

# WIND FARM APPLICATION FOR SOUTH KINTYRE

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008

Wind Prospect, acting as agent for Kilchattan Wind Farm Limited (a joint venture between Wind Prospect Developments and RidgeWind), have for some time been considering a site at Kilchattan, 3km north of Southend, for the purposes of a wind energy development. A planning application has now been submitted to Argyll & Bute Council after independent studies found that the area was suitable for a wind energy development.

The proposal consists of sixteen 850kW wind turbines, each with 55m high towers and blades that are 26m long, giving an overall maximum height of 81m, and associated infrastructure including internal access tracks, crane hardstandings, a switchgear building, a permanent anemometer mast and a potential borrow pit.

If approved, the proposed development would supply, on average, as much clean green electricity in a year as is used by around 7,600 homes whilst preventing the emissions to atmosphere (when compared to fossil fuel powered generation of the equivalent energy) of several thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum.

In addition to the environmental benefits, associated with the non-polluting sustainable energy generation technology, the direct benefits for the local community will include a Local Trust Fund which would be financed from a proportion of the revenue generated by the proposed wind farm. The Trust Funds objective is to provide a locally controlled community resource to help fund local energy efficiency/sustainability projects and general environmental enhancement projects.

Sarah Dooley, development manager for the project, said:

*"The threat of climate change is being realised and now is the time to tackle the problem. Wind energy is both clean and reliable and will play an increasingly important part in Scotland's future energy mix, supplying electricity whilst at the same time helping to prevent greenhouse gas emissions. Scotland has a vast wind energy resource and this project represents a real opportunity for Argyll & Bute to increase its contribution to the need for green energy generation."*

Copies of the Environmental Statement that was submitted along with the planning application are available for inspection at Argyll & Bute Council's offices in Campbeltown (Burnet Building,

John Street) and Ardrishaig (67 Chalmers Street). In addition a copy is also available for viewing at Southend Post Office between 10am and 1pm Monday to Thursday. Copies of a 20 page Non Technical Summary document are available free of charge by contacting Wind Prospect directly.

**ENDS**

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

### **WIND ENERGY - GLOBALLY**

From an emerging fuel source twenty years ago, wind energy has developed into a mature and booming global business. Generation costs have fallen by 50 % over the last 15 years with modern wind turbines improving dramatically in their power rating, efficiency and reliability.

By the end of 2006 the global installed wind energy capacity was in excess of 74,000 megawatts, generating enough electricity to meet the equivalent needs of approximately 25 million average households worldwide.

Over 70 countries around the world contribute now to the global total, and the number of people employed by the industry world-wide is estimated to be up to 200,000. Although Europe still accounts for 65 % of this global wind power capacity, other regions are beginning to emerge as substantial markets for the wind industry.

Wind energy is the cleanest and lowest cost form of renewable energy available.

### **WIND ENERGY - LOCALLY**

The UK, the windiest country in Europe, is currently home to almost 1900 operating wind turbines, with a total installed capacity of approximately 2300 megawatts, as much as is used by in excess of one and a quarter million average UK homes. However, at present less than 1% of the UK's electricity is supplied by wind energy, compared to as much as 25% of electricity supplied by the wind in parts of Germany. Scotland aims to have 50% of its electricity delivered from renewable energy sources by 2020.

### **WIND PROSPECT AND RIDGEWIND**

This proposal is a joint venture between Wind Prospect and RidgeWind Ltd. Wind Prospect is the agent for the development.

RidgeWind is a UK based renewable energy developer. RidgeWind's strength is land management, energy development and financial investment. RidgeWind is affiliated with HgCapital. HgCapital makes long-term equity investments through Hg Renewable Power Partners, Europe's largest dedicated fund for renewable power projects and development companies. The fund invests in European renewable power projects, from development stage

through to the operational phase, across multiple technologies including wind power, biomass, landfill gas, waste, hydro, geothermal, and solar.

Wind Prospect is a leading independent wind energy developer, constructor and operator, working in the UK, Ireland, China, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. The company has been involved in over 1,000MW of approved sites and currently has over 400MW at various stages of the development process. To date, Wind Prospect has developed and / or constructed some 50 projects across the world in some of the most challenging locations and terrains.

When developing this clean, sustainable, everlasting energy supply we encourage contracts with local companies wherever possible. We aim to develop wind energy projects in partnership with local communities, whilst offering opportunities for rural diversification. Our goal is to find the right balance between the global benefits of wind energy and any impact of wind farms on the local environment.

#### **ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL**

Argyll & Bute Council is responsible for granting planning consent.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

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#### **USEFUL WEBSITES**

[www.bwea.com](http://www.bwea.com)

[www.embracewind.com](http://www.embracewind.com)

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