windni

Powering Our Future

Winter 2014

20 turbines installed and counting

Are you developing a wind turbine project?

- Do you have planning approval and a grid offer for a wind turbine?
- Do you have a wind turbine application currently in planning?
- Do you have a site that may be suitable for a wind turbine? [close to 3 phase NIE lines, over 200m away from neighbours and most importantly…windy!]
- Are you interested in leasing a small area of land to Wind NI on which to develop a wind turbine project in return for a quarterly rental payment?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes then please contact us as soon as possible to discuss the possibility of Wind NI developing a wind turbine project on your land.

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www.windni.com

Hello...

I would like to welcome you to the third issue of our newsletter. In addition to the information on our website – www.windni.com, our aim is to provide you with an overview of the wind sector in Northern Ireland and highlight any issues, and developments, that affect this.

As always, we will keep you fully informed of both our current development portfolio and the progress that we continue to make.

We're pleased to announce that we maintain a 100% success rate in planning, which is unique in this sector, and have installed the 20th turbine from our portfolio of approved projects, a target reached well ahead of schedule. The rapid pace of this growth also means we can continue to create employment opportunities across the country in support of our projects. We've further strengthened our office-based team by employing 5 additional staff members this year, as well as expanding our construction teams.

We expect this trend to continue over the coming years.

Rob McMillan | General Manager

Our current status - The journey continues...

2014 has been another outstanding year for Wind NI. Since our inception seven years ago, we have steadily grown into one of the largest wind power development companies in Northern Ireland. Through vision, hard work and placing landowners at the heart of what we do, we currently have over 80 projects in various stages of development and operation and many more under consideration.

In terms of the Wind NI business model, there is a clear benefit to Landowners who want to get involved in establishing a wind turbine project on their land, which is an expensive and highly complicated process. We do all the work in relation to this, from planning to grid connection and then installation, and bear all the risk associated with the project. Once operational, our landowners receive a quarterly payment in return for the rental of the very small area of land on which the turbine is located. It's a great way for the landowner to diversify and enhance their revenue from their land. The obvious economic benefits of such projects go hand in hand with the positive impact on the environment, through the creation of renewable energy.

20 turbines now installed

With 20 turbines now installed, and many more awaiting construction, we are focused on delivering our projects at pace over the coming months

L/Derry 225KW

L/Derry 2

L/Derry 1

Omagh 1

Omagh 2

Omagh 250KW

Omagh 250KW

Coleraine 1
Coleraine 2
Coleraine 3
Coleraine 4
Ballymoney 1
Ballymoney 2
Dunloy 1
Dunloy 2
Loughguile
Cullybackey
Larne 1
Larne 2
Ballyclare
Carrickfergus 1
Carrickfergus 2
Armagh

Loughguile 250KW

Ballyclare 250KW

Carrickfergus 250KW

Coleraine 250KW

Portglenone 150KW

Derrylin 250KW

7 installations in progress

Our turbine installations are progressing ahead of schedule due to an expansion of our construction teams. This enhanced capability means that our network of experienced personnel can operate more efficiently and within agreed timeframes.

Coleraine 3
Portglenone
Belfast
Armagh
Newtownhamilton
Belfast 250KW
Armagh 250KW

Industry **News**

Positive signs from the DETI Small Scale Banding Review Consultation

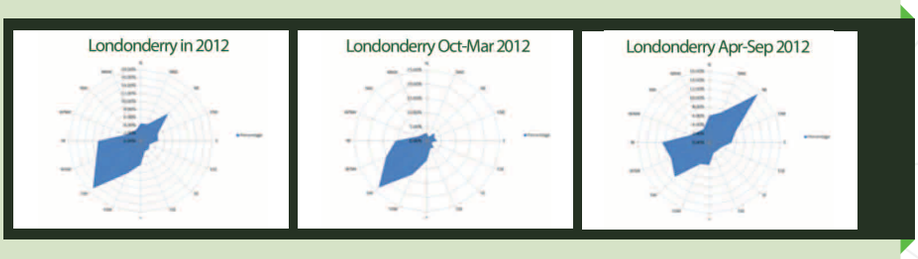
The Department of Energy, Trade and Investment (DETI) launched a consultation on proposed changes to the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) in July 2014. This consultation set out proposed changes to the Renewable Obligation Certificate (ROC) banding levels, including small scale onshore wind (up to 250kW), which will form part of the Renewables Obligation Order (Northern Ireland) 2015, to come into force on 1st April 2015.

