

Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development Economic Impact:

During the lifetime of the development, it is expected to create opportunities for:

- Site & building maintenance and cleaning;
- Waste management and recycling;
- Civil engineering;
- Maintenance of fencing;
- Fuel supplies;
- Plant and equipment hire;
- Crane companies;
- Snow clearing;
- Panel cleaning;
- Supply of consumable items;
- Statutory turbine & solar inspections;
- Catering; and
- In addition, local shops, cafes, accommodation providers and hotels often experience an increase in business during the operational phase

Construction & Operation

Construction Phase:

- Local contractors and suppliers in the local area could secure initial construction contracts worth around £24 million.
- Contracts worth around £55 million could be available to the wider Scottish market.
- Creation of up to 117 person years of employment in Argyll and Bute and up to 315 in Scotland as a whole during construction.

Operational Phase:

- Positive operational impact of over £60 million GVA locally.
- Positive operational impact of over £170 million GVA in Scotland.
- Between 3 - 5 FTE jobs in the area during operation, further FTE jobs are expected to be supported directly and indirectly elsewhere in Scotland.

Climate Change & Carbon Reduction

The potential savings in CO2 emissions due to the proposed Development replacing other electricity sources over the lifetime of the windfarm are approximately:

- 165,375 tonnes of CO2 avoided annually, from the wind turbines only, compared with a fossil fuel-mix of electricity generation.
- The development is promoted as 'in perpetuity' but for an assumed 40 year operational life of the turbines, the turbines only, would save around 6m tonnes of CO₂ compared to a fossil fuel mix of electricity, and will repay the carbon emissions related to its construction in around 1.6 years⁽²⁾.
- The UK Government announced in June 2019 that it will commit to a new plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 'net zero' by 2045, with Scotland's target set at 2040, to tackle climate change. A further amendment to up the Scottish Governments interim target to a 75% reduction by 2030, passed through Scottish Parliament in September 2019.



Environment

A Habitat Management Plan (HMP) is proposed as part of the Development, which will enhance the nature conservation value of the renewable energy site. The Habitat Management Area (HMA) encompasses a total area of 84 hectares of land, and will support the conservation of peatland and bog habitat.



Powering the Future

- Onshore wind is the lowest-cost form of new power generation available⁽³⁾.
- UK Public Support for Onshore Wind has reached a record high of 79% according to the BEIS Public Attitudes Tracker report published May 2019.

Voluntary Site Enhancements

- The project will facilitate the construction of a hide where various interesting species and habitats in the area can be observed and enjoyed.
- A viewpoint will be installed at the highest point of Cruach nam Fiadh giving views over the landscape.
- Hydrological improvements will be made in various locations which will assist with flooding concerns over Clachan burn.
- Archaeological features identified during site visits will be preserved and enhanced by improving access and by the installation of display boards.
- Footpaths linking the Kintyre Way to the Site will be constructed to open access into and through the Site.



Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development

A proposal for a Renewable Energy Development (wind turbines, solar arrays & battery storage)

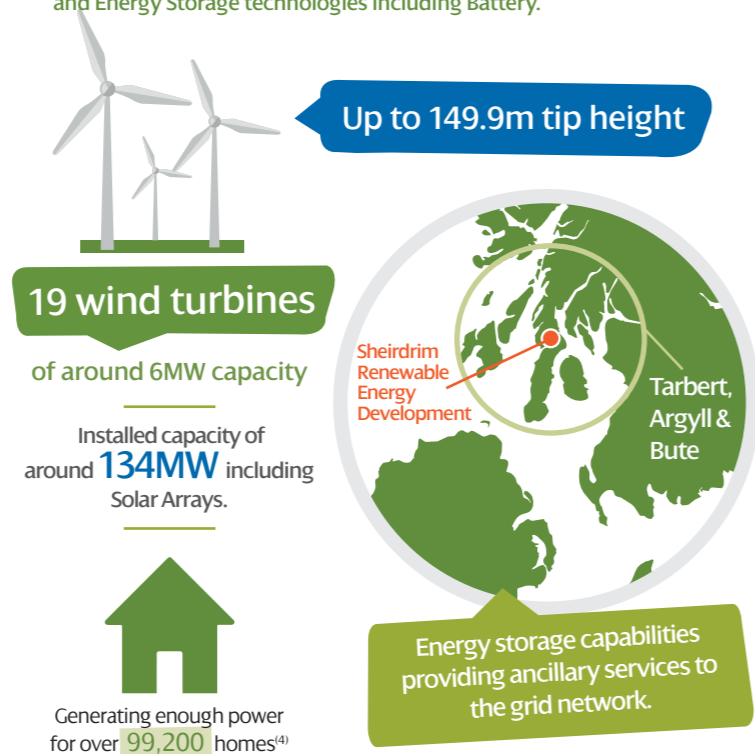
About ScottishPower Renewables

ScottishPower Renewables is part of the ScottishPower group of companies operating in the UK under the Iberdrola Group, one of the world's largest integrated utility companies and a world leader in wind energy.

ScottishPower now only produces 100% green electricity – focusing on wind energy, smart grids and driving the change to a cleaner, electric future. The company is investing over £4m every working day in 2019 to make this happen and is committed to speeding up the transition to cleaner electric transport, improving air quality and over time, driving down bills to deliver a better future, quicker for everyone.

Site Summary - Key Facts

What is a Renewable Energy Development? A RED maximises the potential of a site through the use of renewable energy technologies able to co-exist with each other including Wind, Solar and Energy Storage technologies including Battery.



Economic Benefits

Implementation of a Community Benefit Fund and Shared Ownership

Meet-the-buyer events to allow local contractors to learn about and tender for local opportunities



Training and education

Once operational the renewable energy development will contribute towards the payment of land rentals, and a significant sum of business rates to the local economy⁽¹⁾.

SPR has worked with Argyll & Bute Council and Allenergy supporting educational work with schools and communities across the region. Since 2015, 40% of the Beinn an Tuirc Windfarm 2 community benefit package has been committed to building upon this valuable work, including Allenergy's 'Bright Sparks' Education and Skills Development Programme which encourages young people to seek careers in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) related sectors



£0.6 billion wholesale energy cost savings

Between 2000 and 2020, wind generation has avoided 9 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions

72,000GW of fossil fuels avoided at a saving of £1 billion

Benefits to the Community

To date, SPR has voluntarily awarded over £1.6 million in community benefit funding to communities in Argyll & Bute, helping to support a wide range of local projects and community initiatives including:

Some examples of projects supported include:



- 174 community facilities and services projects totalling £339,025.60
- 47 community or local event projects totalling £39,089.33
- 16 environmental projects totalling £30,224.45
- 11 heritage projects totalling £11,036
- 26 skills and employment projects totalling £26,344.48
- 73 sport and recreation projects totalling £79,290.17 and
- 129 youth and education projects totalling £102,981.21

SPR is committed to funding projects in the local area, including those identified in various local community council action plans, which could improve community buildings, support new services and expand village infrastructure.



References

- (1) BiGGAR Economics (2016); Wind Farms and Tourism Trends in Scotland.
- (2) Scottish Government Carbon Calculator for windfarms v1.6.0
- (3) BEIS; Electricity Generation Costs, 2016
- (4) BEIS; Sub-National Electricity and Gas Consumption Statistics, Jan 2018 (based on average household consumption of 3781 KWh)

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Better future, quicker



Cover Image: Beinn An Tuirc II, turbine tip heights 100m
Other Images: Whitelee Windfarm, turbine tip heights 110m and Beinn An Tuirc I, turbine tip heights 59m