

NUDC wind energy public consultation meetings

North Uist Development Company

THE North Uist Development Company (NUDC) is to hold a series of public consultation meetings at the end of May and the beginning of June to update local people on the latest progress with its planned community wind project.

The group is planning a two-turbine 1.8MW project, which will be situated near Clachan. In the six months since the last public meeting in the autumn of 2011, there has been steady progress towards realising the goals of the project. The upcoming consultation sessions will be held immediately prior to an application for planning permission being made – the latest stage in the process.

The community meetings are being held at 7.30pm on the following dates and locations:

- Wednesday 20 June, Carinish Hall
- Thursday 21 June, Bayhead, former head teacher's house (next to Paible School)
- Tuesday 26 June, Berneray Community Hall
- Wednesday 27 June, Taigh Sgire Sholais
- Thursday 28 June, Lochmaddy Hall

The meetings will start with a brief presentation on where the project currently stands, followed by an opportunity for people to ask questions and informally view plans and other materials relating to the development.

The project is expected to raise significant amounts of revenue to be used for community purposes in North Uist.

NUDC Chair, Robert Fraser, says: "We envisage an annual income of £164,000 in the first 15 years of operation, rising to £357,000 in years 15 to 20. These are cautious figures, which, based on what other similar projects are achieving elsewhere in Scotland, we would reasonably hope to exceed. This is a project for the whole community and we do believe it is achievable. I would encourage people to come along to the consultations to keep up to date with the latest developments."

Once the two turbines are creating an income stream, NUDC plans to set up a separate body, comprising elected representatives, which will make decisions on funding priorities, as is common practice with other similar community renewable energy projects.

North Uist Development Company is a charitable organisation which exists to drive forward projects with a demonstrable consumer benefit.