Let’s talk about shaping a cleaner and better energy future

Helping our customers. We’re on it.
For each of our renewable energy developments, we recognise the importance of the local community’s role in helping us reach our aims. We pride ourselves on being a responsible developer and a good neighbour, and we look forward to working with you to achieve our vision of a lower carbon future.

A cleaner and better way

Tony Cocker CEO, E.ON UK
We’ve been changing energy for the better since 1991, when we invested in our first onshore wind farm. Now, we’re investing hundreds of millions of pounds in generating lower carbon energy from renewable sources and cleaner fossil fuels.

We’re one of the UK’s leading renewable energy generators. We own and operate a portfolio of onshore and offshore wind farms and have one of the UK’s largest dedicated biomass plants. We’re shaping the energy industry of tomorrow, creating secure and sustainable energy supplies for future generations.

Between 2012 and 2016, we’re investing €7 billion in our renewable generation activities around the world.

Who we are...

E.ON is one of the world’s leading power and gas companies. Here in the UK, we supply electricity and gas to more than 5 million customers, generate enough electricity for approximately 8 million homes and employ around 12,000 people.

“I feel a huge sense of pride. Pride in the vessel crews that safely take us to work each day when we go offshore… pride in the team that operate and maintain this wind farm… and the high levels of safety that we have on site.”

Sally Shenton, Robin Rigg Site Manager
To help us rise to this challenge, we’ll need a balanced generation portfolio that includes renewable energy and cleaner fossil fuels. We’ll play a key role in developing the renewable energy technologies we need to make this happen.

We’re committed to a low carbon future

The Government has set strict targets for the UK as a whole:

• To generate 15% of our energy from renewable sources by 2020.
• To reduce our carbon emissions by 80% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels.

We’re determined to help contribute towards these targets.

Why is E.ON focusing on renewable energy?

Within the next 10 to 15 years, around a third of the UK’s power stations will reach the end of their operational lives and we need to replace them with cleaner energy sources. It’ll be a challenge to ensure we can provide a clean, reliable power supply, keep up with the growing demand for energy, and achieve all of this in the most affordable way.

Did you know?

Our renewable energy developments could power over one million homes in the UK.
Putting your community at the heart of our developments

We’re proud to be a responsible developer. When we’re developing a renewable energy project, we’ll take into account its potential impact on your local community, the environment and wildlife in the area. We’ll also look at how we can support local people during the development process.

Our promise to your community

We’re keen to play an active and positive role within your community. We’ll:

• work closely with individuals and organisations to make sure our project has the least possible impact
• keep you informed throughout the development process to build awareness and understanding of both renewable energy and our project, and to listen to your views
• use local suppliers and services where possible when we construct and operate the project
• keep you updated through progress reports and newsletters, as well as providing a freephone number and email address so you can contact us directly.

Morrison Construction is a company based in the Highlands that we’ve employed to carry out work on two of our sites in the region – Rosehall Wind Farm and Camster Wind Farm.

“I congratulate E.ON for the way they have approached the community consultation process for the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm. They have set a very good example of best practice for others to follow and I look forward to seeing the final proposal they put forward.”

Norman Baker, MP for Lewes
Helping you share the benefits

When we develop a renewable energy project in your area, we want local people and organisations to benefit. We’ll provide a Community Benefit Fund that will support community projects throughout the operational life of the project.

About the Community Benefit Fund
We’ll work with your local community to tailor our Community Benefit Fund package to meet your area’s specific needs. The money can be used to fund a variety of activities, such as environmental education programmes, community building refurbishments and energy efficiency schemes, and to support local groups and organisations.

Our work in the community
- We’re one of only 41 UK companies to be awarded the Community Mark – a national standard of excellence in community investment.
- The East Durham Play Community Network received a grant of £3,200 from our Community Benefit Fund for Haswell Moor Wind Farm. This helped buy new materials for their Play Rangers Club and fund health and fitness activities for the children. It’s just one of the ways this community has benefited from their fund.
- We’ve also supported the Dumfries and Galloway Eco Schools Programme where we’ve donated £40,832 over two years to employ an Eco Schools Officer. The officer helps pupils understand both the importance of monitoring energy consumption, and the link between supplying energy and potentially damaging the environment.

