

March 2015

Humber Gateway News

All the latest news from Humber Gateway Offshore Wind Farm.



Welcome to our newsletter, designed to keep you up to date with what's happening at Humber Gateway Offshore Wind Farm.

First power generated

We're proud to say the Humber Gateway Offshore Wind Farm generated electricity for the first time in February. This is another major milestone in the construction process and means we're on track to provide enough renewable energy to power thousands of homes and businesses from the middle of summer.

All the foundations are in place and the cable installation has been completed. Now it's just the last few remaining 3 megawatt (MW) turbines to go, with 58 of the 73 turbines already finished. The turbine installation programme will continue over the next few months, marking the last phase of the construction project.

Matthew Swanwick, Project Manager said: "We're delighted to achieve this major milestone as it takes an enormous amount of work to erect these large structures and we've had to battle a few spells of bad weather, so we're really happy with progress."

Once construction is finished, our offshore wind farm will become fully operational and we'll hand over to our Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Team. Find out more inside.

£2 million to support local communities

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, we've set up a Community Benefit Fund to support local communities in the East Riding of Yorkshire and Grimsby. The £2 million fund was officially launched in February and we've worked closely with local councils to decide which projects to support through the fund. Find out more inside.



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Spurn Head

Community Benefit Fund – the projects we'll be supporting

Community Support Fund

Funding to support smaller, sustainable projects in the parishes bordering the wind farm (between Easington and Preston). Local community groups, voluntary organisations or registered charities will be able to apply for funding by:

- downloading our application form at eonenergy.com/humber
- calling our local representative, Simon Taylor on **07881 816 369**
- getting in touch with your parish council following the launch on **1 April 2015**.

To find out more please call Simon Taylor on **07881 816 369** or email humberenquiries@eon-uk.com

Funding can be used to make environmental improvements or to support projects that make a difference to local people's lives and/or economic regeneration.

A new visitor centre for Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

The centre will bring the unique natural history of Spurn Head nature reserve to life for visitors, while helping the trust manage the site and its wildlife. The centre will also provide a space for schools and community groups, as well as new facilities like parking, refreshments and toilets.

Ron Stoneman, CEO, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust said: "Tens of thousands of people visit Spurn Head each year. Ensuring these people have a safe and informative visit whilst making sure their presence doesn't impact the site and its wildlife, is of paramount importance. E.ON's support will help Yorkshire Wildlife Trust manage the large numbers of visitors who come to Spurn Head."

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is currently assessing locations and will be applying for planning permission within the next few months.

Improving rural transport in South Holderness

North Holderness Community Transport Ltd will invest in cutting edge battery electric vehicle technology to provide clean, green and sustainable community transport. Local people will then be able to access work and reach important services, including education, employment, and sport and leisure activities.

Councillor Jane Evison, East Riding of Yorkshire Council Cabinet Member and Chair of Holderness Area Rural Transport (HART) explains: "HART is delighted to be working with E.ON and be the recipient of a major grant for development and delivery of the 'Go Electric South Holderness' project. The grant will fund an exciting project and will see the purchase of two fully electric 16 seat minibuses, which will be the first of their kind in the UK.

"The vehicles will benefit the local community as a whole, as well as South Holderness Technology College and Easington CE Primary Academy, providing valuable transport for school children and community groups in the area.

"East Riding Council Officers will work closely with HART to ensure successful delivery of the project."

Sally Smith, Easington CE Primary Academy Headteacher, said: "Pupils and staff at Easington CE Primary Academy are looking forward to all the additional opportunities the electric buses will offer, especially the chance to learn about and use such a new technology."

Supporting the development of a new Offshore Wind Apprenticeship Programme in North East Lincolnshire

A potential of 15 apprentices may be given the chance to benefit from an Advance Apprenticeship in Wind Turbine Operations and Maintenance. We're working with the local authority and training providers to see if a proposed scheme is possible.

Meet our team

Our O&M Team is based at Grimsby Fish Docks, in our brand new O&M facility. The building includes the wind farm's control room, offices, stores, a workshop and a pontoon, for our three wind farm service vessels.



Jon Beresford, E.ON Plant Manager, explains:

"My team will be responsible for operating and maintaining the wind farm once it's fully operational later this year. To help nearby businesses, we've been identifying local suppliers that can support us. We've also been supporting local initiatives, including a pilot project being run by

North East Lincolnshire Council. The project will see representatives from local industries working with schools in the area. Over four weeks, we'll be helping students learn about our industry, the type of jobs involved and what qualifications they'll need if they want to work in the sector."

So what does the team say about working on the Humber Gateway Offshore Wind Farm?

Tim Handley, E.ON Engineering Manager, has been working on the project for eight years:



"One of the biggest challenges we've met has been the weather. During construction we've experienced freezing temperatures, gale force winds, tidal surges, deep snow, flooding and hot sun. I've experienced some of the wettest and warmest months in recent years. In my role, I've been all over the UK and Europe

over the past eight years and have had the opportunity to meet hundreds of people who have contributed to the project in many different ways. They've all had a common goal - to make Humber Gateway Offshore Wind Farm a success, and I believe we're well on our way to achieving this goal as we approach the final phase of the project.

"The vast majority of the people I've met have been very supportive and interested in the development of the wind farm, whether at public exhibitions, local business events or presentations to various professional bodies."

Phillippa Powell, E.ON Environmental Consents Manager:



"Before construction, my role was to solve problems and overcome the challenges we faced along the consented cable route and to work these into an effective construction programme. A key challenge was the ecological seasonal restrictions and the strict legislation protecting all species. For example, the best time of

year for construction for one species may not have been the best time for others, which meant tight deadlines to the construction timetable at a number of locations along the cable route.

"It's been extremely rewarding to know that the temporary environmental impacts predicted in the initial assessment were greatly reduced, as well as watching the construction team work so effectively and efficiently within the environmental and ecology limitations which they faced, particularly given the added challenge of the unseasonably wet weather in 2012 and prolonged winter in 2013."

About the Humber Gateway Offshore Wind Farm

The £700m Humber Gateway Offshore Wind Farm will be located approximately 8km offshore from Easington, off East Yorkshire's Holderness Coast.

The wind farm will consist of 73 wind turbines and an offshore substation. Together, the turbines will have an installed capacity of 219 megawatts (MW).

Two cables will bring the electricity generated ashore at Easington. From there, six inshore cables will run underground for approximately 30km to Salt End, to connect the wind farm to the National Grid.

We're here to help

We always want to hear what you have to say, so if you'd like further information or have any questions or concerns, you can write, email or call us.

Write: **Humber Gateway Offshore Wind Farm, Freepost RRSE-KZCU-AZJL, E.ON, Westwood Way, Westwood Business Park, Coventry CV4 8LG**

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