



Parc Ynni
Adnewyddadwy
Hirfynydd
Renewable
Energy Park

Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park Public Information Days

Welcome, and thank you for joining us at this public information event.

EDF Renewables UK is proposing to develop the Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park, near to Crynant and Seven Sisters.

This leaflet provides information about the project and will help you interpret the boards that are on display.

We invite you to:

- read the information boards
- speak to the EDF Renewables UK team
- view the interactive 3D modelling showing a visualisation of the energy park
- complete the feedback form
- find out how to keep in touch
- take away this leaflet to share with friends and family

For further information and to provide feedback:

www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/hirfynydd

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These are our initial thoughts on the layout of the renewable energy park with an indication of where the different technologies might be sited.

The energy park will consist of:

- up to seven wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 200m
- a solar array consisting of solar panels laid out in rows
- battery storage

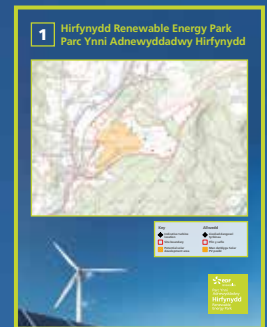
The potential installed capacity of this energy park will be around 100 MW.

The energy park should generate enough green electricity for over 40,000 households annually*

To easily access all the infrastructure within the energy park we will need to construct access tracks. We will also need to connect the energy infrastructure – the turbines, solar panels, and batteries – to an electrical substation on site, and our plans also therefore include an electrical substation and control building, and underground power cables.

We will be seeking planning permission for a 35-year period.

The energy park layout is indicative and subject to revisions as a result of consultation feedback and further expert advice.



*Average household consumption from Energy consumption in the UK 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk), ECUK 2021: Consumption data Tables (OCU), table C9 - Domestic; average consumption (2020) of 3,954 kWh (temperature corrected). <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/energy-consumption-in-the-uk-2021>

*The proposed Development (up to 50MW wind and up to 50MW solar) will contribute to renewable energy and decarbonisation targets for Wales, as follows:

- Estimated wind annual electricity output of 123,078 Megawatt Hours using a capacity factor of 28.1%¹;
- Estimated solar PV electricity output of 49,494 Megawatt Hours using a capacity factor of 11.3%¹;
- Total electricity output of 172,572 Megawatt Hours
- Clean electricity generation equivalent to the domestic requirements of 40,000 homes annually²

¹Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES): renewable sources of energy (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/100682/DUKES_6.5.xls) Load factors for renewable electricity generation (DUKES 6.5) - Onshore wind load factor of 28.1% (2020) and solar PV load factor of 11.3% (2020).

²Average household consumption from Energy consumption in the UK 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk), ECUK 2021: Consumption data Tables (OCU), table C9 - Domestic; average consumption (2020) of 3,954 kWh (temperature corrected). <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/energy-consumption-in-the-uk-2021>

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EDF Renewables UK’s goal is to combat climate change – we are passionate about creating a net zero future where clean energy powers our lives. Tackling climate change is what motivates us – it spurs us on to seek out and bring forward the right projects and to develop the most creative solutions for communities.



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We are seeking a scoping opinion from Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) to ensure that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) covers the correct information. The Scoping Report prepared by EDF Renewables UK will be available to read on the PEDW website in due course.



We also need to secure our energy supplies. This can only be done by increasing the amount of homegrown renewable energy generated in the UK. By building more onshore wind and solar – some of the cheapest of all large scale energy technologies – we can also start to stabilise costs to the consumer.

The Welsh and UK Governments recognise the need to increase the amount of renewable energy generated, and there is legislation and policy in place to support developments such as Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park.

The most recent Energy Generation in Wales report (May 2022) estimated that in 2020 Wales was only meeting the equivalent of 56% of its electricity demand and only 33% of total electricity generation was from renewable sources.*

Planning

Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park is considered a Development of National Significance (DNS) and will be subject to policies set out in Future Wales – The National Plan 2040.

The planning process is rigorous and the benefits of each project are balanced against the likely impacts according to a number of criteria before a final decision is made about its suitability.

Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) is the division in Welsh Government that assesses this kind of application. Their role is to consider the planning application that we submit and provide advice and recommendations to the Welsh Government Ministers, who take a final decision.

“The challenges of the climate emergency demand urgent action on carbon emissions and the planning system must help Wales lead the way in promoting and delivering a competitive, sustainable decarbonised society”.
Future Wales – The National Plan 2040, Welsh Government

You can find out more information about the planning process on the PEDW website www.gov.wales/planning-and-environment-decisions-wales

To establish the information we need, desk research is undertaken; we then carry out field surveys that consider the landscape, the number and type of animal species on site, plant species, birds, archaeological features, water courses, peat and many other important characteristics. At the same time, we consult with Government and Council experts in the different specialisms to ask for their advice.

The overall objective is to design a scheme that has the least impact on people living locally, the land and the environment – so we will try to avoid impacts where possible, for example by carefully siting the infrastructure. We can also mitigate for any impacts the scheme may have, for example, by enhancing biodiversity across the site.

The site

The proposed development is within the Dulais Valley and is mostly open grassland used for farming.

The site has been subject to extensive coal mining. EDF Renewables UK is using existing mine reports to understand the extent of previous coal mining in the area and has commissioned a mining consultant to engage with Energybuild, the licence holder / operator of the Aberpergwm coal mine, and The Coal Authority.

*<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-06/energy-generation-in-wales-2020.pdf>



Landscape and visual

An important consideration for all energy projects is how the infrastructure will look from where people live and the places that people like to visit and we will look to site the energy park infrastructure as sensitively as possible. In addition to the interactive 3-dimensional modelling that you can view at this exhibition, we will also produce photomontages of the site from different viewpoints. These are 'before' and 'after' photos showing how the view might change once Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park is constructed.

Habitats for animal species

There are different species of animals present and our initial surveys have found water vole in the western part of the site and common lizard. We believe that different parts of the site provide suitable habitats for adders and dormouse and our surveys will determine whether populations of these animals exist here. We have also surveyed for bats and great crested newts. The results from these surveys will feed into our plans.

Birds

During our survey work we found that red kites were the most frequent visitors. Although the honey buzzard is a rare breeding species nationally, several pairs are known to breed in the Neath Valley with flights being observed during the survey effort. Other species including goshawk, peregrine, hobby, hen harrier, and barn owl were recorded at intermittent and low levels. We know that birds can and do coexist and the survey results will feed into our plans to ensure our infrastructure is considerably sited.

Improving biodiversity

We don't want our development to negatively impact plants and animal species and where possible we want to create improved habitats for these to thrive. We will put a plan in place to ensure we minimise any impact whether that's during the construction period or during the operational life of the project. Our survey work and advice from those who are experts in ecology and ornithology will help us to plan properly.

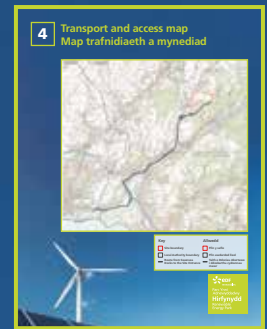
Our aim is to enhance the biodiversity on the site overall. We will produce a Habitat Management Plan and our plans to bolster biodiversity will be set out clearly in this document.

We want to hear from you:

- Are you interested in any specific aspect of the Environmental Impact Assessment?
- Please tell us about any local groups who would like to know about our plans and may want to provide feedback.
- Can you please make any suggestions on how the community benefit fund could be used?
- Are you a local business? You can make us aware of your services by registering your interest at www.edf-re.uk/working-with-communities/working-with-suppliers/

Please speak to a member of staff and give us your feedback on this and any other questions in the feedback form.

We will carefully plan how turbine components, solar panels, and construction traffic travel to and access the site. We will also carefully consider how to safely manage public access during construction.



Transport – construction and deliveries

It is likely that abnormal load vehicles which transport the larger turbine components will travel from the port of Swansea, along the A483, M4, A465 and A4109 to the south of Crynant and then on to the site via an access located on the A4109 south of Crynant. The transportation of turbines will be managed in consultation with the police.