“...I think wind farms are a good thing, it can only be a good thing that you can create energy that’s not going to run out, it’s always going to be there.”

Students from Netherhall School, Ovenden Moor
Let’s talk about some of your concerns

Wind turbines are popular with farmers because their land can still be used for growing crops or grazing livestock. Sheep, cows and horses are not disturbed by wind turbines and have been known to graze right up to the bases of the turbines.

No source of electricity generation is able to produce power all year round. Wind turbines are capable of generating electricity for approximately 80% of the year, which is comparable with other sources of power. Energy production will vary on the strength of the wind.

Modern wind turbines are surprisingly quiet. You can have a conversation standing beneath one without having to raise your voice. We always follow the strict guidelines on wind turbines and their noise emissions set out by the Energy Technology Support Unit’s (ETSU) ‘Working Group on Wind Turbine Noise’. During our site selection process, we make sure the wind farm will be far enough away from nearby houses so that noise levels will fall below the required limits.

Recent increases in energy bills have been largely driven by rising international prices for fossil fuels, particularly gas, and not by energy and climate change policies. Energy bills are likely to continue on an upward trend over time as a result of rising fossil fuel prices and network costs.Whilst gas will continue to play a role in our future generation mix, fuel free generation, such as wind, will insulate us against the risk of volatile fossil fuel prices. The Government has assessed the impact of green policies and concluded that customer bills will be on average 7% less than they would have been without these policies including the growth of renewable energy.


Source: Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) report - Estimated impacts of energy and climate change policies on energy prices and bills 2011.
How we develop a renewable energy project

When we’re developing a renewable energy project, we follow a thorough planning process. We spend a lot of time, money and effort on making sure we choose a site that has the best possible potential for generating energy, while minimising our impact on the surrounding area. To ensure we make the right decisions for everyone involved, we’ll work closely with your local authority and members of your community throughout the development process.

1. Choosing a suitable site

If an area is a good location for a wind farm, we’ll look carefully at a wide range of factors. These include:

- wind strength and speed
- how close the wind turbines would be to people’s homes
- local wildlife and how they use the area, including bird migratory routes
- the area’s local, national or international significance, for example there could be historic monuments in the area
- environmental rules, and local and national policies that may limit how or where we can build the wind farm.

We’ll work with independent specialists to carry out a thorough Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the potential site. We can then determine if the site’s suitable for a wind farm and identify any issues we’ll need to address.

2. Consulting with the local community

When we’ve identified a suitable site, we’ll ask local people and organisations for their views on the proposed wind farm. You’ll be asked to comment on aspects of our plans, such as design, access arrangements, the connection to the electricity network, and construction management. This is your opportunity to help shape our proposal.

3. Submitting our planning application

Next, we’ll prepare and submit a detailed planning application to the local authority or, for larger projects, directly to a planning authority. We’ll include information about how we would design the wind farm and how much power it could generate, as well as a thorough Environmental Statement demonstrating the findings from the EIA. When we’ve made our application, local people and organisations will be able to contact the local authority or government body to comment on our proposals.

4. Building the wind farm

If our application is accepted, we’ll start developing our plans for constructing the wind farm. The construction work will involve creating access roads, laying foundations and building the wind turbines. When the wind farm is complete, we’ll connect it to the electricity network. During the wind farm’s construction and operation, we’ll use local suppliers and service providers where possible, to help benefit your local area.

5. What’s next?

Typically, the wind farm will generate renewable energy for over 20 years. As soon as the site is operational, local people will start benefiting from the Community Benefit Fund.

An example of our development process
Building an onshore wind farm:
By 2013, we’ll have around 280 megawatts (MW) of onshore wind farms in operation, which will produce enough renewable electricity to power more than 140,000 homes.* We also have over 1 gigawatt (GW) of other onshore wind projects in various stages of development across the UK.

Did you know?
As one of the windiest countries in Europe, the UK’s abundant wind resources are capable of powering our country several times over.

Source: RenewableUK (formerly BWEA)

As one of the most affordable renewable energy technologies available today, we believe onshore wind will play a significant role in helping the UK meet its targets for renewable energy production and reducing carbon emissions.

