

HILL OF TOWIE II WIND FARM



November 2013

APPLICATION SUBMITTED FOR AN EXTENSION TO HILL OF TOWIE WIND FARM

Welcome to the second newsletter from RES – keeping the community informed about our plans for an extension to Hill of Towie Wind Farm. We are pleased to announce that the application for Hill of Towie II Wind Farm has been submitted to The Scottish Government's Energy Consents and Deployment Unit (ECDU).

The application for consent to build the 16 turbine wind farm near Drummuir follows a period of public consultation led by RES, which included a series of public exhibitions held in September 2013. We appreciate the time people have taken to find out about our proposal and provide us with comments.

As the combined capacity of the Hill of Towie II and the existing Hill of Towie Wind Farm exceed 50 megawatts (MW), an application has been submitted under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 directly to the Scottish Government. The Scottish Government's ECDU is now undertaking a formal consultation process, during which people have a further opportunity to comment on the wind farm proposal.

If granted planning permission, Hill of Towie II Wind Farm will have an installed capacity of approximately 28.8 - 48MW* and will generate renewable electricity using the natural power of the wind. Using this naturally available wind resource will help to reduce our carbon emissions, improve security of energy supply and contribute towards achieving Scotland's ambition to generate the equivalent of 100% of our electricity needs from renewable sources by 2020.

**Based on 16 turbines, each rated at between 1.8-3MW.*

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

The Scottish Government's ECDU will start a formal consultation process with the consultees, including The Moray Council. The planning department at The Moray Council will review the application and will provide the Scottish Government with a recommendation as part of their response. The Scottish Government will review all the responses from statutory consultees and other representations before making a decision on the application.



Predicted view of Hill of Towie II (including also existing Hill of Towie turbines) from the B9115 near Drummuir/Newburgh. This image can be found in the Environmental Statement, Volume 4: Landscape Figures - Viewpoint Three, Figure 7.25c

HOW CAN I MAKE MY VIEWS KNOWN?

For the Scottish Government to make an informed decision about the proposed wind farm it is important that they are aware of the views of local people.

The Environmental Statement (ES) is now available to the public. The ES looks at all the potential effects of the wind farm on the environment, landscape, wildlife and people. It details all the studies that have been carried out and explains how RES will minimise any impacts.

You can download the ES from our website www.hilloftowie-windfarm.co.uk or view copies during normal opening hours at The Moray Council Offices in Elgin, Keith Library and Dufftown Library; and at Drummur Hall between the hours of 3pm –7pm, every Wednesday for the duration of the 28-day consultation (please contact the hallkeeper for further details).

You can express your views by writing directly to the Scottish Government (details in the orange box at right) no later than Monday 16th December 2013. Remember to include the name of the project "Hill of Towie II Wind Farm", the date, your name and email/postal address.

You can express your views about the proposed wind farm by writing to:

Energy Consents and Deployment Unit
Scottish Government
4th Floor
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow
G2 8LU

representations@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

SOME KEY POINTS YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER

- By generating power from a cleaner, greener resource it will reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, and help address climate change.
- The use of a 'home-grown' and unlimited source of energy helps reduce our reliance on imported fuels and makes our energy supply more secure.
- The wind farm will create local employment opportunities during the construction phase in areas such as civil engineering, haulage, concreting, security and electrical skills. Other businesses, such as hotels and shops, will also benefit.
- From analysis of its project spend over the last three years, RES anticipates that Hill of Towie II Wind Farm could put more than £4.4 million into the local economy during construction and the first year of operation.
- Should Hill of Towie II Wind Farm become operational, it will provide a community benefits package of £5,000 per MW of installed capacity, which would be £144,000 per year based on a 28.8MW project. This would be split between a Community Benefit Fund and the Local Electricity Discount Scheme.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

We want local people to benefit from hosting our wind farms. At Hill of Towie II Wind Farm we will establish a Community Benefit Fund for the lifetime of the wind farm.

The Hill of Towie Wind Farm Community Fund has been operating since the wind farm became operational in June 2012. To date the fund has distributed £134,351 to support 38 projects and groups in the local area.

In addition, RES will be launching its innovative Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS) for the neighbours who live closest to the proposed wind farm. Eligible residential, business and community properties would benefit from a discount off their electricity bills without the need to change supplier or sign up to a particular tariff. RES will be contacting those properties in the eligible area directly during November with details on how they can register their interest in the scheme.



For those receiving this newsletter by post, we obtained your address through a national post code database. If you do not wish to receive further information from us about this proposal, please write to us and let us know.



Any questions?

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If you require information in Braille, large text or Audio, please let us know.