

## EDF Renewables UK welcomes new project manager



Chris Botwood,  
Principal Development Project  
Manager

From January 2024, Chris Botwood took over the project management of Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park. Chris joined EDF Renewables UK in 2023. He will be leading the team to take the project into the pre-application consultation stage and then to submit the planning application.

Chris is an experienced project manager and renewables developer and has worked on several onshore wind and solar schemes in Wales. A graduate of Cardiff University, he started his career working in the geo-environmental/geo-technical sector remediating contaminated sites before moving into renewables over a decade ago.








Chris is looking forward to progressing the Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park and said: "Hirfynydd is a really important project in the EDF Renewables UK portfolio, and it's a crucial Welsh infrastructure project, too. I am looking forward working with the local community to bring as many additional benefits as possible, including a substantial community fund, enhancing biodiversity on site, and offering shared ownership.

"Of course, the main benefit of this project is the generation of clean, green electricity. To tackle climate change we must urgently move away from using fossil fuels, and power more of our homes, businesses, industry, and transport using renewable sources of energy."

## Project update

Surveys have been continuing on site and the results of these will inform the site layout, determining the best position for all of the infrastructure involved in the renewable energy park, from the wind turbines to the cabling, electricity substation, battery storage, solar panels, and tracks. We hope to reach 'design freeze', the stage at which we have a final layout for the entire site, soon. After this we will then prepare all the documentation we need for the formal consultation, known as the pre-application consultation (PAC), in the autumn, with a view to submitting the planning application before the end of 2024.

### Here's a reminder of our plans:

-  up to 7 turbines and a solar farm with combined capacity of up to 100 MW
-  battery storage
-  generating enough electricity for 37,500 households annually\*
-  Community benefit fund of up to £270,000 per year, every year
-  Reduction in CO2 emissions of around 64,000 tonnes per year
-  Opportunity for shared/local ownership
-  Two informal public consultations already held

## Context - Climate Change

Climate change is one of the biggest threats we face. Globally 2023 was the warmest year in a series stretching back to 1850 according to the Met Office and the University of East Anglia. Human caused climate change is resulting in more storms, and already this winter we are on our tenth named storm (Jocelyn).

Using renewable energy reduces our dependence on fossil fuels and the amount of harmful carbon dioxide emissions released into the atmosphere.

The Welsh Government has targets to tackle climate change, including to meet 100% of its electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2035. Currently, only 59% is from renewables.

Meeting Net Zero means that we have to electrify heating, transport and industry. Estimates suggest that this will require a fivefold increase in electricity in Wales between now and 2050.

### Support for onshore wind and solar remains high

An opinion poll conducted in Wales last year found that 65% supported onshore wind, and this figure rose to 71% support for those already living within 5 miles of a wind farm. The support figure for solar stood at 79%. (Polling results of 1004 adults questioned by Censuswide in November 2023)

