

## **Clashindarroch Wind Farm Communities to gain from £2.0 million Fund**

AMEC has published recommendations on how the community fund arising from its Clashindarroch wind farm proposal should be managed. The recommendations are the result of a local consultation process managed by the Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society (SAOS Ltd) which was aimed at identifying the communities' preferred means of running the fund. The consultations were held in October 2005 in the communities of Gartly, Glass, Kennethmont, Rhynie and the Cabrach.

The report, written by SAOS and which is also released by AMEC, shows that a clear majority of the people who participated in the consultation is in favour of a Cooperative for the Benefit of the Community, with open membership for people living within 8 km (5 miles) of the wind farm.

AMEC has also taken this opportunity to announce that the value of the fund will be directly related to the performance of the wind farm. For every gigawatt-hour of electricity produced by the wind farm £400 will be paid into the community fund. On this basis and assuming that the wind farm has a capacity of 80 MW AMEC estimates that the annual fund will range between £80,000 and £100,000 per year and has the potential to total as much as £2.0 million over the lifetime of the project.

The fund is to be managed by one organisation but split three ways; 25% will go towards local parishes including the Cabrach and Glass, 35% will go towards local parishes including Rhynie and Gartly and the remaining 40% will be available for all communities both inside and outside the nominal 8 km membership boundary. This includes communities further away from the wind farm such as Kennethmont, Clatt and Huntly town.

The consultation indicates that there is clear support from local residents for providing help to younger people in the area through assisting with educational projects. There is also support for helping with the upkeep, maintenance and facilities of local community halls as well supporting the various activities of the clubs and associations that use them. Residents also back projects that will enhance or protect the environment and maintain infrastructure.

Robert East, AMEC's development director for the Clashindarroch proposal, commented: "This has been a very useful exercise and SAOS have done an excellent job. Whilst it has not been easy to balance the differing views of the communities we now have a clear route ahead for the management and distribution of what are substantial sums of money. Should the wind farm proceed we hope that all the communities local to the wind farm, including the town of Huntly, gain significant benefits from the hosting of this project."

Nora Radcliffe, MSP said: "I was pleased that SAOS, a well respected organisation with a great deal of expertise in cooperation, was asked to undertake this work and believe that they have done a good job. It is an advantage to be able to discuss these arrangements without haste or pressure in advance of any decision being made about whether the proposed wind farm will go ahead."

### Notes:

1. The fund is entirely dependent upon a positive planning determination for the proposal from Scottish Ministers and in such an event, there will be an initial allocation of £5,000 of the monies to aid the formation of the Cooperative.

2. Each community directly affected by the wind farm will be represented on the management board of the Cooperative. There will be nine regular board places as follows;
  - a. Six parish members - one for each from the following parishes: Glass, Cabrach, Rhynie and Gartly plus one member to represent both Auchindoir/Kearn & Kildrummy parishes and another to represent Huntly and Cairnie parishes.
  - b. Three Community Council members representing Strathbogie, Huntly and the Tap O'Noth Community councils.
  - c. A tenth board place will be made available to AMEC at the discretion of the other nine.
3. The SAOS report and recommendations will be available for download from the AMEC web site at [www.amec.com/wind](http://www.amec.com/wind) or the local information website <http://www.glassclash.info>.
4. A gigawatt-hour is one million kilowatt-hours or one million units of electricity.

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