The consultation sets out that there are no proposed changes for onshore wind. DETI considers that the current support level of 4 ROCs/MWh for single wind turbine projects up to 250kW provides an acceptable rate of return. DETI has therefore proposed to retain the level of 4 ROCs/MWh for a maximum installed capacity up to 250kW.

Wind Speed in Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland has one of the best wind resources in Europe. The frequent, strong winds experienced arise as a consequence of the constant passing of deep areas of low pressure. This is most noticeable in the winter months, especially from November to January. Wind turbines work most effectively at average wind speeds of 6 m/s and Northern Ireland enjoys an average wind speed of almost 8m/s at a height of 80m (source: Natural Power; Years 2001 – 2014). Therefore the potential for correctly sited and scaled wind turbines is immense.

The low pressure weather systems also have an impact on wind directions. The strongest winds usually blow within the range of south and north-west. This results in a typical annual wind rose for a low-lying location exhibiting a prevailing south-westerly wind direction throughout the year with a high frequency of north-easterly winds mixed in during spring and summer months. (See wind rose graphs above).



Wind NI has comprehensively researched prevailing wind directions and average wind speeds across the province. Every 1% increase in wind speed results in a 2% increase in power output which has a significant impact on the bottom line of revenue generation. The importance of ensuring a free airflow from the prevailing wind direction to the turbine is clearly evident in terms of revenue generation and the extent of wear and tear on a turbine. Finding the best possible sites for wind turbines is a complex and challenging task that demands some very sophisticated processes. Expertise and human judgement are essential in establishing the best solution. Wind NI is highly experienced in selecting the most favourable locations for the siting of wind turbines. Extensive research and practical expertise in this area makes the company ideally qualified to select the best wind turbine locations.

Planning Shake-up

11 new Councils are set to take responsibility for planning decisions from 1st April 2015. The transfer of most planning functions to these new district councils does not just involve the redistribution of roles but includes the creation of an entirely new planning system for Northern Ireland. This will require new responsibilities for all those involved in the planning process.

Wind NI's experience & knowledge of single wind turbine planning applications should ensure that there are no unnecessary delays with our projects during this transition. Our understanding of responsible turbine siting & awareness of planning guidelines is continually highlighted by our success rate in gaining planning approvals.

All planning work is in-house ensuring our applications are efficient and to the highest of standards.

The Grid

High grid connection costs and the lack of available capacity are continuing to hinder progress in the deployment of renewables in Northern Ireland, particularly in the North and West where capacity has been reached at a number of substations.

In October 2013, the Utility Regulator approved an investment of £2.3m allowing NIE to upgrade 40 primary substations. This resulted in the conditional status of over 80 offers being lifted.

A statement was released on 15th August 2014, relating to conditional offers for connection to the NIE grid. Further investment in the 33kV network has not been approved and NIE are now withdrawing conditional offers which have been issued.

When considering any potential wind turbine project, the in-house prospecting team carefully consider all factors in terms of the likelihood of gaining an economically viable grid connection offer. This has resulted in the vast majority of our projects receiving acceptable grid offers.

Meet the **team**

Jonny Barr *Director & Co-Founder:*
After a successful career in the field of Information Technology, Jonny moved into the renewable energy sector to pursue a long held interest in wind turbine technology.
He quickly and successfully adapted his diagnostic and project management skills to the wind industry and continually uses his analytical ability and technical expertise to ensure that each aspect of the Wind NI development portfolio is fully examined before effective implementation.