*Based on an average annual domestic household electricity consumption of 4,700kWh (DECC).
We helped pioneer offshore wind farm technology in the UK and currently have five projects in operation and construction in UK waters. These include a two turbine wind farm at Blyth, off the Northumberland coast, that can generate 4MW of energy. Scroby Sands, which was one of the UK’s first commercial offshore wind farms, has 30 turbines that can generate up to 60MW of power - providing enough renewable electricity for around 33,000 homes* a year. The visitor centre has become a popular tourist attraction with around 40,000 people visiting each year.

We also own and operate Robin Rigg, a 180MW site in the Solway Firth, which has 60 turbines generating electricity for around 100,000 homes* each year. It won Best Renewable Project at the 2010 Scottish Green Energy Awards and is already benefiting the local community through its £1 million Community Benefit Fund.

We’ve recently completed construction of Phase One (630MW) of the 1,000MW London Array Offshore Wind Farm, with our partners DONG Energy and Masdar. London Array is the world’s largest offshore wind farm, with 175 turbines in Phase One alone.

Future offshore developments

In 2012, we started building a new offshore wind farm in the Humber Gateway. This will be sited around 8km off the Holderness Coast in the East Riding of Yorkshire. The 73 turbines will generate up to 219MW of electricity, enough to power up to 170,000 homes* each year when completed in 2015. The Crown Estate has also given us the right to apply for consent to build a large-scale wind farm off the Sussex coast. With an installed capacity of up to 700MW, this development was named ‘Rampion’ after the Sussex county flower by students at Davison High School in Worthing. It has the potential to supply power to around 430,000 homes* each year.

* Based on an average annual domestic household electricity consumption of 4,700kWh (DECC).

Offshore wind
Building tomorrow’s energy at sea

Why offshore?

Offshore wind is an incredibly powerful source of renewable energy. It’s likely to play a key role in our long-term plans to reduce our carbon dioxide emissions and we’re determined to explore its full potential.

Offshore wind farms can generate more energy than onshore sites because the wind blows faster and stronger at sea. However, it’s currently more expensive and challenging to develop and build offshore projects, as the sea is a hostile environment. Our dedicated offshore wind team has the skills and experience to successfully overcome these challenges.

Did you know?

Less than 1% of the UK’s seabed would be needed to site enough wind turbines to generate 40% of the UK’s electricity needs.

Source: RenewableUK (formerly BWEA)
Biomass is a cleaner, more sustainable alternative to fossil fuels. It can be described as any organic material that’s available on a renewable basis. This includes sawmill residues and recycled waste wood, sustainable forestry, and specially-grown energy crops, such as willow.

Some of our biomass renewable energy plants are powered by plant fuels that we can harvest when we need them and easily replace. Others are powered by waste wood and recycled materials. We’ll identify best practice in wood fuel purchasing, and always seek to ensure that all wood products are purchased from a sustainable and socially responsible source.

We encourage an industry-wide accreditation scheme for sustainable biomass, and it’s our intention to source biomass and wood product material from suppliers certified under the FSC, PEFC or a similar recognised sustainability scheme. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) are non-profit organisations with a globally recognised reputation in social and environmental forestry. We’ve developed a group-wide biomass and wood procurement policy which sets out our commitment to sourcing fuel in a way in which is both responsible and sustainable.

Generating renewable energy from biomass has the potential to make a significant contribution to meeting the UK’s heat and energy generation needs in the future. According to the Government’s Renewable Energy Strategy, biomass could account for up to 25% of our renewable energy needs by 2020.

Our biomass portfolio:

- We operate one of the UK’s largest dedicated biomass renewable energy plants at Steven’s Croft near Lockerbie. This award-winning 44MW scheme generates enough energy to power around 70,000 homes* each year.
- In November 2011, we started building a 30MW biomass plant at Blackburn Meadows in Sheffield. This will burn waste wood to generate electricity.
- In 2012, we converted Innotransit Coal-fired Power Station to operate on wood pellet fuel. The converted plant became operational in early 2013 and will run on the new fuel mix until its planned closure in December 2015, under the Government’s Large Combustion Plant Directive (LCPD).
- We’re also proposing to develop a 150MW biomass plant at the Royal Portbury Dock in the Port of Bristol.

* Based on an average annual domestic household electricity consumption of 4,700kWh (DECC).
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Let’s talk about shaping a cleaner and better energy future