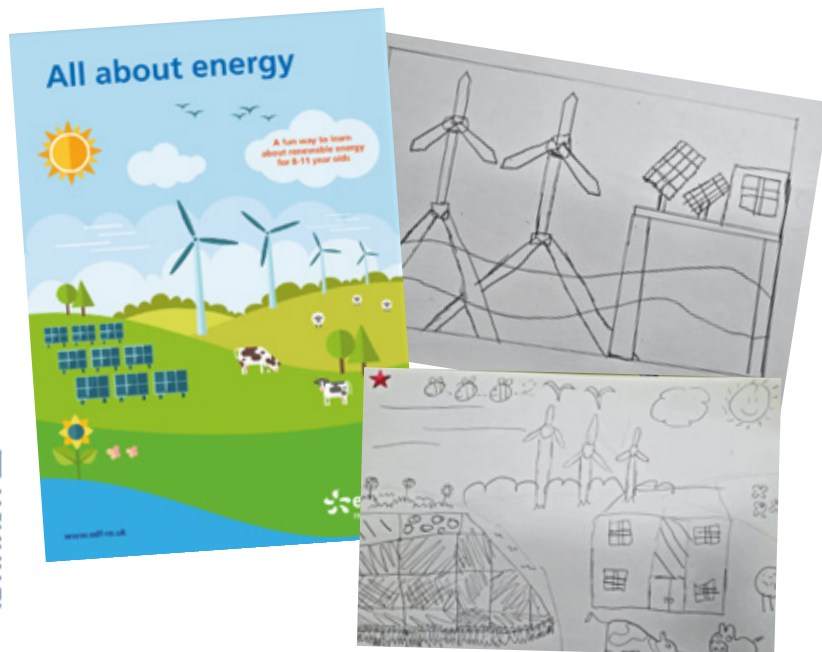
## Local schools and careers

During 2023, the team visited Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Blaendulais and Blaendulais Primary School, discussing climate change, renewable energy and the many career opportunities in renewables, with pupils. Pupils told Ffion and Simon from EDF Renewables UK about the work they had been studying on climate change and showed a keen interest and a good understanding of renewable energy.

As part of the session, pupils drew pictures, discussed different aspects of renewable energy, and asked questions of the team.

EDF Renewables UK's learning materials for 8-11 and 12-14 year olds are available to download in Welsh and English, online.

**Scan the QR code to access the learning materials**



**Careers Wales** recently presented their Valued Partner Award to EDF Renewables UK, with the company also winning the Best Supporter of the Net Zero Agenda award. The team were recognised for the content created for school resources, highlighting the role of science and technology to help Net Zero goals, and encouraging learners to discuss job roles in solar, wind, and hydro energy.



## EDF Renewables UK meet local suppliers

In July, EDF Renewables UK held a business breakfast in Blanco's Hotel to inform local businesses of the potential opportunities arising from its pipeline of projects in the Neath Port Talbot area, Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park, Eirlys and Meillion solar farms, and Gwynt Glas Floating Offshore Wind project. If the projects receive planning consent, EDF Renewables UK will look to use local suppliers wherever possible. Attended by local businesses, representatives learned more about the potential opportunities, timescales and procurement processes, and met the teams leading on the projects.

**To register your interest as a potential supplier to EDF Renewables UK please complete the online form**

**Scan the QR code or go to <https://tinyurl.com/EDFRenewablesUKSuppliers>**



## Allocation of community funds

EDF Renewables UK is offering a community fund of £5,000 per MW for wind, and £400 per MW for solar, as part of its Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park proposal. Based on our current plans, this could amount to £270,000 per year, for every year the wind farm is operational.

Key aspects of the community fund include:

- An independent, third party administrator will be appointed. This will be funded by EDF Renewables UK in addition to the community fund award
- A Community Liaison Officer to work with local people
- The community fund will be linked to the Retail Price Index (RPI)
- A common sense approach will be adopted on how the Community Benefit Fund should be split where multiple communities are impacted.

**Case study:** Each year, £240,000 is invested in the community fund for Fallago Rig Wind Farm in Berwickshire, Scotland. This has been used for initiatives such as the creation of a bronze memorial to remember a fishing disaster off the Eyemouth coast in 1881. To date, 44 local projects have been delivered to support village halls, museums, schools, archaeology, tree planting, footpaths, and more.



## Wider EDF Renewables UK in Wales news

### Welsh team grows and opens a new head office in Wales

With a growing portfolio of energy projects in Wales, EDF Renewables UK opened an office in Cardiff last year as a base for the growing Welsh team and a symbol of its commitment to investing in renewables in Wales. First Minister, Mark Drakeford, was the guest of honour and the first to hear about EDF Renewables UK's ambitious 2 GW development pipeline. He said:

**"I am pleased that EDF Renewables UK support our vision for Wales and its new office in South Wales demonstrates its commitment to Wales.**

**"It is vitally important we maximise the opportunities renewable energy can bring to Wales over the coming decade. We need to ensure the roll out of renewables provides long-term economic and social benefits for our communities."**

We are proud to operate Llangwryfon, our wind farm near Aberystwyth and the Cemmaes wind farm development in Machynlleth as well as building Porth Wen solar project in north Anglesey. We are developing the Garn Fach Wind Farm in Mid Wales, Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park in South Wales and the Eirlys and Meillion Solar Farms in South Wales.

