

Press release

RWE submits plans for a nine turbine wind farm in north Wales

- **Plans include nine turbines of up to 200m high, and a capacity of up to 60MW**
- **Power generated would be equivalent to the needs of up to 70,600 homes over the course of a year**
- **Proposals uniquely include a grid connection, which will be shared with the nearby Clocaenog Forest Wind Farm**

Baglan, 20 September 2024

Plans for a nine turbine wind farm, capable of generating power equivalent to the needs of up to 70,600 homes, have been formally submitted for consideration.

If approved, the proposed Alwen Forest Wind Farm would sit adjacent to the Alwen Reservoir and straddle the boundary between Conwy County and Denbighshire local authority areas.

The proposals also uniquely include the necessary grid connection, owing to the proximity to RWE's largest onshore wind farm in the UK at Clocaenog Forest, which sits on the opposite side of Llyn Brenig.

Having been informed by both formal and informal rounds of consultation as well as extensive surveys covering ecology, ornithology, hydrology, noise and visual impacts, the project will now be considered by Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) before being decided by Welsh Ministers.

Martin Cole, Project Lead for RWE, said: "Following our formal pre-application consultation earlier this year, and having carried out and reviewed a significant body of survey data, the proposals for the Alwen Forest Wind Farm are now in the hands of PEDW for validation and then examination.

"If approved, Alwen Forest will be capable of producing power equivalent to more than half the households in Conwy County, making a significant contribution to Wales and the UK's goals on renewable energy generation. Like our preceding Clocaenog Forest Wind Farm, Alwen will be well-placed to support the region's economy from the construction phase through to operations."



The project team has developed a local ownership scheme alongside Community Energy Wales. Upon project completion, a community organisation would hold a stake in Alwen Forest Wind Farm and be able to invest the associated share of profits for the benefit of the community itself.

Ben Ferguson, Co-Executive Director for Community Energy Wales, said: “Community Energy Wales are proud to have worked in partnership with RWE throughout the development phase to build a valuable shared ownership opportunity for the community, which will be delivered through a Community Benefit Society, Ynni Hiraethog.

“Shared ownership helps us join the dots between delivering the strategic scale projects society needs to get to net zero, and the delivery of local community energy initiatives which can be so powerful at the grassroots. Local people now have an opportunity to benefit financially from the Alwen Forest project in a way that hasn’t been seen before, and to determine how the returns are invested in the local energy system.”

Alwen Forest Wind Farm must now await the validation of the application before being accepted for examination, with a final decision anticipated by Welsh Ministers in 2025.

The proposed wind farm development lies within commercial forestry managed by Natural Resources Wales on land owned by Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW).

RWE is also progressing plans for onshore wind farms at Abertillery and Pen March in south Wales, as well as for the Gaerwen Wind Farm elsewhere in north Wales.

For further enquiries:

Kelly Nye
Media Relations
RWE Renewables GmbH
T +44 7795254552
E kelly.nye@rwe.com

RWE

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