

## Plan lodged for wind turbine

Renewable energy firm Kennedy Renewables started construction work at Little Raith Wind Farm near Lochgelly earlier this month with Wind Prospect as project manager and RJ McLeod as principal contractor.

As a spin off the local community will reap £1.23m over its lifetime, secured by Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust will benefit Blairgowrie Riverside.

# Work begins at first Fife commercial windfarm

WORK HAS started on Fife's first commercial windfarm development.

Renewable energy firm Kennedy Renewables started construction work at Little Raith Wind Farm near Lochgelly with Wind Prospect as project manager and RJ McLeod as principal contractor.

As a spin off the local community will reap £1.23 million over its lifetime.

The initial phase of work, which runs until December, will include building roads and infrastructure to the turbine locations and the construction of the substation to enable Scottish Power to energise the site.

The project is expected to be completed by October next year.

Kennedy Renewables has also announced that the 2.75 megawatt turbines will be



Mr Torrance.

supplied by GE Energy, a global leader in power generation and a major supplier to the wind energy industry.

The nine-turbine windfarm will have an installed capacity of 24.75 megawatts of green energy, enough to power 14,500 homes.

That is the equivalent of powering all homes in Cowdenbeath, Lochgelly, Lumphinnans, Auchtertool, Kelty and Ballynry with energy for a year and is seen by the

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

Kennedy Renewables acquired the site last September and has committed to contributing to a community fund for use on projects in Lumphinnans, Cowdenbeath, Auchtertool and Lochgelly community council areas.

The community fund, based on the capacity of the windfarm site, will provide £49,500 each year to benefit the community.

A working group has been set up to establish the Community Development Trust, which will decide how to allocate the community benefit funds to projects.

The group, which is made up of representatives from the four nearby community councils, meets regularly and is making

good progress towards setting up the trust.

To ensure that the communities are kept up to date on the progress of the project, Kennedy Renewables established the Little Raith Wind Farm community liaison committee to detail progress and provide an opportunity for opinions and suggestions about the proposals to be expressed by community councils and local elected members.

Kennedy Renewables' chief executive Stephen Klein said, "We are very pleased to be on site to begin construction of Little Raith Wind Farm and to have secured the wind turbine supply contract with GE Energy."

Fife Council's environment, enterprise and transportation committee chairman Tony Martin said the local authority was delighted to see the

Little Raith development get under way.

"The development of the renewable energy sector, and the capturing of the economic opportunities it offers, is of strategic importance to Fife Council and the Fife Economy Partnership."

Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath MP Gordon Brown added: "Fife is already a major contributor to the low carbon economy and this onshore windfarm development at Little Raith is another leap forward."

David Torrance, SNP MSP for Kirkcaldy, said the development was good for the area and for Fife as a whole.

"I'd like to highlight in particular Kennedy Renewables' commitment over the windfarm's lifetime to provide £1.23m in community benefit funds for projects in the local community."