

Little Raith well on track to become Kingdom's first

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KENNEDY Renewables this week announced it is on track to deliver the Little Raith Windfarm, Fife's first commercial wind project.

The company successfully started work on site at the start of August, with Wind Prospect and RJ McLeod appointed as the Project Manager and Principal Contractor respectively for the development.

Since then, the renewable energy company has secured contracts with major international companies allowing the wind farm to proceed towards successful completion.

They have signed a fifteen year Power Purchase Agreement with Statkraft, a major player in European electricity markets, who will buy the energy from the site.

Leading renewable energy financier, the Co-operative Bank, are providing the loan for the project, and G E Energy has committed to supply the nine 2.75 megawatt turbines which will be installed on site. Scottish Power Energy Networks will install the grid connection for the wind farm.

The local economy has also benefitted from the on-going work, with around £350,000 being spent locally on the project since work commenced.

In addition, local shops and petrol stations have been used for fuel and site supplies.

There are currently seven people from the local area working with RJ McLeod on site, up to twenty people are employed on a sub-contract basis and materials such as stone and concrete are being supplied by local firms Collier Haulage and Skene Group.

The project is also making use of local builder's merchants, engineering suppliers and hire companies for the project.

So far, the majority of the road and crane hard-standings have been built, three of the turbine base ground improvements have been completed and the control building foundations have been constructed. The Mossmorran pipeline protection works have also been installed.

The initial phase of work, up until December this year, will include completing the control building to allow Scottish Power to energise the site, installation of all roads and crane hard-standings and completion of the fourth turbine base ground improvement work. Overall the project is expected to take fourteen to sixteen months with project completion scheduled for the fourth quarter next year.

Stephen Klein, Kennedy Renewables chief executive, said, "We are delighted that work is progressing well to our proposed timeline. The development is the first of its kind in Fife and we wanted to make sure that we had the right people on board in order to make this project a success."

QUOTE
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The nine-turbine wind farm project at Little Raith, near Lochgelly, is an exciting addition to

Fife's diverse energy industry. The wind farm will have an installed capacity of 24.75 megawatts of green energy, enough to supply power to 14,500 homes which is the equivalent of powering all homes in Cowdenbeath, Lochgelly, Lumphinnans, Auchtertool, Kelty and Ballingry, with energy for a year.

This is seen as a significant step in reducing Fife's carbon emissions by 25% by 2013.

The wind farm received planning approval from Fife Council in March 2009 having been identified as a suitable wind farm site.

