

## Twyn Hywel Energy Park – Project Update

We have submitted an application for a Development of National Significance (DNS) and secondary consents including for registration and exchange of Common Land at the Twyn Hywel Energy Park, on the border of Caerphilly County Borough Council and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

**Twyn Hywel Energy Park could generate 92.4MW of clean, green energy – which would power the equivalent of 81,000 households a year.**

- The Twyn Hywel Energy Park will include up to 14 wind turbines generating 92.4MW of clean, green energy, enough to power the equivalent of 81,000 households a year.<sup>1</sup> The project responds to the Climate Emergency and will help local communities live modern electric lives, while supporting the Welsh Government’s target for electricity to be 100% renewable by 2035.
- The clean energy generated at Twyn Hywel will help displace approximately 5.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year, the equivalent to taking all cars off the road in Caerphilly County Borough Council each year.<sup>2</sup>
- The majority of the proposed Energy Park site sits within a Pre-Assessed Area for large-scale onshore wind energy according to the Welsh Government’s National Development Framework, Future Wales: The National Plan 2040.

**The project has a Community Benefit Fund of £693,000 a year for the local area – more than £30m over the projects up to 45-year operational life.**

- The Twyn Hywel Energy Park will also deliver significant benefits to the local community, including an annual Community Benefit Fund in the region of £693,000 – totalling more than £30 million over the up to 45-year operational life of the project. The Community Benefit Fund will provide local groups, charities and services with funding to sustain their work, create new innovative projects that benefit local people and help organisations combine their expertise with others to build large scale multi-year legacy projects to benefit local communities. Uniquely for a fund of this type, it is linked to the Consumer Price Index to allow for economic inflation and to future proof the funding.
- Informed by engagement with local people and stakeholders, Community Benefit Funding will focus on creating healthier, wealthier communities by supporting recreational, health and wellbeing improvements, enhancing local

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<sup>1</sup> Based on analysis of the windspeeds at the site and the turbine design currently proposed. 92.4MW total capacity time 8,760 (hours per year) time capacity factor divided by average UK household electrical consumption of 3,578kWh (Digest of UK Statistics 2019) times 100-unit conversion equals 80,648.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated by taking the car vehicle traffic in Caerphilly (Road traffic estimates in Great Britain: 2021 – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) 2021), ratio of petrol and diesel cars in the UK (Number of Cars in the UK 2022 | NimbleFins), the emissions data for these car categories in Caerphilly (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/energy-and-environment-data-tables-env#emissions-from-journeys-env07>) and comparing to the Annual Carbon Saving at Twyn Hywel.

education offering and identifying more pathways into employment for local people. And it will highlight opportunities to celebrate and promote local culture, heritage and biodiversity.

- The project could also deliver recreational improvements in consultation with local communities and users of Eglwysilian Common, including enhancement of existing public rights of way so they are fully accessible and inclusive for all users. And in partnership with local heritage organisations, Bute Energy will help local people and visitors take in and interpret some of the unique features and rich heritage of the local area, including the Senghenydd Dyke. This will provide local schools with the opportunity for visits to the site to support the delivery of the Curriculum for Wales.
- Improvements to habitats and support for local wildlife are also included in the application, with the project committed to delivering around 20% Biodiversity Net Benefit to the site through proposals including hedgerow planting and the restoration of degraded bog habitats.

**If consented, Twyn Hywel Energy Park could begin construction and start to generate clean, green power in 2025.**

- As the proposed Twyn Hywel Energy Park will generate more than 10MW of energy, it is classed as a Development of National Significance. This means that we have applied to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW), which will make a recommendation to Welsh Ministers, on whether or not to grant planning permission.
- We first consulted on our proposals to generate clean, green energy at Twyn Hywel in 2021 and early 2022. Feedback received from local communities, stakeholders and specialist consultees helped evolve the proposals ahead of Statutory Consultation that ran from November 2022 to January 2023.
- We submitted a Development of National Significance (DNS) application in June 2023 to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW). This was validated by PEDW in August 2023 and will now proceed through the DNS process.
- Welsh Ministers are currently expected to determine the application in Q2 2024.