

Where the wind blows

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Work begins on Fife's first wind farm project

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WORK has begun on Fife's first commercial wind farm development.

Construction started on the Little Raith Wind Farm, on land next to the A92 near Lochgelly, at the start of this month.

The first phase of works, which will last until December, will include the building of roads and infrastructure as well as the construction of a substation to allow Scottish Power to energise the site.

The project, run by Kennedy Renewables, features nine turbines and is scheduled to be completed by October 2012.

Green energy

The turbines will be supplied by GE Energy and the wind farm will have a total capacity of 24.75 megawatts of green energy - enough to supply power to 14,500 homes.

The wind farm was given planning permission by Fife Council in March 2009 after it was identified as a suitable wind farm site.

Kennedy Renewables acquired the Little Raith Wind Farm in

September the following year.

It is committed to contributing to a community fund for use on local projects benefiting areas surrounding the wind farm including Cowdenbeath, Auchtertool, Lochgelly and Lumphinnans.

The community fund will provide £49,500 each year and £1.23 million over the lifetime of the wind farm.

A working group has been set up to establish a Community Development Trust - made up of representatives from each of the four community council areas - which will decide how to allocate the funds.

And to make sure the communities are kept updated, Kennedy Renewables has set up the Little Raith Wind Farm community liaison committee allowing local councillors and community councils to express their views on the scheme.

Stephen Klein, Kennedy Renewables' chief executive, said: "We look forward, as the wind farm develops, to engaging with the Little Raith Wind Farm community liaison committee to appraise the local community on the progress of the project."

Councillor Tony Martin,



chairman of the Council's environment, enterprise and transportation committee, said: "This development is a significant and positive milestone for Fife."

Commitment

David Torrance, Kirkcaldy MSP, said the development will be good for the local area and Fife as a whole and welcomed Kennedy Renewables' commitment to provide £1.23m for projects in the communities.

Local MP Gordon Brown said: "Fife is already a major contributor to the low carbon economy and this onshore wind farm development at Little Raith is another leap forward. I look forward to seeing local projects reap the benefits of the community fund."

Have your say:
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WORK BEGINS: From left, James Glen, Christine McGrath, Pat Madden, Helen Eadie MSP, Stephen Klein, Eileen McKenna, Amelia Howie, David Torrance MSP.