

RWE npower renewables

**BRADWELL WIND FARM
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PACKAGE**
Consultation Responses and Fund Launch
September 2013

An **RWE** Innogy company

Bradwell Wind Farm Community Investment Package

Introduction

RWE npower renewables offers a range of community investment packages at its operating onshore and offshore wind farms, these usually benefit those communities living closest to the site.

We have over 15 years experience of delivering funding to communities. In 2012, community investment funds in association with projects we operate invested over £900,500 into communities across the UK.

Community investment funding provides a valuable long term, sustainable and reliable source of income for the local community. It is flexible funding that can address what is really important to communities. It has the potential to fund large and small projects, as well as capital and revenue activities and it enables us to build positive relationships with communities.

Where annual funds are offered they are index linked each year in line with the retail price index. The funding becomes available when the site starts generating electricity and is payable throughout the operational life of the site. RWE npower renewables prides itself on ensuring decisions about the allocation of funding are made by local people for the benefit of their own community, where ever possible.

These packages have been used to fund a wide variety of activities including community building refurbishments, environmental education programmes, energy efficiency schemes and supporting local groups and organisations.

Please read on to find out more about the Bradwell Wind Farm Community Fund or to find out more about the site please visit:

www.npower-renewables.com/bradwell

Environmental education activity

- We have developed a set of curriculum linked educational resources, which are available for all teachers to download from our website; www.npower-renewables.com/educationresources
- In February we provided a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) Education Day at Plume School in Maldon and Ormiston Rivers Academy in association with our STEM education partner www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk.
- The workshop aimed; to encourage the uptake of STEM subjects and teach about climate change; renewables energy, what pupils can do to help the environment in a fun and interactive way

Local economic benefit

During the development and construction of Bradwell contracts with local companies represent significant investment into the local economy. Contracts with local companies include:

G&B Finch, Asheldham (Sand & Aggregates)
JE & JD Norman, Maldon (General Civil Engineering)
Holness Construction, Manningtree (Carpentry)
H Pearl, Ongar (Land Drainage)
CJ Pryor, Harlow (Earthworks)
P Woulfe & Sons, Chelmsford (Reinforced Concrete Works)
ROM Ltd, Witham (Steel Reinforcement)
Euro Mix, Chelmsford (Concrete)
Hansons, Chelmsford (Concrete)
Keyline Ltd, Braintree (Ducting)
Burdons Ltd, West Thurrock (Ducting)
Bateman Farm, Chelmsford (Granular Fill)
Ruskins Tree & Landscape Ltd, Great Warley (Hedge Transportation & Planting)

General principles

- A community investment fund is being offered voluntarily by RWE npower renewables in association with Bradwell Wind Farm;
- The fund will be worth £30,000 per year, index linked in line with inflation, over the operational life of the wind farm.
- This means a total fund in the region of £600,000 over the operational life time of the wind farm;
- The first fund payment was made available in September 2013 as the wind farm became fully operational;
- The fund is secured for the future through a legal agreement with the administering body;
- The fund is administered by independent local charity the Essex Community Foundation who have recruited, and will support, a panel of local volunteers who will make decisions about how the funding is spent;
- There is a simple, straightforward application process;
- The fund will support environmental, educational, community and charitable activities.

Introducing Essex Community Foundation

- The Fund will be held and administered by independent third party Essex Community Foundation (ECF):
www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk/
- ECF was set up in 1996 by local people and has established a grants programme which has seen 5,000 grants totalling nearly £20 million distributed to Essex based charities and community groups.
- ECF also has an endowed fund of £20 million which will continue to provide grants in perpetuity.
- ECF is a properly constituted charity, registered with, and regulated by, the Charity Commission (Registered Charity Number - 1052061):
 - ECF will advertise the availability of funds and manage the administration of the whole application process including distributing funding;
 - ECF will be responsible for the monitoring process for individual grants and for reporting to RWE npower renewables;
 - All decisions about allocation of funding will be made by a grants panel of local representatives, recruited, trained and managed by ECF. Read on to find out how to nominate yourself to join the panel;
 - ECF's services attract a management fee (10% of the fund's value) which RWE npower renewables will pay in addition to the fund.
- ECF holds a number of additional funds which groups in Essex are able to apply for, therefore there may be opportunities for applicants to the Bradwell Wind Farm Community Fund to apply for other funds using the same simple application form. For more information on the other grant schemes they manage please visit the ECF's website.

Bradwell Wind Farm Community Investment Package

Consultation Responses & Outcomes

In March 2013 RWE NRL consulted with the local communities that neighbour Bradwell Wind Farm to give local people the opportunity to shape the development of the community fund.

