



Harnessing Sweden's wind resource

The first two EWT wind turbines in Sweden were installed in the parish of Tarstad, just west of Svalov in the southern County of Skane. They are owned by three agricultural entrepreneurs; farmer and local politician Christer Laurell and brothers Håkan and Thomas Palsson.

Håkan and Thomas founded their farming business HT Palsson in 1979, taking over their parents' farm in Tarstad. At first the brothers stuck to arable farming, but gradually they expanded the business into selling petrol and diesel generators, followed by selling and installing a variety of biomass boilers and burners. The company employs five people.

Not only is Christer a farmer and a partner in Erikstorp Agricultural Products HB, he is also an elected Member for the Centre Party. The party strongly supports the deployment of renewable energy in Sweden and signed up to a target of 100 per cent renewable electricity generation by 2040.

In 2001 the three farmers teamed up with the aim to develop a two-turbine wind energy project on their adjoining land. Twelve years later, they finally succeeded: these days, two state-of-the-art EWT wind turbines are quietly turning their blades above the rural countryside of Tarstad, generating green electricity for Swedish homes and businesses.



EWT Tarstad Case Study

The wind turbine model installed in Tarstad is the EWT DirectWind54 with a hub height of 75m and an installed capacity of 900kW. The overall height to the tip of the blade - when it is in a vertical position – is 102m. The turbine is a direct drive machine, which means that it operates without a gearbox. Due to having fewer moving parts than the conventional, gearbox-fitted model, the direct drive technology is widely acclaimed to be the quietest available.

This proved a key feature in meeting strict planning regulations on noise, which the turbines achieved with a good margin. The project spent a total of twelve years in the planning process, standing up to thorough scrutiny time after time and proving robust without fail. Eventually, to the farmers' great relief, planning permission was granted.

Project partner Håkan Palsson said: "This turbine is the quietest and best on the market. With EWT, we have found a solution that gives us the best operational performance and is sympathetic to our neighbours at the same time."

The wind turbines were constructed and commissioned in 2013. During the formal opening, local Member of Parliament, Helena Lindahl, said: "This is a triumph for rural entrepreneurship, for the environment and for local people seizing new opportunities and realising their dreams. It proves how we can all do our bit in the fight against climate change."

"We must have a robust electricity system with high security of supply and low environmental impact, and offer electricity at competitive prices. This creates a long-term perspective and helps to generate new jobs and investment in Sweden."

Benefits to the Company and Wider Community

- For each year of their operational life, which is expected to last for 25 years, the two EWT turbines will be generating sufficient renewable electricity to meet the demand of approximately 1,000 average households*.
- Combined, the turbines will replace between 1,500 and – 3,700 tonnes of CO2 each year, had the electricity otherwise been produced by either a gas or a coal fired power station respectively*.
- The wind turbines help diversify the farming business and provide a stable and secure income throughout their 25v-year operational life.
- The EWT DirectWind54 direct drive turbine model provides higher efficiency, lower noise levels, less downtime and requires less maintenance than conventional gearbox technology

*Source: RenewableUK



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