

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **MONTREATHMONT MOOR WIND FARM RESUBMISSION**

A revised planning application for a wind farm at Montreathmont Moor, near Friockheim in Angus has been submitted.

The developers, Wind Prospect and Ridge Wind, have reduced the proposed number of turbines from 19 to 11 following feedback from a number of stakeholders and additional environmental surveys.

If approved, the development will make an important contribution to national and green energy targets. The Scottish Government has committed to generating 50 per cent of electricity in Scotland from renewable sources by 2020. Similarly, onshore wind power is acknowledged in the Angus local plan as the greatest opportunity for developing renewable energy in the county.

A wind farm at Montreathmont Moor would generate, on average, as much clean and green energy as is used by over 11,800 homes – more than all the households in the localities of Brechin, Friockheim, Letham, Ferryden, Montrose and Hillside. It would also prevent thousands of tonnes of the harmful greenhouse gas, CO<sub>2</sub> from being discharged into the atmosphere every year.

Alongside the environmental benefits, the wind farm would also bring economic opportunities including a local trust fund of £33,000 per annum over 25 years that would be invested in community projects.

The revised 22 megawatt wind farm proposal lies approximately 4km north of Friockheim and 5km south of Brechin. The development is located almost entirely within a coniferous forest plantation, with the design using the existing forest tracks as much as possible and avoiding sensitive areas as identified during the various environmental surveys.

Each turbine is 80m to hub height with blades of 46m in length, giving a maximum height to blade tip of 126m. In total 12.5 hectares of commercial forestry plantation would be felled, mostly around turbine

bases, to accommodate the wind farm. This felled area would account for less than 1 per cent of the combined forests at Montreathmont Moor. Areas cleared would be allowed to regenerate naturally.

Colin Williams, development manager for the project, said: "The threat of climate change is being realised and now is the time to tackle the problem. Onshore wind energy is recognised as having a significant part to play in increasing the amount of renewable energy generation, which is part of the strategy for combating climate change."

A newsletter, describing the planning application for the wind farm, is being distributed to over 7,000 households in the local area to inform them of the revised application.

Since the submission of the original 19 wind turbine planning application, additional detailed environmental assessments have been made in response to consultee responses and a raft of measures would be carried out before construction to ensure that any sensitive species present are located and protected. For example, concerns over geese that spend the winter months nearby resulted in over 100 hours of surveys which established that the wind farm would not have a significant adverse impact on the geese in the area.

Copies of the Environmental Statement that has been submitted along with the planning application can be viewed at the Angus Council Planning Department Offices, St James House, St James Road, Forfar, DD8 2ZP. In addition copies are available for inspection at the following locations: Friockheim Library, Friockheim Primary School, Friockheim; Brechin Library, St. Ninian's Square, Brechin; Arbroath Library, Hill Terrace, Arbroath; and Montrose Library, High Street, Montrose. Copies of a 20 page non technical summary detailing the main findings of the Environmental Statement 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.

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, including the USA and China.

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, generating as much electricity each year as is used by over one and a quarter million average UK homes. Scotland aims to have 50% of its electricity delivered from renewable energy sources by 2020.

### **WIND PROSPECT AND RIDGEWIND**

This proposal is developed by Montreathmont Moor Wind Ltd which is a joint venture between Wind

Prospect and RidgeWind. 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.

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 local ownership and investment and 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.

### **ANGUS COUNCIL**

Angus Council is responsible for granting planning consent. It is pursuing a program to reduce the impact of its energy consumption on the environment.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

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### **USEFUL WEBSITES**

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

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

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

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