

Bright Spark Energy has agreed to pay £5,000 per megawatt installed per annum into a Community Benefit fund in connection with the Cromarty Wind Turbine Development. That is the target level of the Highland Council (not the minimum as has been suggested by some detractors of the scheme). The final configuration of a 4.0 MW project was arrived at through a process of mitigation of factors beyond our control but in general with a view to minimising the effects of the project on residents, ecology and aviation interests.

While the agreement is on a per MW basis we are aware that a headline number of £35,000 is what people will have focussed on (based on an original expectation of a 7.0 MW scheme). With a view to supplementing the level of Community Benefit, but without putting undue strain on the project, Bright Spark Energy will introduce a 'Bright Gordon Bonus' which will be related to actual output. This does not form part of the agreement for Community Benefit but rather comes from the origins of the scheme and the wishes of Bright Gordon in terms of relationship with the community of Cromarty.

The theoretical maximum output from a 4.0MW scheme is 35,040,000 kwh per annum. A benchmark level of capacity factor often used in Scotland is 30% which would mean 10,512,000 kwh of production. For every 1% of capacity factor (which equals 350,400 kwh) over and above the 30% capacity factor a further contribution of £3,000 per annum will be made. In that manner if a capacity factor of 35% is achieved the Bright Gordon Bonus would be calculated at £15,000 and this would be added to the Community Benefit of £20,000.

The site is likely to produce well due to its altitude, exposure to prevailing winds and coastal position. In Aberdeenshire we operate a turbine which is the same as those to be employed for the Cromarty Wind Turbine Development and its capacity factor on a rolling twelve month basis has been in the range of 33%-40%.

We hope you will agree that the Community Benefit in isolation is material and something which can be put to good use in Cromarty. The Bright Gordon Bonus is a further unilateral contribution from Bright Spark Energy which further aligns the interests of the Cromarty Wind Turbine Development with the local community.

Duncan Cameron
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