

Vale of Leven Wind Farm

Community Benefit/Shared Ownership Position Paper - November 2022

Community Benefit

- Committed to £5,000 per MW, index linked, for Vale of Leven Wind Farm - at 70MW, this would mean £350,00 per annum for the local communities.
- If interest from the community, committed to bringing forward the final 3 years of Community Benefit to the start of the wind farm operation to allow for large capital for community projects - roughly £1,000,000.

We would be happy to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that underlines our commitment to Community Benefit with the host/neighbouring community councils. We can use the Local Energy Scotland Community Benefit MOU template for community benefit - we have used this for other projects. It includes the community benefit being index linked and we will include this in the agreement.

Community Benefit Split

Vale of Leven Wind Farm turbines are mostly situated in the Milton and Bowling Community Council area, with a turbine currently within the Bonhill and Dalmonach Community Council area and a turbine currently within the Kilmaronock Community Council area. Site access is partly within Dumbaron North Community Council area. These are the host Community Councils to the project.

The project is also in close proximity to Balloch and Haldane Community Council and Silverton and Overtown Community Council. We view these as the key near neighbouring Community Councils.

We will follow the Best Practice Principles for Community Benefit from Onshore Wind Farm Guidance and propose to engage with these Community Councils on community benefit. There are different options such as:

- Community Benefit available across all CC boundaries for groups to apply for funding.
- Split the Community Benefit into percentages so each Community Council area has a defined amount for that area, eg Host Community Councils allocated 20% each, near neighbouring Community Councils 10% each and remaining 10% for West Dunbartonshire wide.
- Use a portion of the Community Benefit to provide an Energy Discount Scheme to the households closest to the site, eg within a 3km radius of the project and the rest going to Community Council areas to decide on how funding is used.

The above bullet points are examples and we want to start a dialogue with Community Councils on how to take this element of the project forward.

Shared Ownership

We are committed to offering shared ownership on our onshore wind farm projects.

We can provide shared ownership MOUs that Coriolis Energy/ESB has signed with communities in Scotland to give an understanding of the opportunities connected to shared ownership. With shared ownership, communities are able to have equity in the project, with a local Trust set up to invest in the wind farm and, if the community wish, to raise capital from individuals in the area.