

PRESS RELEASE, 1 July 2010

News Release - for immediate release

Celebrations held to mark the completion of Edinbane Wind Farm

A two-day celebration to mark the completion of Edinbane Wind Farm, developed by leading European energy company Vattenfall, will culminate today (July 1) with an official opening ceremony and ceillidh.

Local councillors, officials and people with a professional association with the development and construction of the wind farm will gather this afternoon as the scheme is declared open.

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell MP, will be joined by Struan Primary School pupils Katie MacDonald, Siobhan Hunter and Jessica Jackson to cut the ribbon.

The youngsters were selected to take part in the event after winning a competition to design a device powered by the wind from recycled materials. Their classmates, as well as around 200 children from other local schools, visited the wind farm as celebrations got underway yesterday. The visit brought to life a week of lessons on renewable energy from representatives of Vattenfall.

Local residents were also given the chance to see the 18-turbine development up-close, before gathering on Wednesday night for a celebratory ceillidh in Portree, a visit described by the a local community council leader as "a fantastic day for the community".

Head of Vattenfall Wind Power, Anders Dahl, said: "We are very happy to be opening Edinbane Wind Farm with an exciting programme of visits and celebrations over two days which underline the value of local support for the project.

"Well over 300 local people and school children have visited the scheme in the past two days and we have been overwhelmed by people's enthusiasm and support.

"Edinbane Wind Farm is Vattenfall's first onshore wind farm in the UK and an important step towards delivering our ambition to make electricity clean."

Moira Macdonald, chair of the Skeabost and District Community Council, said: "Edinbane Wind Farm has proved to be a real local asset with people walking, cycling and running up to Edinbane Wind farm. And now we are looking forward to the community fund making a meaningful contribution to the area."

Mrs Macdonald concluded: "We would like to thank everyone at Vattenfall for laying on a fantastic day for the community and, in particular, making a great effort to get people who normally have difficulty getting around up to the wind farm."

Preliminary construction of the scheme commenced in early 2008 and was completed by June 2010. Edinbane Wind Farm has a total installed capacity of 41.4 MW and is capable of producing enough electricity to power more than 22,000 homes.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Vattenfall

- Vattenfall's vision is to be a leading European energy company. It is currently Europe's fifth largest generator of electricity and the continent's largest producer of heat.
- Celebrating its centenary last year, it has a vision to be climate change neutral by 2050 and to halve carbon emissions from its operations by 2030.
- Wind power is a cornerstone of Vattenfall's action on climate change and the UK is a key market for future growth.
- Vattenfall is playing an important role in UK onshore and offshore wind power projects around the UK including developing the substantial East Anglia Offshore Wind Farm, a joint venture with ScottishPower Renewables. Later this year it will complete the construction of Thanet Offshore Wind Farm, the world's largest.

www.vattenfall.co.uk