional substantial funding of £100,000 per annum for local community-based environmental projects throughout the lifetime of the windfarm, which would be split between these communities.

The community benefits package being offered by CWL is unique, tailored to the needs of local communities and goes far beyond previous packages provided by other developers.

Extensive consultation with SEPA and SNH has been maintained throughout all stages of the Aikengall II development, with both organisations submitting no objection responses to the Scottish Government as part of the consultation process. CWL have worked closely with SNH for the Aikengall Community Windfarm project, with particular regard to the reinstatement of the windfarm development area, and are certain this positive relationship will continue for the second phase of the project.

CWL are also working with the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) to encourage people to use the existing windfarm site for recreational activities by enhancing the existing open access, creating walkways and providing information boards. CWL have also committed to improve the fencing and footpaths and undertake additional survey work within the Lammermuir Deans.

The Aikengall II Community Windfarm would generate up to 108MW of clean, green renewable energy, significantly contributing towards the Scottish Government's Renewable Energy interim target of 31% of energy produced from renewable sources by 2011, and 50% by 2020. It is anticipated that the windfarm will produce enough electricity to power around 77,000 homes annually and would prevent the emission of over 122,000 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide per annum; the equivalent of taking 41,000 cars off the road.

The proposed windfarm will generate and provide a large volume of financial investment into the local and regional economies, throughout the lifetime of the windfarm. The largest proportion will be spent during the construction phase of the windfarm, with the construction and supply contract worth in excess of £100 million, with preference given to East Lothian and Scottish Borders companies. During the operational phase of the windfarm, the projected expenditure in the local area as a result of the development of the windfarm is expected to be around £980,000 per annum.

The Aikengall II proposal will create up to five new permanent jobs for the lifetime of the windfarm. CWL are also looking to appoint an educational ranger to work with the local schools and community groups in the area.

East Lothian Council held their Cabinet Meeting on Tuesday 12th January 2010 and decided to submit a no objection response to the Energy Consents Unit of the Scottish Government in relation to the Aikengall II – Community Windfarm proposal. The report produced by Scottish Borders Council for their Cabinet Meeting also recommends not to object to the scheme.

CWL undertake a through and iterative site selection and design process to establish the suitability of potential sites for a windfarm development. The proposed Aikengall site was selected as the most appropriate and best site for a windfarm development. It will have minimal impact on the Scottish Borders region; with the windfarm located a significant distance (over 11km) from the nearest town, Duns.

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