



Compendium of wind success

Wind[°]
EUROPE

SUCCESS STORIES

AUSTRIA

- Burgenland was once a poor, economically isolated region along the edge of the iron curtain. In 2000, the region produced only 3% of its electricity consumption. In 2006, local politicians voted for 100% renewable electricity by 2013, boosting wind power. Since 2013, wind turbines produce 40% more than the demand and export electricity to Vienna.
- Austrian engineers have built 170 MW of wind power in almost 2000 metres above sea level. The wind farm in Salzstiegl now produces five times more electricity than they need for the local ski resort.

BELGIUM

- The foundry of Magolux believes the future is green. The company will be able to recuperate around 70% of its energy thanks to new wind turbines. Representatives of the trade union CSC praise wind turbines also as a guarantee for jobs.
- In the smart wind farm in the port of Antwerp, the industry (Luik Natie) prevents local congestion with a cold buffer (fridges) when the wind energy production is peaking. The wind farm avoids curtailment and the industry gets cheap power.

CROATIA

- The Korlat wind farm brought €80m of investments to Croatia. Mayor Branko Kutika stressed that wind farms are good for the environment and bring significant revenues to the town budget due to the annuity.

- Acciona's 30 MW Jelinak wind farm pays 0,01 kn/kWh for each produced kWh over the lifetime of the project. The Seget municipality receives around €110.000 per year.

DENMARK

- Hvide Sande is a small fishing community with the fifth largest port on the west coast of Denmark. In 2010, the local Homsland Dunes Tourism Association, along with local unions, industry and utilities, established a community foundation for the purposes of constructing three offshore wind turbines of 3MW on shoreline owned by the harbour. While the project benefits the tourism association, it was also intended to broadly contribute towards local development of the harbour and the community. According to its bylaws, the foundation has a purpose to "support the development of Hvide Sande harbour and the tourism in Ringkøbing/Skjern Municipality by production of renewable energy." The foundation owns 80% of the project, while the other 20% is owned by Hvide Sande Nordhavn Møllelaug I/S. The harbour benefits from an annual rent of DKK 4.8 million paid by the foundation. Once established, the foundation raised the appropriate amount of capital; then, as a distinct legal entity, it borrowed the rest from a local lending institution. Once this is paid off (estimated at between 7-10 years), the foundation will have approximately €1.2 million per year to spend on local development.

ESTONIA

- The Saaremaa shipyard producing O&M ships for offshore wind is the biggest salary payer in Saaremaa – Estonia's biggest island. They produce their own energy with their own wind turbines.

- Tallinn, the capital of Estonia benefits from green industries. The Marketex Offshore Construction employs 200 workers in Estonia, has a turnover of €26m and delivers lattice and monopile structures, transition pieces, boat landings, staircases, platforms, suction buckets. In Tallinn, there is also a Reval marine & offshore training centre with 45 employees and the home dock of Icebreaker Botnica with 150 employees, which also offers services to offshore wind sector. Nearby in Jüri, ABB's factory produces wind generators, frequency converters, PV inverters, compact substations, electric drives and engines. ABB has invested €90m in Estonia since 1992 and employs 1300 people.

FRANCE

- St Georges sur Arnon has 600 inhabitants and benefits from wind power. In 2015, the mayor of St Georges sur Arnon said that the community received €10,000/turbine in taxes or €140,000 per year. Farmers providing land for the turbine also earn €5,600.

GERMANY

- Sailershäuser Wald is one of Lower Franconia's biggest community wind farms. The ten 2.4 MW turbines supply 10% of the district's electricity demand and prevent 29 t CO₂, 75% of the equity came from residents, municipalities and utilities. The community received dividends of around 3% for 20 years.
- The conservative mayor of Büttstedt in Thuringia is pragmatic. The city wanted a multi-purpose hall that cost €2m and had to renovate the primary school. The city could realise these projects without a major loan thanks to 17 wind turbines that have been delivering around €140,000-185,000 since 2003. This increased additional €45,000-60,000 after the repowering.
- Bidingen, a town of 1,600 inhabitants, was deeply indebt. The residents voted in favour of building a 3 MW turbine, producing 6,500 MWh per year. An annual net profit of €150,000 helps the town to redress the budget.

GREECE

- The south of the island of Evia, Greece, is one of the areas with the highest wind potential in the country. It has many wind farms, constructed between 1998-2017. At the end of 2017, their total capacity was 218.7 MW (an additional capacity of 28.2 MW has been constructed but is not yet in operation). In 2017, 62 inhabitants of South Evia were directly employed to work on the wind farms. This is nearly four times more jobs created per MW produced in the wind farms of South Evia compared to those created in the first modern-type private gas station in Greece (0.3 local jobs/MW versus 0.08 jobs/MW). The wind farms have already delivered a total benefit of €82.6m, from construction to operation. Their operation alone (local works, local supplies, compensatory projects, sponsorship, and a special tax of 3% on the wind farm revenues) brings €3.9m each year, without counting direct jobs or indirect benefits. Various local projects have been financed with this money: purchasing fire trucks, developing flood protection mechanisms, rehabilitating rural hospitals, renovating various infrastructure, sports clubs and cultural centres... New projects such as the 167 MW Kafireas wind farm will create even more jobs and bring even more benefits to the South Evia local economy.

IRELAND

- SSE and Coillte developed Galway Wind Park jointly invested over €280m, with €90m contributed to Irish Gross Domestic Product during construction, and €20m spent with local suppliers and contractors.
- Microsoft entered into a 15-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with GE to purchase 100% of the wind energy from its new, 37-MW Tullahennel wind farm in County Kerry.
- The community benefit fund of the Raheenleagh wind farm gives residents 45k per annum (index linked) for the lifetime of the project. The money supported the redevelopment of the Balliyfad community hall and a Gaelic Athletic Association in Kilanerin.