A consultation document was hosted on our website and promoted in our newsletter (which was delivered to all homes within a 5km radius of the site). The responses to our consultation, and confirmation of the final outcomes, are detailed below.

Geographical boundaries of the fund

- When defining the geographical area to benefit from our community funds we consider the following criteria which is industry best practise: proximity of communities to the development, visual impact of the development, level of disruption during construction period, how the location is used for work or recreation by the wider community and the density of the population in an area.
- Taking all these factors into consideration, we proposed the area of benefit for the Bradwell Wind Farm Community Fund includes the communities of Bradwell-on-Sea and Tillingham. However, this would not preclude the grants panel (consisting of local representatives) from making awards to groups/charities based outside of this defined area, if they felt their work significantly benefited the communities within the area of benefit.
- We received little feedback on our proposed area of benefit, all of which was positive, so the proposed area of benefit (with flexibility as outlined above) has been adopted.

Local decision making

We invited people who live, work or volunteer in Bradwell-on-Sea or Tillingham to nominate themselves to join a local grants panel. This panel, supported by Essex Community Foundation as the independent administrator, will make all decisions about how the funds are allocated. After reviewing the responses a panel was elected consisting of 10 voting members equally split between the two parishes.

Sarah Laskar from Maldon and District Community Voluntary Service (MCVS) has also kindly agreed to attend panel meetings in an advisory capacity. MCVS is an independent registered charity supporting charities, community groups and volunteers in and around the Maldon District. You can find out more about them on their website:
<http://www.maldoncvs.org.uk/>

Alternatively you can call them:
Tel: 01621 851891

The panel held their first introductory meeting at St Cedds Primary School on 11th June 2013 and their first meeting to review applications will take place in October 2013.

Subsequent meetings will take place as and when required dependent on the volume of applications. Essex Community Foundation can advise on closing dates for applications and their contact details are available below.

Suggestions on potential uses for the fund

We asked for feedback on local issues that people felt were important and that the fund criteria could address. We also asked for suggestions of activities or projects that people felt might potentially benefit from the fund. We only received a couple of suggestions on local issues (primarily referencing issues linked to rural isolation) but we received lots of feedback on potential projects/organisations which are listed below, alongside suggestions that have been sent to RWE NRL previously:

- > A youth training scheme, initially involved with cycle repair and sales.
- > Improved security and a water supply for the allotment association in Bradwell-on-Sea.
- > Refurbishment of the swimming pool at St. Cedd's Primary School.
- > Support for a luncheon club hosted by the Residential Care Home in Bradwell-on-Sea.
- > St Cedd's School PTA, Bradwell - Play equipment.
- > Ormiston Rivers Academy - funding towards sports academies, they hope to offer sailing in the future.
- > Suggestions from Bradwell Parish Council - An upgrade/extension to Bradwell Village Hall and a sports pavilion, funding the continuation of the post office
- > Suggestions from Tillingham Parish Council:
 - Funding to complete the Multi Use Games Area
 - Refurbishment of the swimming pool at St Nicholas Primary School, Tillingham
 - Refurbishment of the outside play equipment and surfacing at St Nicholas Primary School Tillingham
 - Funding to obtain land for a Pre-School and Youth Club
 - Funding towards refurbishing Tillingham village hall

- Funding to improve the condition of the playing field at Tillingham – the West Field
- Tillingham Football Club – new goal posts
- Tillingham Cricket Club – a sprinkler system, practise nets and a bowling machine
- Tillingham Flower Show – storage facilities
- Improvements to public toilets
- Litter bins

- > A Community Transport Scheme was suggested by several individuals but **Maldon District Community Transport** have been in touch and asked us to make people aware that they already provide a community transport service for the Dengie area with one minibus based permanently at Southminster to service the Dengie peninsula. They also have a number of volunteer drivers registered with them who provide transport in their own vehicles and they are keen to sign up new volunteer drivers. For more details please contact them on Tel: 01621 843164.

All this information has been passed on to the grants panel and the following link to the application pack has been sent out to everyone who took part:

www.npower-renewables.com/Bradwell-local-benefits

For assistance in making an application to the fund, please contact the fund administrators who will be happy to provide advice and support:

Essex Community Foundation
121, New London Road
Chelmsford
CM2 0QT
Tel: 01245 356018

Finally, many thanks to everyone who responded to the consultation and we look forward to seeing the Bradwell Community Fund make a real difference to the lives of local communities.

RWE npower renewables

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