

PRESS RELEASE



Hampshire Renewable Energy Co-operative responds to EDF Energy Renewables decision to withdraw from Bullington Cross Wind Farm appeal.

It is with some sadness that Hampshire Renewable Energy Co-operative (HREC) has learnt that EDF Energy Renewables have decided not to proceed with their appeal against the planning refusal for the Bullington Cross Wind Farm.

The decision is based both on the Government's withdrawal of subsidy support for on-shore wind farms in the UK and a transfer of decision making powers to local authorities.

Martin Heath, a director of the co-operative said:

"We had over 2,800 supporters for the Bullington Cross wind farm, which is an unprecedented level of support for any pre-planning wind farm in the UK. It shows that a significant proportion of the people of Hampshire want clean, modern and efficient renewable energy and they want the benefits to be returned to local residents. The recent Government announcement withdrawing support for on-shore wind farms flies in the face of what a very large number of the people of Hampshire wanted. Stopping wind farms will just mean we will all now need to rely on more expensive forms of low carbon energy such as nuclear and dirty forms of energy such as coal. Reliance on nuclear will increase household bills. Reliance on fossil fuels will produce more pollution and the need to import more expensive coal, oil and gas"

On-shore wind farms are one of the cheapest forms of renewable energy. 2,845 local people supported the wind farm application and this is in line with national figures that show 69% of people support wind farms and only 12% oppose them.

Andrew Thompson, Chair of HREC said *"It's a great shame that we as a nation have decided to no longer support one of the cleanest and most efficient ways of renewably producing electricity. The EDF Energy Renewables decision does not really come as a surprise. HREC has been looking at alternative opportunities for community owned renewables in Hampshire and we are at an advanced stage of discussions with developers and land owners for a number of solar farms in Hampshire. We hope to be able to get local investment into community solar farms in the very near future. HREC continues to grow."*

Bullington Cross remains a good site for wind farming; it is windy, isolated and at the cross roads of two of the county's busiest roads and may in future be revived as a site on which the people of Hampshire can generate their own energy independently from the large utility providers and thereby reduce overall dependence on imported fossil fuels.

The wind will still blow at Bullington Cross.

ENDS

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Notes to editor:

1. Hampshire Renewable Energy Co-op (HREC) is a co-operative formed by Hampshire residents aiming to develop community owned renewable energy projects throughout the county.
www.hampshire-energy.coop
2. HREC has negotiated a community stake in the Bullington Cross wind farm with EDF renewables that will be developing the site.
3. HREC is talking to land owners and developers about community owned solar in Hampshire.
4. Information about the proposed wind farm can be found here:
<http://www.edf-er.com/OurProjects/Proposed/BullingtonCross.aspx>
5. "With gas and electricity prices increasing by as much as a third..."
<http://www.theguardian.com/money/2013/nov/16/energy-prices-rise>
6. Community renewable energy generation:
<https://www.gov.uk/community-energy>