



Durness Renewable Energy Project Newsletter 1

As you may be aware Durness community with advisors from with Highlands and Islands Community Energy Company - North Highlands are looking into the possibilities of having installed up to a maximum of 3 wind generators. The objective of community wind development is to enhance and diversify the local economy, and provide a sustainable income from renewable energy while safeguarding the exceptional quality of the environment.

The first stage, a scoping study, is currently underway. Renewable Devices Energy Solutions Ltd has been commissioned to produce a detailed wind feasibility study that also includes an examination of the environmental and financial feasibility.

The aim of the study is to provide an understanding of the potential for on-shore wind energy development on the Durness Estate up to a maximum installed capacity of 0.5 megawatts (MW). (With the potential to be increased should the line capacity be improved),

The study is looking at the installation of medium scale wind turbines, determining the best potential site, encompassing the natural resource in the area, the capacity of the HV electricity grid and the local resources available for the construction and maintenance of the system. This will include a detailed assessment of the relevant aspects and possible limitations, including the geomorphology, access, planning issues, landscape values and environmental designations, including bird interests. A detailed account of the expected financial feasibility, marketing opportunities, ownership, community involvement and benefit will be included.

This scoping study will lead to a scoping meeting with the Highland Council planning department to clearly identify the requirements for the submission of a planning application, an opportunity for all community residents and interested persons an opportunity to review the study documents and a community meeting to discuss the findings.

It is known that more studies covering specific details sighted in the scoping study will have to be carried out and the project could last for up to 2 years before work on building the turbines begins.

Further newsletters will be distributed as further information and the study results become available

Ronnie

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Secretary
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