

Neven Point Wind Farm Update – December 2022

Dear resident

We feel it is a good time to give you an update on the proposed Neven Point Wind Farm.

Since GreenPower began leading the project alongside the original developers of the wind farm in July this year, we immediately set about consulting the community ahead of submitting a final project application into the planning system. This early contact with communities is really important to us and a hallmark of the way we work across Scotland.

We held our initial consultation event in the Heritage Hall in August where myself as a main GreenPower board Director and a highly experienced technical development team were present throughout the day to talk to people and show what the project might look like, the range of studies that were underway and completed, and the potential benefits to the island and the community. We estimate around half of Eday's residents came along. Feedback on the day, and that residents have provided since, has been very valuable to inform how we can best manage and deliver a project that ensures positive and tangible long and short-term benefits to the local community.

We are considering a range of project design options informed by the feedback we have received, while also considering multiple island access points, the environment and how works can be best managed to respect the lifeline nature of ferry services to Eday. Health care services during construction is another matter raised which we have been examining in some detail. There is also a very recent update to Scottish Government planning policy which is very strong in support of renewable energy and tackling the climate crisis, and this will have to be assessed. It includes a requirement that renewable energy projects result in demonstrable benefits to nature and wildlife where feasible through habitat works or other measures as well as the wider strategic impact on addressing climate change. This of course underpins everything we do anyway.

We are continuing to consider how the grid connection for the project could be used as a catalyst to remove constraints from local generators, including the community turbine.

Given all of the above, and to allow further opportunity for dialogue with Eday residents, we are now intending to submit the planning application in the first quarter of 2023.

We have received a range of feedback on the project in relation to the benefits the project could bring. Whilst we received some comments saying the island does not need or want any community benefit from the project, we remain committed to £5,000 per Megawatt of installed capacity per year. Ideas for how that could be best utilised have ranged from supporting improved transport links to giving every permanent residence a substantial energy payment to help reduce their annual energy bill. We want to listen to your views on all of these suggestions and how we might ensure the best possible outcome for the future of Eday and will continue to engage on these matters into the New year.

We plan to arrange another consultation event early next year ahead of submitting the planning application. We will continue to provide updated information on our website and keep you informed of progress in due course.

Finally, I also wanted to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year when it comes. And of course, if you have any queries or want to contact us at any time we will be pleased to hear from you. Please contact us at enquiries@greenpowerinternational.com.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Baxter', written in a cursive style.

George Baxter

Director of Development