



A “Triple Whammy” of benefits to a Cornish community

The Sheers Barton Wind Turbine is owned by Sheers Barton Renewables Ltd, a joint venture between community energy co-operative Community Power Cornwall and the landowners, the Perry family. The Perry's have owned and farmed the land for two generations. The current farming business comprises 1,400 acres, with 650 acres of arable cropping and 750 acres of grassland. The farm also has a beef enterprise, supplying 1,000 head of cattle per annum to Cornish beef processor St Merryn Meat. Jonathan and William Perry manage and work in the farming business together with two full time employees. The business trades with numerous local businesses in Cornwall and their more immediate Launceston area.

Community Power Cornwall is the first community energy co-operative established in Cornwall. It is an Industrial & Provident Society owned by its members and developed to act as an at-risk developer working closely with local communities to design, develop and deliver low carbon initiatives, minimising inherent development risks. As well as the development of specific projects, Community Power Cornwall is also focussed on skills transfer and capacity building.

Through a share offer issued by Community Power Cornwall, expected in summer 2016, up to 25% of Sheers Barton Wind Turbine will be owned by members of the local community. The Perry family own the remaining 75%. All electricity generated by the wind turbine is fed into the local distribution network.



EWT Sheers Barton Case Study

The operation of a 67-metre tall EWT DW54-500kW wind turbine at Sheers Barton, Lawhitton near Launceston in Cornwall will open up a range of benefits to the local community. Operational from August 2015, the turbine's community benefits package is three-fold, providing:

- a Community Benefit Fund of £10,000 per year;
- a £10,000-per-annum Community Services Package; and
- a 25% community stake in the wind turbine.

The Community Benefits Fund is a donation to the local community for every year that the wind turbine is operational (this period is expected to be 20 years). Its aim is to provide funding for local projects and initiatives. The Community Services Package looks to cover any costs associated with carrying out those Community Benefits projects; for example compensation for the hours a local person spends on undertaking work to realise those projects and initiatives. The third tier comprises the opportunity for local residents to own up to 25% of the wind turbine. Combined, this three-tier package represents exceptional value to the community compared to what is normal practice in the UK onshore wind industry

Benefits to the Farm and the Local and Wider Community

- The wind turbine is part of the Perry family's plans to make their farm more environmentally sustainable while increasing the future financial viability of their business for future generations of the family to carry on farming.
- The Community Benefits Fund and the Community Services package represent a £400,000 value to the Community over the turbine's lifetime of 20 years.
- The Community Shares in the wind turbine are expected to deliver a Return on Investment of between 5 and 7%.
- The wind turbine will on average generate approximately 1,650MWh of electricity per year of operation. All power is fed into the grid network. The amount of power produced is equivalent to the annual electricity demands of up to 390 average homes in the UK (source: RenewableUK).
- Every operational year, the wind turbine will replace between 610 and 1,440 tonnes of CO₂, compared against the power otherwise having been generated by either a gas or a coal fired power station respectively (source: RenewableUK).



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