All other construction and delivery traffic will also use the A4109 to the site access.

No traffic associated with the construction of the project will come through the villages of Crynant or Seven Sisters, there will also be no impact on the Sarn Helen Roman Road.

During busier construction periods, and when large turbine components are being delivered, there may be some disruption to other road users. We will try to minimise disruption by restricting delivery times and providing clear advice in advance to local road users.

Once on site, traffic will use a network of new and existing tracks. Tracks will have a maximum width of 5m (wider on beds), and it is likely that cabling connecting turbines and the control building will be laid in trenches running alongside these.

A Traffic Management Plan which includes all the detail of vehicle movements, timings, and vehicle sizes, will be agreed with the highway authorities.

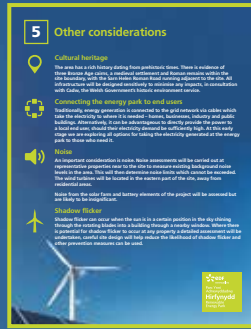
Public Rights of Way

There is a footpath and a bridleway within the site, with a portion of open access land in the east. Although access to parts of the site might be restricted during construction for safety reasons, once the energy park is completed public access to the area will be restored.

Please speak to a member of staff and give us your feedback on this and any other questions in the feedback form.

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All these impacts are assessed in accordance with relevant legislation, policy and guidance which will be outlined in the Scoping Report. Following these assessments the layout of the infrastructure on site will be designed in such a way as to reduce the impacts as far as possible. Additional measures can also be put in place to reduce any remaining impacts that have not been eliminated through careful site design, for example biodiversity net gain, whereby measures are proposed to improve upon existing ecological conditions.



We want to hear from you:

- Speak to us if you live nearby or use the site for recreational purposes, or if you have questions about any of these issues.
- Are there any impacts that we've not covered that you have questions about?

Please speak to a member of staff and give us your feedback on this and any other questions in the feedback form.

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Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park community benefit fund will be £5,000 per MW for wind, and £400 per MW for solar, which could be up to £270,000 each year the energy park is operational. The community will administer the fund and decide what local good causes will benefit.



EDF Renewables UK is committed to providing opportunities for the community to have a stake in Hirfynydd – this could be via local ownership. The Welsh Government has issued guidance and has a target that by 2030, 1 GW of all new energy projects will be locally owned. We will offer up to 10% of the overall project.

Communities can get further independent advice from the Welsh Government's Energy Service.

Many local businesses already supply the renewables industry in Neath Port Talbot. We will ensure that Hirfynydd delivers contracts to local suppliers by working with local business groups and the local authority. A socio-economic impact report will be produced outlining the value of the likely opportunities.

We also plan to establish a Community Liaison Group as a forum for sharing information and good ideas.

We want to hear from you:

- Do you have thoughts on what else a development like this might bring to the area?
- What other benefits would you like to see?
- Do you have ideas on how we should engage with local businesses and the supply chain?
- How should the Community Liaison Group be run and who should represent the community on it?
- Do you like the idea of local ownership? Please speak to a member of staff and give us your feedback on this and any other questions in the feedback form.

Please speak to a member of staff and give us your feedback on this and any other questions in the feedback form.

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These are indicative timescales and as we develop the project we will have a clearer idea of the exact timeline.

We want to develop a project that optimises the renewable electricity that is generated and stored on site, and at the same time deliver as many benefits as possible to the local community.

We will work with the community at all times.

We want to hear from you:

- Please let us have your thoughts on what you've seen and heard today.
- Tell us what you'd like to learn more about.
- If you think we can present the information differently, let us know how.
- If there are local groups and societies who you think would like to hear from us, please let us know.
- If you have any questions – just ask!

Please speak to a member of staff and give us your feedback on this and any other questions in the feedback form.



EDF Renewables UK and Ireland (www.edf-re.uk) is a subsidiary of EDF Group, 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 38 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. We have 700 MW in construction.