We are also working on the development of an up to 1.5 GW floating offshore wind farm - Gwynt Glas - in the Celtic Sea off the coast of Pembrokeshire.



### EDF Renewables UK - plans for Wales

 Onshore wind, solar and battery - 1 GW

 £1 billion boost to Welsh economy

 Create +2,000 high skilled & high salaried jobs

 Power nearly 400,000 homes\*

 Reduce carbon generation by nearly 740,000 tonnes

 Unlock £100 million in community benefit

\*Based on estimated wind annual electricity output of 102,054 Megawatt Hours using a capacity factor of 23.3%; estimated solar PV electricity output of 46,428 Megawatt Hours using a capacity factor of 10.6%; total electricity output of 148,482 Megawatt Hours.

## EDF Renewables UK's Apprenticeship and Graduate opportunities

EDF Renewables UK offer a number of apprenticeship and graduate schemes and some 2024 schemes are still open for applications. These are opportunities develop an exciting career whilst helping to create a more sustainable energy future. We are looking for apprentices across a wide field of skills, with apprenticeships available in business, Civil Engineering, Construction Quantity Surveyor, Cyber Security, Data Analyst, Ranger, Facilities Management, wind turbine technician, project management and nuclear engineering.

Visit <https://www.edfenergy.com/careers/apprenticeships> for more information and to apply.

Jamie Jones joined EDF Renewables UK as a Wind Turbine Apprentice and now works full time as a turbine technician in his hometown of Aberystwyth. Working alongside a team of experienced engineers, Jamie helps to service and maintain the turbines at our local operational wind farms. Here's what Jamie has to say about the apprenticeship opportunity:

"It was a three-year apprenticeship with the first two years in the northeast in college and the last year based here in Aberystwyth on site on our two wind farms. It's everything you can imagine, electrical, mechanical and hydraulic works really hands on. I massively enjoy it. Like every turbine technician says, you've got the best view from the office!

"It's really nice to be able to come back to Aberystwyth where I'm from. It's nice that I don't have to move really far away just for the job and it can be offered in such a local place, being a part of the community.

"It's really good to have that support from EDF Renewables UK and, knowing that we get our supplies from as local as we can. It's nice to have that community feel, and I definitely feel I'm making a difference in the job that I'm doing."

**Join Jamie, join us, and we'll help Britain achieve Net Zero - together**



## Future skills - Destination Renewables

Our Gwynt Glas project to develop up to 1.5 GW of floating offshore wind in the Celtic Sea has joined forces with Pembrokeshire College to launch a programme of study preparing students for the future renewables' jobs market. Now in its second year, Destination Renewables is a collaboration between industry and the college to bridge the skills gap and showcase to 16-18 years olds the diverse range of careers across a host of technologies such as wave, tidal, onshore wind, solar and offshore wind.

A skilled workforce is fundamental to rolling out floating wind technology quickly, and that's why the Destination Renewables programme is supported by funding from the Swansea Bay City Deal alongside private sector investment.

Having already won a number of energy industry awards, the Destination Renewables programme is now being rolled out to other colleges in Wales.



## About EDF Renewables UK

EDF Renewables UK and Ireland ([www.edf-re.uk](http://www.edf-re.uk)) is a subsidiary of EDF Group's, one of the world's largest low carbon electricity companies, and our investment and innovation is reducing costs for consumers and bringing significant benefits for communities. With our operating portfolio of 41 renewable energy sites including battery, onshore and offshore wind (together totalling more than 1 GW) we are providing much needed affordable, low carbon electricity. We have an expanding portfolio with almost 5 GW of projects in planning and development, including wind, battery and solar PV.

### Contact the team

[www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/hirfynydd/](http://www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/hirfynydd/)  
01639 500871  
[hirfynydd@edf-re.uk](mailto:hirfynydd@edf-re.uk)

