



Driving towards lower-carbon vehicle manufacturing in the UK

With factories and dealerships across the globe, Ford is one of the best known vehicle manufacturers worldwide. Manufacturing is by necessity an energy-intensive business and as a result, Ford is committed to reducing their carbon footprint worldwide. To this end, they have been installing on-site renewable energy generation at a number of their plants, as well as purchasing renewable energy indirectly from utilities. The Ford Bridgend Engine Plant in Wales is one such example of where Ford have invested in on-site, renewable energy production. Indeed, in 1998 Ford Bridgend became the first car manufacturing plant in Europe to be retrofitted with an integrated, grid-connected solar panel array.

Building on this, in December 2014 the plant had an EWT DW54 wind turbine installed. With an installed capacity of 500kW, and standing at 77 metres to blade tip, the turbine is capable of reliably producing up to 1,700 MWh of electricity per year. On-site generation of a significant amount of clean, renewable energy has made the factory less susceptible to increases in energy costs, as well as reducing the plant's carbon footprint. On top of this, there is a community benefit fund of £2,500 each year provided for use in the plant's local area.



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EWT Ford Bridgend Case Study

Ford's Bridgend Engine Plant is a major manufacturing hub, producing more than 800,000 petrol engines for Ford vehicles every year. The plant also serves as the global production hub of the low carbon 1.6 litre EcoBoost engine, which has been used in the Ford Focus ST model. This Welsh factory provides jobs for a workforce of over 2,300, and comprises part of Ford's wider European operations, which produce, service and sell Ford brand vehicles in 50 individual markets.

In 2012, the Bridgend plant used approximately 4,434MWh of electricity. Producing on average up to 1,700 MWh per annum, the EWT DW54 turbine is able to offset more than one quarter of the plant's electricity demands, reducing the factory's energy costs and contributing significantly to Ford's ambition to decrease its carbon footprint.

Benefits to the Company and Local Community

- The EWT turbine produces up to 1,700MWh per annum. This is enough energy to offset more than 25 per cent of the Ford Bridgend factory's yearly energy usage of 4,434MWh p/a.
- As well as reducing Ford's carbon footprint by using clean, renewable energy generated on-site, roughly 490 tonnes of CO₂ emissions are saved each year.
- Children from the local Coety Primary School were invited to celebrate the turbine's launch event in December 2014, where they were able to learn more about renewable energy.
- There is a community benefit fund of £2,500 per annum to fund local projects and initiatives in the local community.



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