

Planning, Monitoring and Review of Renewable Energy Projects

OBJECTIVES

- To maintain and evaluate the existing UK renewable energy project database.
- To identify and report any trends or key planning issues associated with the determination and commissioning of renewable energy projects.
- To improve the facilities for data collection, data interrogation and dissemination of information.

SUMMARY

In 2000, the UK government announced its aim to supply 10% of UK electricity from renewable resources by 2010. The DTI's New & Renewable Energy Programme (managed by Future Energy Solutions, FES) monitors and reviews renewable energy projects in the UK in order to quantify the success of the funding mechanisms through which renewable energy projects have been encouraged. A database exists which tracks the planning status of every renewable project and provides a record of how many renewable energy developments have been established.



A Nordex N80 wind turbine (courtesy of Entec)

In March 2006, a collaboration of Entec UK Ltd (Entec) and Imass Ltd (Imass) was commissioned by FES to collate and maintain a database of accurate information for every proposed renewable energy development, with a capacity greater than 10kW in the UK; and to provide analysis and interpretation of the data to establish the UK's progress toward the 2010 targets.

In order to improve the efficiency of information capture, management and dissemination, the team will utilise specialist IT support and develop an IT solution that will automate the reporting process and provide greater access to the monitoring programme information. This will include the development of a web portal that will use GIS mapping technology for data monitoring and analysis. The web portal will also provide easy

access to the data by a wide audience.

The ultimate aim of the 'planning, monitoring and review of renewable energy projects' programme is to allow the DTI to measure how successful the UK has been in progressing towards their 2010 targets for electricity generation from renewable energy sources. In addition, Entec and Imass aim to interpret how and where progress is being made, and introduce an effective reporting mechanism, which maximises the availability and use of the information gained.

The database is due to be published 'live' through the GIS web portal by the end of April 2006. The ability to run data queries will be available from July 2006.

By improving the communication of the database, the information will become more valuable, and it is hoped that this will encourage local authorities, regional development agencies and developers to engage more actively with the programme.

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COST

The total cost of the project, £144,070 is being met by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

DURATION

24 months - March 2006 to
March 2008.

For further information about renewable energy please visit the DTI website at www.dti.gov.uk/renewables.

To obtain renewable energy publications from the DTI either visit www.dti.gov.uk/publications or telephone 0845 015 0010.