



Onshore Wind Community benefits

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Onshore Wind: Community benefits



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

- For onshore wind - 'community benefit' is a voluntary payment or package of benefits provided by a wind farm developer to local communities. It is **voluntary, industry-led and totally outside the planning decision making process.**
- A way of recognising the community's role - not about mitigating the impact.
- Value usually calculated as an amount per MW of installed capacity: Until now, voluntary industry protocol has set a minimum of £1k per MW per year. DECC recently asked Industry to increase minimum amount from £1k to £5k/MW in England, for lifetime of the project.
- Communities and developers work together to decide how the money should be used – e.g. to provide households with money off their energy bills, pay for energy efficiency initiatives, establish local training projects or fund other community initiatives.
- No fixed rules about who the 'community' is, how the money should be spent and who should manage it.
- Community benefit packages for wind turbines are unlikely to be capable of being a material consideration in planning. To be 'material', a consideration must relate to the planning merits of the development, such as visual amenity or noise.