

# TORFICHEN WIND FARM PROPOSAL

## NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2023



### Project update

RES is holding a final suite of public exhibitions to present the updated design for its 18-turbine Torfichen Wind Farm proposal and energy storage facility located near Torfichen Hill, approximately 6km south of Gorebridge.

### Public exhibitions

Since the March 2023 public exhibitions and consultation RES has been reviewing the comments received, together with key consultee feedback and further site survey work, and progressing the design.

The updated 18-turbine scheme will be presented at our final suite of public exhibitions in September 2023. These events will provide people with an opportunity to review the updated design, discuss the proposal, and ask the project team any questions.

A range of information will be available at the public exhibitions, including photomontages and visualisation software to help give an impression of what the site could look like from different viewpoints in the area.

These events will also refer to the written feedback received from the March 2023 exhibitions and consultation period and explain any changes made to the design in response to this feedback.



**Wednesday 6 September 2023**

**3pm to 8pm**

Middleton Village Community Hall  
54 Borthwick Castle Terrace  
North Middleton EH23 4QU

**Thursday 7 September 2023**

**3pm to 8pm**

Macfie Hall  
Heriot EH38 5YE

Anyone wishing to provide feedback and ideas for local benefits to RES can do this by filling out a 'comments form' at the exhibition events or online at [www.torfichen-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.torfichen-windfarm.co.uk) from Wednesday 6 September when copies of the exhibition information will be available on the project website for people to view.

**The closing date for comments on the updated design is Thursday 21 September 2023.**

Comments submitted to RES during these exhibitions or subsequent consultation period are not representations to the determining authority (The Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the determining authority once the planning application has been submitted.

Based on our current programme we are looking to submit our planning application later in Autumn 2023.

## Benefits from the wind farm

### Community benefit package

RES is proposing a tailored package of benefits for the community from the Torfichen Wind Farm that would be worth £5,000 per megawatt (or equivalent) of installed capacity per annum.



This package could include RES' unique Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS), something that has received significant interest from the community. LEDS seeks to deliver direct and tangible

benefits to people living and working closest to a participating wind farm through an annual discount to their electricity bills.

We continue to welcome ideas from the community on how the community benefits package could be delivered. The area of benefit will be determined in consultation with locally elected representatives should the project receive consent.

### Other benefits

We are in a climate emergency, cost of living crisis, and face issues with security of energy supply. Onshore wind can address all of these.

Onshore wind alongside other renewable technologies can generate the cheapest form of electricity generation, and isn't subject to sudden fossil fuel price fluctuations or the uncertainties of global markets. It is quick to build (12-24 months) and the carbon payback time is usually within 1-3 years.

Torfichen Wind Farm would be capable of generating enough clean, low-cost electricity for around 117,000 homes<sup>1</sup> and reducing carbon emissions by approximately 110,136 tonnes<sup>2</sup> each year.

The project would also make an important contribution to Scotland's new target of installing 20GW of onshore wind across Scotland by 2030 to help towards meeting our Net Zero carbon emissions by 2045.

### Inward investment

The project is predicted to deliver approximately £5 million<sup>3</sup> of inward investment into the local area in the form of jobs, employment, and use of local services during construction and the first year of operation. Torfichen Wind Farm would also deliver more than £1.1 million in business rates<sup>4</sup> annually to Midlothian Council.

### About RES

RES, a privately-owned company with a proud history in Scotland, is the world's largest independent renewable energy company - with operations across Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific.

From our Glasgow office we have been developing, constructing and operating wind farms in Scotland since 1993. We have developed and/or built 21 wind farms in Scotland, with a total generating capacity of 597MW.

At the forefront of the industry for over 40 years, RES has delivered more than 23GW of renewable energy projects worldwide. For further information visit [www.res-group.com](http://www.res-group.com).

### Contact us



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For more information visit [www.torfichen-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.torfichen-windfarm.co.uk). This newsletter has been designed to keep you up to date with the Torfichen Wind Farm proposal. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact us to let us know. If you require information in Braille, large text or audio, please get in touch with us.

<sup>1</sup> The 117,000 homes equivalent figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (based on RES assessments Torfichen Wind Farm has a predicted capacity factor of 43.5% - based on a 6MW [megawatt] candidate turbine) and dividing this by the annual average electricity figures from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) showing that the annual UK average domestic household consumption is 3,509 kWh (December 2022). Final wind farm capacity will vary depending on the outcome of planning permission and the turbine type selected.

<sup>2</sup> The carbon emissions reduction figure of 110,136 was calculated using the Scottish Government's Renewable Electricity Output Calculator (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/renewable-and-conversion-calculators/>)

<sup>3</sup> £5 million inward investment figure is based on typical spend that RES has seen spent on its projects with local stakeholders, suppliers and service providers in the region of £279,000 per wind turbine during the development, construction and first year of operation.

<sup>4</sup> The business rates figure of £1.1million each year has been calculated from the most recent non-domestic rates revaluation in Scotland (2023 Revaluation) and predicted performance of the wind farm.