



## Helping a third generation dairy farm return to profitability

Owned and operated by Nigel and Tina Watson, Mount Pleasant Dairy Farm near Driffield is a traditional, family run dairy farm. Nigel is a third generation farmer, carrying on the family business which first began in 1957. The family currently has a herd of 150 Holstein Friesian cows.

Following a sharp decline in the price of milk, in 2012 the Watsons installed a DW54-500kW wind turbine with 50 meter hub height at the farm to provide a stable and reliable new source of income. The turbine supplies energy for the dairy machinery, offsets the use of diesel for farm vehicles significantly reducing energy bills and the farm's carbon footprint. The Watsons' ambition is to make Mount Pleasant carbon neutral in the near future.



## EWT Mount Pleasant Dairy Farm Case Study



The electricity produced by the EWT turbine is used directly to power the energy intensive aspects of the farm's dairy operations. This includes the milking process - which runs for 6 hours daily - the ongoing operation of refrigeration equipment, and heating water to clean the milking equipment and the dairy unit at the end of each day.

The EWT turbine has ensured the ongoing viability of the family owned farm, by both reducing energy costs and supplying a reliable second source of income from the sale of surplus electricity. The spare capacity the turbine provides will allow for the future expansion of the farm, and increases in its power demands as the Watsons modernise and diversify further.

Mount Pleasant Dairy Farm employs 2 full time workers, and 3 part time workers. The turbine, by reducing overall running costs, contributes significantly to the job security of these workers - as well as securing the future of a traditional, family run dairy farm.

### Benefits to owner and the local community:

- The turbine generates 1,905 MWh per annum. (Source: Planning Statement, p. 5. Submitted to East Riding of Yorkshire Council 12 Septmeber 2011).
- In excess of 1,039 tonnes of CO2 are saved per annum (Source: Carbon Trust calculator, Planning Statement, p. 4. Submitted to East Riding of Yorkshire Council 12 September 2011)
- The turbine provides all the power needed for the farm's operations, drastically reducing the farm's energy bills.
- The income from the turbine has had a stabilising effect, against a backdrop of both reduced milk prices and greater volatility in milk prices. This has enabled the farm to budget on reduced energy costs, a steady income from electricity production and the continuation of dairy supplies to their customer base.
- Substantial savings have been made by making the farm less reliant on electricity from grid. Additionally any excess electricity provided by the turbine is fed into the grid, for which the company receives payments for both the initial generation as well as the export of any production achieved.



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