

## Maximising the local benefit

### A power for good

RES seeks to be a power for good in communities that neighbour our projects by working openly and constructively to ensure tangible local benefits. We believe that onshore wind should provide direct, lasting benefits to local communities and there are a number of ways that this can be achieved.

Some of the most direct and meaningful benefits that can be delivered from a proposal like Torfichen Wind Farm are jobs and employment for local businesses and contractors, in addition to the use of local services and amenities, all of which can generate a significant amount of inward investment within the area.

### Working with the local supply chain

RES is committed to ensuring that, wherever reasonably practicable, local contractors and employees are used in all aspects of wind farm development, construction and operation. The major opportunities arise during the construction phase when suitably qualified local firms are invited to bid for different aspects of construction, such as foundation laying and electrical works. Construction materials are normally sourced locally (i.e. within the county) and local transport and plant hire companies used wherever possible.

Expenditure in the local economy during the development, construction and operation of wind farms varies from project to project due to various factors including project size, project duration, and the availability of local suppliers. In recent years, RES has seen typical spend 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. In some cases, it has been possible to significantly improve on this number.

Based on the updated layout design, the Torfichen Wind Farm proposal is predicted to deliver approximately £5 million of inward investment to the area in the form of jobs, employment, and use of local services during the development, construction and first year of operation. In addition, more than £1.1 million in business rates<sup>1</sup> will be payable each year to Midlothian Council during operation.



### Kintradwell Wind Farm proposal – case study

RES signed an agreement with Brora-based firm, Edward Mackay Contractor, giving them right of first refusal on the civil construction work for our proposed Kintradwell Wind Farm. Should the project receive consent, this commitment will help secure valuable local jobs and employment opportunities for the firm, which currently employs around 100 local staff.

**Liam Mackay, Director at Edward Mackay** said "All credit to RES for engaging with local businesses and for giving us the opportunity to get stuck into a project on our doorstep, should it proceed. The work that we are looking at is significant and could be a real boost for not only our business but the whole area".



### Glenchamber Wind Farm – case study

Glenchamber, an 11-turbine wind farm located in Dumfries and Galloway has an installed capacity of 27.5MW and began operating in 2016. In keeping with our commitment to maximise economic benefit to the local area, the civil engineering contractor chosen for Glenchamber was Luce Bay Group who are based just 8 miles from the wind farm. RES' work with Luce Bay saw more than £8 million invested into the local economy and provided employment for 45 local people.

### Skills and services

Some of the most direct and meaningful benefits that can be delivered from a project like this are jobs and employment for local businesses and contractors, in addition to the use of local services and amenities, all of which can generate a significant amount of inward investment within the area.

RES has a strong track record for working with the local supply chain around its projects. In order to maximise the opportunities from the Torfichen Wind Farm proposal we are looking to connect with local businesses and build our knowledge of the local skills and capabilities within the area.

Some of the services and materials that are likely to be required in relation to the Torfichen Wind Farm proposal, should it be consented, are:

- Groundworks
- Steel fixing
- Labourers
- Fencers
- Plant operators
- Plant and crane hire
- Civil engineering
- Electrical works and cabling
- Environmental surveyors
- Concrete and aggregates
- Accommodation
- Cleaning and office support
- Garage services and vehicle maintenance

If you're a local business or contractor (or you know one) interested in getting involved in onshore wind, please speak to our project team.

<sup>1</sup>The business rates figure of £1.1 million each year has been calculated from the most recent non-domestic rates revaluation in Scotland (2023 Revaluation) and predicted performance of the wind farm.