

Wind Power

Communities investing in wind farms.

Membership

The members are investors in the co-operative. This may be defined by proximity to the wind farm. Members shares are equivalent to the value of their investment, but it is still one member one vote.

Benefits

Members benefit from the potential for a good rate of return on their investment, assistance in reducing energy bills, and the ability to directly support visible local action to tackle climate change.

Structure

The most commonly used structure is a co-operative Industrial & Provident Society. Partnerships with unlimited liability are used in Denmark with security provided by insurance policies. Community Interest Company has potential because of its asset lock.

Investment

Projects are typically developed using members investment capital (up to £20,000 per member for an Industrial & Provident Society) and/or loan stock together with debt finance. The share capital can be divided in such a way as to represent a proportion of the wind turbines annual electricity generation.

Accountability

Typically a board of non-executive directors, elected by members. Larger investors of significance to the local community (eg. social enterprises or local authorities) can be given board representation. Larger co-operatives may have electoral constituencies for a board of representatives which elects the directors.

Assets

Community investment co-operatives own the entirety of a wind farm or a number of turbines within a larger wind farm.

Advice and support

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Westmill, Oxfordshire



Cwmni Gwynt Teg, Wales