

Muirhall Energy

**Shared Ownership Opportunities**

June 2014



Muirhall Energy is an independent renewable energy company based in rural South Lanarkshire, situated less than a mile away from our own Muirhall Wind farm.



The wind farm was first visualised in 2003 by local landowner Chris Walker in response to an increasingly difficult economic reality experienced by the farming sector, and concerns about the threat of Climate Change and energy security. The project was advanced with the aims of aiding diversification of farming in the local area and ensuring the continuation of traditional land management. True to this beginning we are a platinum supporter of RSABI - Scotland's Charity helping people who have depended on the land.



## **Caplich Community Benefit Package**

Empowering the local community is a central principle of the Muirhall Energy ethos. We truly believe that communities are the cornerstone for the success of every project and our neighbours should have the opportunity to share in the rewards.

Muirhall Energy is part of the advisory group for the recently published “Good Practice Principles for Community Benefit from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments” released by the Scottish Government in April.

We offer local communities the opportunity for investment in all our new developments, and have also been invited to sit on the Scottish Government’s “Shared Ownership Working Group” which met for the first time on 5 June. This working group is led by Local Energy Scotland, on behalf of the government, with a view of pooling information and experience in order to provide guidance to both communities and developers on how to achieve shared ownership and benefit from the hindsight of tried and tested models.

**Shared Ownership Offer - 10% of the wind farm company is available for the community to invest in.**

## Current Position

Eligible local community organisations will be invited such as community councils, community development trusts and community associations. It will not be open to local authorities, government agencies, individuals, for profit private enterprises.

At this stage the Caplich Wind Farm proposal is not finalised and the development of the project is ongoing. Turbine numbers and project capacity is subject to change and until the project gains consent and all the contracts to build are placed it is not possible to provide finalised figures.

Muirhall Energy is at the forefront of making the shared ownership model work. Our promise to you is that we will work very hard to make this happen.

The shared ownership model is a new and exciting area within the energy sector and so we are working closely with Local Energy Scotland and other impartial organisations to make it happen.

Please find on the following page contacts and websites in order for you to obtain and gain the best advice and support available.



**LOCALENERGYSCOTLAND.ORG**  
**0808 808 2288**  
FUNDED BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Local Energy Scotland is a consortium funded by the Scottish Government to help communities and rural businesses via a wide range of support and financial assistance, and help support shared ownership collaborative projects.

There are number of resources online at: <http://www.localenergyscotland.org/sharedownership> which may be of use to those looking to progress a collaborative project:

1. [A start-up grant](#) of up to £20,000 is available for community groups looking to share ownership of a large scale project. This can cover early pre-feasibility costs.
2. [Framework contractors](#) to allow community groups to select legal and financial services quickly and with confidence.
3. The [CARES pre-planning loan](#) can be used for pre-capital costs in a joint venture
4. The Local Energy Scotland [development officer network](#) provides free-at-point-of-use bespoke support to community groups.
5. A detailed interactive [finance model](#) in the CARES toolkit will provide community groups with confidence and a better understanding of the project's viability.
6. [Case studies](#) are available to show what has already been achieved.

Local Energy Scotland has a network of development officers across Scotland to provide regional advice and support. Spread across the country to provide hands-on support, they are happy to talk through any ideas or proposals you may have.

The Development Officer for the Highlands is Karen Paterson [karen@hi.localenergyscotland.org](mailto:karen@hi.localenergyscotland.org)  
freephone 0808 808 2288 or direct on 01397 708251.

## Renewable Energy Investment Fund

Renewable Energy Investment Fund (REIF) helps support shared ownership renewable energy projects and provides financial assistance across Scotland. It is delivered by the Scottish Investment Bank, on behalf of the Scottish Government.

**£103 million** of ring-fenced funding is available to provide commercially priced loans, equity investments and guarantees, REIF will consider projects that support the delivery of energy from a renewable source and include projects that increase community ownership of renewable energy projects in Scotland.

For example it was announced on 21 May 2014 that REIF is supporting the Fintry Development Trust, a Stirlingshire body dedicated to a zero-carbon, zero-waste community, with a £615k loan. The loan will help refinance their partial ownership of the nearby Earlsburn Wind Farm.

- Members of the REIF team can provide sound advice on your funding proposition, and point you in the right direction of sources of support.
- The fund can provide loans, guarantees and equity investments, all on fully commercial terms.
- Scottish Enterprise provide information at: <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/attract-investment/renewable-energy-investment-fund/overview>
- or contact Yvonne Candlish at REIF: [Yvonne.Candlish@scotent.co.uk](mailto:Yvonne.Candlish@scotent.co.uk) on direct dial 0141 242 8378 or switchboard 0141 204 1111

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