

As the UK's leading onshore wind developer with windfarms in Dumfries and Galloway, we are keen to be good neighbours in all that we do and to maximise the local benefits we create.

So far we have contributed more than £18,500,000 in community benefit funding to deliver local initiatives across the UK.

We're launching this bi-annual newsletter to bring you closer to the success stories from your communities, highlighting the fantastic projects that are making a difference every day. We believe those living locally to our windfarms are best placed to determine which projects matter to them and as such the power to make decisions is in the hands of local communities.

We also want to keep you up to date with the range of environmental enhancements and conservation work we are undertaking across this region.

We hope you find this useful and we always welcome your feedback to ensure the news you really want to hear about is featured here. This newsletter is also available electronically.



You may be familiar with the ScottishPower Renewables Community Liaison team for Dumfries and Galloway Gillian Arnot, Siobhan McLaughlin and Tracy Kennedy.

✉ Please contact us at: communitybenefit@scottishpower.com

Dumfries and Galloway at a glance

- £1.3m community benefit funding invested in Dumfries & Galloway by ScottishPower Renewables
- Three operational windfarms
- 101,902* equivalent homes powered per year
- 38 community councils receiving funds
- Equivalent of 811** football pitches of habitat improvements for wildlife

*Based on BEIS's long-term average capacity factor for onshore wind (27.3%) and an average annual domestic electricity usage of 3,938MWh

**Based on the average FIFA football pitch being 7297.5m²

Our sites: Dumfries and Galloway



Did you know?

At the Nature of Scotland Awards in November 2015, we were delighted to win the RSPB Scotland Sustainable Development Award, recognising our pioneering role in the restoration of deforested peatland habitat in Scotland.

Did you know?

Since 2006, we have been undertaking a detailed Peregrine Falcon monitoring programme at Wether Hill Windfarm. The results show that the species continues to prosper in the windfarm environment.

Did you know?

We are working with Forestry Commission Scotland at our Harestanes Windfarm to sympathetically manage forestry for the benefit of red squirrel by ensuring there is an area of well connected habitat.

Local community benefit funds

Operational since 2014, our community fund for Harestanes Windfarm is already benefitting communities.

Administered by Annandale and Nithsdale Community Benefit Company, they have taken an inclusive approach, making 42 community council areas eligible to apply for funding, with 33 communities signed up to the company.

Highlights from the the funds distributed in 2015 include £7,000 to HUB Dumfries and Galloway to provide free logs and kindling to local elderly residents living in fuel poverty, £15,000 awarded to Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust to employ a development officer to progress two local projects and £2,500 towards the Thornhill Music Festival.

Find out more about Annandale and Nithsdale Community Benefit Company at www.ancbc.co.uk

Wether Hill Windfarm

Operational since 2008, our community benefit fund for Wether Hill Windfarm has contributed more than £495,000 and is administered through Glencairn Community Council, Tynron Community Council and the Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund (CREFL).

Some significant projects supported to date by CREFL include £60,000 to refurbish Carsphairn's village hall and church as well as contributing

funding towards the development of a community garden.

Billy McCreath, Chair of the Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund commented:

"The community owns the shop and it is run for the benefit of the community. Windfarm community benefit has made a tremendous difference to keep the community alive, without funds I doubt there would be much off a community at all...the shop and village hall would be long gone."

In Moniaive, the Wether Hill Windfarm community benefit fund has also awarded £10,400 to help to keep the local Post Office open six mornings a week, a service that is felt to be a vital rural commodity for the community; Moniaive Initiative recently received £5,000 to replace toddler play equipment in the local Macara Park; and the two largest local festivals the 15th Moniaive Folk Festival and 6th Moniaive Michaelmas Blue grass Festival have also both recently received £2,600 and £1,120 respectively. Both of these annual events bring many visitors and business to the local community... and good music too!

Find out more about Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund at www.carsphairn.org/carsphairn-renewables-crefl/ and Glencairn Community Council on their Facebook page.



Creating benefits for local businesses

As a Partner for Business with the Dumfries & Galloway Chamber of Commerce since 2011, we are keen to keep local companies up to date with opportunities to be involved on our windfarms.

In summer 2015, ScottishPower Renewables hosted a supplier engagement event for our Kilgallioch Windfarm and also participated in the Dumfries & Galloway Business Week meet-the-buyer event in October 2015.

Kilgallioch Windfarm is now under construction, and contracts of around £1,400,000 have been placed with local companies to provide plant and operators, cleaning services, signage, welding services and concrete supply. Approximately one third of workers on site live within 20 miles and those from outwith the area are living in local hotels or renting from local accommodation providers. Our principal contractor is spending around £8,000 per month on local accommodation for about 25 employees while subcontractors are renting local accommodation for an additional 75-80 workers. At our Ewe Hill Construction site, near Lockerbie, contracts totalling around £1,000,000 have been awarded to a local quarry, a local civils company and a local fencing contractor.

Partnership Projects

In the Forest of Ae, where our Harestanes Windfarm is located, we have seen first-hand how the network of trails and mountain bike tracks has really encouraged recreational access and we are keen to maximise this. We are working with Forestry Commission Scotland by contributing £50,000 annually to a partnership fund to improve public access across the entire National Forest Estate in Dumfries & Galloway.

This can be used for educational, recreational or environmental improvement and initial projects have been developed by Forestry Commission Scotland. Plans are afoot to upgrade sections of track at Heathhall Forest in Dumfries to allow a link up of improved quality tracks right through to Dumfries town centre and we hope to see this and other great projects implemented later this year.