Colm McClean *Director & Co-Founder*
Colm comes from a construction and technology background and spent several years working in North America and Australia before setting up his own consultancy, prior to the founding of Wind NI Limited. His knowledge of the agricultural sector and experience in terrain analysis coupled with an aptitude in site acquisition has ensured that Wind NI's portfolio of high yield wind turbine sites has achieved a sustained and steady growth over the previous years.

Stuart Hall *Director*
Stuart is the founder and former Managing Director of global renewable energy company, Natural Power. Under his guidance, the company went on to become a market leader in service provision to the development, construction and operation of wind farm projects. Stuart's vast wealth of knowledge and hands on experience ensures that Wind NI has an abundance of expertise in every aspect of wind turbine project development and operation.

Ian Harvey *Director*
A founding member of the B9 Energy group, and with over 20 years' experience in the renewable energy sector, Ian specialises in developing and funding renewable energy projects, including power purchase agreements and land leases. He has raised over £100 million in debt and equity funding for wind, biomass and landfill gas projects in Ireland and beyond.

Cara Barr *Director*
Cara has been actively involved with Wind NI since 2009 and manages all the Company's environmental policies. Having gained a Phd from Queen's University Belfast in a related discipline, Cara represents a strong ecological presence on our Board of Directors, greatly enhancing our agreed commitment to the preservation and protection of wildlife in the process

Rob McMillan *General Manager*
With a 15 year career in business and sales management, Rob has a very high level of experience in people management and is also well versed in HR. In his previous roles he has had significant exposure to business growth and development, as well as a strong focus on enhancing company processes all of which he has brought with him to Wind NI.

Alison Whelan *Financial Analyst*
Alison joined Wind NI in April 2012 and assumed responsibility for the day to day mangement of the company's accounting department. Her role is to oversee expenditure and manage the reconciliation of accounts, ensuring that an accurate record of the company's financial activity is continually maintained at all levels.

Portia Woods *Operations Controller*
Prior to joining the Wind NI team in October 2012 Portia worked for the Henderson Group where her role was to support operational and strategic decision-making through sales and product analysis. Her current role with Wind NI sees her perform a diverse range of tasks that support the daily functions within the business.

Cliona Gormley *Renewable Energy Consultant*
Cliona joined in October 2012, having qualified with a BSc (HONS) Environmental Planning from Queens University. In her current role, Cliona is our senior planner and is involved in supporting various other company operations, such as environmental reports and the grid connection process.

Eimear O'Reilly *Project Manager*
Eimear previously worked as an Assistant Project Manager where her central responsibility was managing the accreditation process of Ofgem; regulators of the electricity and gas markets in the UK. Her primary focus involves the management of projects from the grid application stage through to their successful commissioning and accreditation.

Bettina Horb *Project Analyst*
Analysing trends within our sector, examining all aspects of our portfolio's performance and constructing detailed analysis reports are some of the main functions within Bettina's role. In her role, she has developed the advanced reporting systems which provide us with a detailed ongoing analysis of the productivity of our entire portfolio.

Rosie Kerr *Business Administrator*
A part qualified Chartered Certified Accountant with 21 years' experience in all aspects of business finance; Rosie joined in August 2014 and now supports our legal admin functions, as well as managing sections within our accounts. Her role is to aid the legal and financial aspects of the business and streamline the functions that lie within these.

James Watt *Renewable Energy Consultant*
James completed his degree at Queens University this year and graduated with MEng (HONS) Civil Engineering. James primary role is to support all aspects of early site feasibility and the planning process. He is also heavily involved in Research and Development for emerging technologies.

Fergal Keenan *Site Acquisition Officer*
Fergal has a broad range of experience in landowner liaison and site acquisition. He has worked on numerous major energy projects across NI, including extensive work on gas pipelines from Larne to Londonderry. This has involved working with landowners, and other groups, to secure the success of the project.

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