

EDF Renewables UK is proposing a renewable energy park at Hirfynydd, between Crynant and Seven Sisters. We announced our proposals in 2022 and have since held two rounds of public consultation.

We have been made aware that inaccurate information on the project has been circulated in the community. As a responsible developer, we respectfully set out the following information in response to inaccuracies being made.

A fuller statement can be found on the Hirfynydd project page on the EDF Renewables UK website.

Please rest assured...

People can continue to enjoy the open access land and the public footpaths during the operation of the project with minimal disturbance during construction.

There will be NO impact on the Sarn Helen Roman Road.

Under NO circumstances will Hirfynydd Renewable Energy Park put at risk jobs at the active coal mine, Aberpergwm. EDF Renewables UK has no influence whatsoever on the future of the coal mine.

Battery energy storage is a safe way to store electricity. A battery safety management plan will form part of the planning application and the local fire service will be consulted. Please read more about safety on our website.

The solar farm is on an area of semi-improved grassland, and we have plans to improve the habitat under the panels. The siting of the wind turbines will avoid peat as much as possible. Where this isn't possible, peat will be reused to create new habitats and improve degraded peat deposits.

There is no evidence that renewable energy developments restrict the growth in tourism. Tourism continues to thrive in areas where there are lots of renewable energy projects, such as Scotland, Cornwall and North Wales. Wind farms in the area including Maesgwyn Wind Farm in Banwen, Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm or Mynydd Brombil, are all near tourist attractions such as Zip World, Afan Forest Park, and Margam Park. Neither house prices nor tourism have been impacted. Further information on this is available online.

This paper can be added to your household recycling

Onshore wind and solar are two of the cheapest forms of new energy generation. As we build more renewable energy projects, we will reduce our reliance on gas imports which is the major cause of higher energy bills.

The project is already creating jobs with many of the specialists employed on Hirfynydd based in South Wales. EDF Renewables UK has opened an office for its expanding South Wales team. As our portfolio of projects grows, more development staff will be recruited, and as projects are built, operations and maintenance staff will be employed.

In July, we hosted a supplier event in Port Talbot and nearly 100 representatives from local companies registered.

There are strict limits on how much noise is permitted from wind turbines. The noise levels of a modern wind farm is between 35 and 40dB at the nearest property on a very windy day. Everyday noises for comparison are: Quiet Office, Library 40dB, Electric shaver 50-80dB, Vacuum cleaner 70dB.

The proposed community fund is up to £270,000 every year which amounts to £9.45M over the 35 year lifetime of the project, index linked.

Please visit our website or email the project team if you have any questions.
hirfynydd@edf-re.uk



The process

The planning application has still to be submitted. We are working on the final design following feedback from the two rounds of public information days and engagement with stakeholders including Cadw, Natural Resources Wales and the Local Authority. We will present the draft Environmental Statement to statutory consultees and the public during a six week statutory consultation period, most likely later this year.

Find out more about the environmental assessments we are undertaking on the Planning and Environment Decisions Wales portal, here <https://planningcasework.service.gov.wales/> quoting case number CAS-02084-T4Z8W4.

Proposed Hirfynydd Energy Park



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

*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.

Context - Climate Change

Climate change is one of the biggest threats we face. This summer, we are witnessing the serious consequences of rising global temperatures with extreme heat across Europe, the US and China, as well as wildfires and devastating flooding.

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 55% 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.

