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The Kingdom's first commercial wind farm will be up and running in West Fife this time next year with neighbouring communities set to rake in more than £50,000 annually as a result.

The £25 million joint project between West Coast Energy and Kennedy Power will build nine turbines on farmland near Fife Ethylene Plant at Mossmorran.

Work is scheduled to begin in March on the 126m high turbines that will generate power for 15,000 homes each year.

With Kennedy Power committed to contributing £2000 per megawatt to a community fund for use on local projects, an annual cash windfall of £54,000, worth £1.35 million over the lifetime of the farm, will be given to neighbouring communities.

West Fife village Crossgates will be able to apply for a grant from the community trust fund as part of the package being introduced.

Dunfermline East MSP Helen Eadie said, "I am delighted that this has put Dunfermline East into the spotlight for this significant development.

Security of all of our energy supplies has to be a key priority for government at all levels.

"Given the history of Fife in being at the heart of making a major contribution to the energy supplies over such a very long period of time, it is very fitting that this constituency has the benefit of being in on the ground floor of such important new developments. I congratulate the company on its investment in this area."

The wind farm will be built at Little Raith farm, which borders Lochgelly and the A92, and is expected to bring money and jobs into the local economy during the construction phase.

West Coast Energy planning and development director Stephen Salt said, "The good news is this is investment in Fife. Scottish contractors are to be involved in tenuring and there is the opportunity for local people to be involved.

"We've always said if people have got skills they can bid in to the main contractor. Even little things like the refreshments, food, hotels, accommodation, fencing contractors, all these needs and requirements, we want the community to be involved as much as they can and sell their services to benefit from it."

The four communities of Lochgelly, Cowdenbeath, Auchtertool and Lumphinnans will directly benefit from a community benefit package.

Kennedy Power's board director Andrew Dickman said, "We will help to establish a community development trust made up of representatives from the local area to discuss the options for the use of the community benefit fund.

"We will also be establishing a community liaison forum that will represent the community as the project progresses and are encouraging anyone with an interest in the project to join the forum.

“We will keep in constant contact with the forum to appraise the community on the latest progressions with the project in order to minimise disruption.”