



Ardrossan Wind Farm Life Extension

Ventient Energy intends to request a variation of the existing planning consents for Ardrossan Wind Farm to allow for the continued operation of the wind farm for up to an additional ten years. Ardrossan Wind Farm consists of two planning consents granted by North Ayrshire Council on the 2nd September 2003 for twelve turbines (Ref: 02/00378/PP) and 26th November 2007 for three turbines (Ref: 05/01151/PP).

Why would Ventient like to extend the wind farm life?

In a typical year, the wind farm generates approximately 91.6 GWh of electricity, enough to power around approximately 23,846 homes¹. As well as continuing to provide clean electricity for the benefit of people and the planet, supporting decarbonization for a cleaner environment for future generations, and providing the local community with benefit funds to support their wellbeing, the wind farm contributes to efforts to overcome the energy crisis due to the increased price of non-renewable resources which affects millions of people's energy bills across the UK.

The continued operation of Ardrossan Wind Farm supports a number of technicians and contributes to the local economies within which the wind farm operates by using local firms where possible and through use of local accommodation and services. Technical assessment across many of Ventient's sites has demonstrated wind farms can continue to operate safely and efficiently beyond their originally anticipated lifespan. The proposed number of additional years of operation will be confirmed in the planning applications following completion of engineering analysis.

When will the applications be submitted?

The applications are likely to be submitted in Q3 2023.

Will traffic levels increase during the life extension period?

No, there will not be a significant increase in the level of traffic associated with the ongoing operation and maintenance of the wind farm. Condition monitoring systems are fitted to all wind turbines at Ardrossan which provide defect monitoring of all major components 24/7, 365 days of the year. Together with best practice maintenance improvements, this helps reduce the number of defects which may form and site visits required.

Is there a risk of increased noise as the turbines age?

The wind turbines will continue to be operated and maintained to Ventient's high standards therefore, there is no reason why noise levels from the turbines will increase. The wind farm will also continue to be required to adhere to the noise related planning consent conditions.

¹ Based on the Installed Capacity x Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) "all wind" load factor expressed as a fraction of 1[^] x number of hours in a year (8,760 hours) / Average Annual Domestic Electricity Consumption (MWh)^{^^}

[^]BEIS's long-term average load factor for "all wind" (31.84%) expressed as a fraction of 1 (0.3184). Source for capacity factors is [Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics](#) (DUKES) published annually by BEIS.

^{^^}Annual GB Average Domestic Consumption Values from [BEIS](#) (3,509kWh).



What caused the fire last year and how has this been addressed?

As a result of a turbine fire in July 2022, all turbines at Ardrossan Wind Farm are due to have an enhanced fire detection process put in place. This process will provide an earlier warning of potential fire and allow the operations team to identify and shut down the turbine.

Are you considering repowering the wind farm in the future?

Ventient has no current plans to repower the wind farm however, this may be an option which is considered in the future, and one which would be discussed with community councils and local residents in detail if pursued.

Will the community benefit package continue to be provided?

Yes. The community benefit package would continue throughout the proposed extended period of operation. The current community benefit fund amount for 2023 is £2,015 / installed MW, which will continue to track inflation under the current community benefit agreement, until the planning extension period in 2031 is reached. The fund will then be increased by 25 % for the extension period. In recent years, support has been provided to a wide variety of projects including to the following West Kilbride groups and associations: Community Support Group, Environmental Group, Yuletide Group, Civic Society and the Allotment Association.

For further enquiries please contact

E: windfarms@ventientenergy.com

Ventient Energy

4th Floor, 12 Blenheim Place, Edinburgh,
EH7 5JH

T: +44 (0)131 243 1380