



Press Release

1st March 2010

Energy Prospects – A New Fund for Community Wind Farm Development

Energy4All, the social enterprise behind the creation of seven successful wind power co-operatives in England and Scotland, today, March 1st, announced the creation of a new co-operative – one that will provide capital to community projects to take them through the costly stages leading to obtaining planning permission for a wind farm. Upon receiving planning permission, the projects will raise share capital through their own share offers, whilst paying Energy Prospects a fee.

The intention is that this will overcome a major barrier to the further expansion of community energy co-operatives in the UK – namely the lack of access to funds and resources to take a potential project through the planning process. Funds will therefore be available to enable, for example, environmental surveys, archaeological assessments, wind energy assessments, and all the other component stages that go into what is typically a very full and detailed planning application.

Energy Prospects will itself be co-operatively owned and run, and a share issue is now underway offering investors the opportunity to invest between £500 and £20,000 in the co-operative. Importantly, approval has been given by HMRC to this investment qualifying for Enterprise Investment Scheme tax relief.

Said Rod Blunden, Chairman of Energy Prospects, “The opportunities for individuals to act on Climate Change are many, but the concerted approach that would make a more substantial difference has so far lacked momentum in the UK. We have the best wind resource in Europe, but progress in community ownership of this resource is slow. The major obstacle in the UK is the substantial cost of seeking planning permission, and the unpredictability of the outcome, with the risk of rejection. Energy Prospects will take a pooled approach – where the intention is that successful projects pay a fee that both covers the costs of projects that are not successful, and deliver a profit to investors.”

Energy4All Limited

UNIT 33, TRINITY ENTERPRISE CENTRE, FURNESS BUSINESS PARK, BARROW IN FURNESS, CUMBRIA, LA14 2PN

TEL: 01229 821028 FAX: 01229 826075 EMAIL: info@energy4all.co.uk WEBSITE: www.energy4all.co.uk

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The share offer will close on 26th May 2010 – earlier if the maximum capital sum of £1 million is reached, or later if extended at the board’s discretion. Enterprise Investment Scheme status enables the investor to obtain full tax relief on the investment made, together with capital gains / loss advantages.

Prospective investors may obtain a detailed Offer Document from Energy4All by visiting www.energy4all.co.uk or by calling Energy4All offices on 01229 821028 or by emailing to claire@energy4all.co.uk

Editor’s Notes:

Contact: Simon Williams, Director of Marketing, Energy4All
simon.williams@energy4all.co.uk
m: 07710 865 224

Energy4All: Is the UK’s leading social enterprise promoting community ownership of renewable energy. Established in 2002, the company creates and manages renewable energy co-operatives established as Industrial and Provident Societies and operating on the democratic principle of “one member, one vote”.

The company runs on a not-for-profit basis and is owned by the co-operatives it creates.

Energy Prospects: Will become an independent co-operative with its own board and decision authorities.

Project Profiles: Comprehensive case studies available on request. More details of all Energy4All projects at www.energy4all.co.uk

Baywind Co-op: Operated two share offers, the first of which raised £1.2m in 1996 to purchase two turbines at an existing wind farm. The second share offer paid for a turbine at a neighbouring site. The community interest generated by these projects provided the impetus for the creation of Energy4All.

Fens Co-op: Two out of five wind turbines on an existing wind farm. Purchased by the Fens Co-op after successfully raising £2.66 million in its share offer.

Westmill Co-op: £8 million project to construct five wind turbines, now operational in Oxfordshire. The project is 100% community owned and built with the assistance of Energy4All. More details at www.westmill.coop