NETHERLANDS

- Energy cooperative ZummerePower and Energiekontor aim to establish a wind energy initiative in the Diepenhoek - the Diepenhoek social wind park - consisting of approximately eight wind turbines. A substantial part of the financial revenues of this wind farm will go to the community, in accordance with the norm of the NWEA code of conduct on support and participation in wind. The first ten years an extra donation will be donated in the social sustainability fund.

POLAND

- Margonin is not only home to 6,000 people. Margonin is also home to 60 turbines. Poland's biggest wind farm has 120 MW and is an excellent example showing how wind farms bring local benefits. When the operation started, taxes contributed 25% of the municipality's budget. The developer, EDPR, is still paying the same amount of taxes today and is in close collaboration with the community. This collaboration has led to the development of several social responsibility programs a new football stadium and other infrastructure upgrades. Today, Margonin is one of the richest municipalities in the region thanks to the wind industry.
- Kobylnica is one of the first municipalities to have agreed to a construction of wind farms. There are several dozens of wind turbines there with a total installed capacity of 130 MW. Thanks to the turbines, the municipality gains, approximately, an additional PLN 4m every year (from real estate tax and rent) which accounts for about 10% of its budget revenues. The money is used, among other things, to build water and sewage systems and new roads, repair cultural facilities and upgrade schools and sports facilities.

PORTUGAL

- Enercon invested €200m in the facility in Viana do Castelo, which also included the transformation of an old shipyard into a modern construction plant. With 1,500 direct jobs, Enercon is the biggest employer besides the municipality and contributed 2.5% of its income to the local budget.

SPAIN

- As pointed out by the mayor of Les Coves de Vinromà, Mònica Nos, "the wind industry has secured and created employment for Les Coves de Vinromà, a municipality of around 2,000 inhabitants. Historically, the economic activities came from agriculture and livestock. The town was hit hard by the last economic crisis: Factories closed and people moved to the cities.
- In 2007, the company LM Wind Power installed a wind turbine factory in the town, which gave the municipality a respite by gradually creating jobs and promoting the launch of new services in the area. Today the plant employs 628 people, of which 120 come from Les Coves de Vinromà and the rest from neighbouring towns. Since the construction of the factory, which was later expanded, its collaboration with the municipality has been constant and has improved the lives of citizens and the municipality has made good use of this circumstance to improve the lives of their neighbours (organization of activities sports, start-up of services for the conciliation of the families that work in the factory, etc.). Factories such as Les Coves show that the wind industry in Spain mean employment for municipalities."
- In Castilla y León, we find Lubián, a municipality in the community of Alta Sanabria, located in north Zamora. The resources generated by the installation of wind farms have been managed by the Town Hall and the Neighbourhood Councils. Both of them have worked together for the sake of the municipality and its six villages. The Neighbourhood Councils have invested in different actions and goods in the interest of the community, for example a pool in Hedroso, the culture centre and the soup kitchen in Aciberos, a space for cultural activities, a paddle tennis court, a park for both, children and elderly people, and the restoration of the parish church in Lubián.

UK

- For its European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre, Vattenfall will hand over £150,000 every year in local community benefits for the 20-year operational life of the £300m Aberdeen Bay wind-powered electricity generators.
- 100 new wind turbine technicians help to assemble the 56 x 6MW German-built turbines for the Galloper Offshore Wind Farm at a pre-assembly yard in Great Yarmouth. Amongst the mechanics there are former oil and gas workers who faced redundancy and are happy that they could transfer some of their skills.
- An Argyllshire housing co-operative is to build a new three-turbine wind-power station that will generate £15.6 million of community and charitable benefit over the next 20 years.
- The 6.9 megawatt power plant will produce enough clean energy to power around 4000 households for Fyne Homes. The community benefit funding will be distributed equally to three community initiatives: One third will support social housing charitable objectives led by Fyne Homes. One third will support charitable employability and environmental priorities led by Fyne Futures, and one third will be invested in local priorities identified by the local community. Colin Renfrew, chief executive, Fyne Homes, said: “The long term income from this development will ensure that we can continue to reinvest in our charitable objectives for social housing, local employment and sustainability, as well as providing investment for local priorities.”
- Beinn Ghrideag wind farm (BG) is a 9MW wind farm in the Outer Hebrides which was commissioned in November 2015 after 10 years of development. It has been 100% community owned and managed from the outset. It is by far the largest community wind farm in the UK (the norm is less than 2MW). All the net profit is donated to the Point and Sandwick Trust which is a community charity who’s Board is elected by the voters in the Point and Sandwick district (about 1,000 electors). The remit of the charity is to promote the social, cultural, environmental and educational well-being of the communities of Point, Sandwick and the whole of the Outer Hebrides archipelago (about 28,000 people). The trust is expected to make £900,000 profit in 2018, enabling it to support a wide range of good causes, from major lifeline donations such as the £55,000 a year to Bethesda Care Home and Hospice to £500 for local schools in Point and Sandwick.
- Westmill Co-op was established in 2004 to build and operate a community-owned wind farm at Westmill Farm in Oxfordshire. The co-op has financed the purchase and construction of five wind turbines through a 4.6m fundraising campaign that saw the public able to buy shares in the project and was supplemented by a bank loan. Westmill Windfarm Co-op has over 2,000 members. Profits from the five turbines are distributed to community funds, such as sustainable energy and educational activities along with share interest to the members. Westmill funds an energy conservation trust to promote energy conservation in the local community. WeSET provides information and grants for efficiency measures within the local area as well as supporting arts and education projects.