

The **co-operative** bank
good with money

Case study: Westmill Wind Farm

“ We couldn't have done it without The Co-operative Bank. The fact that they have a dedicated renewables team demonstrates their commitment to the sector. ”

Annette Heslop,
Company Secretary
Energy4All Ltd

Customer: Westmill Co-operative

Project: community-owned wind farm

The Co-operative Bank helped the residents of Oxfordshire to earn a place in the history books by co-funding the first wind farm in South East England.

Westmill Co-operative was established in 2004 under the guidance of Energy4All Ltd for the purpose of constructing and operating a community-owned wind farm at Westmill Farm, near Swindon in Oxfordshire. Four years later the ambitious plan came to fruition as a result of money raised from a public share offer and multi-million pound funding from The Co-operative Bank.

Westmill Wind Farm is the first 100% community-owned scheme in the South East. The five 1.3 MW Siemens Bonus wind turbines were erected in February 2008 and will generate enough green electricity to power the equivalent of 2,500 homes for the next 25 years.

Blown away by service

Annette Heslop, the Company Secretary of Energy4All Ltd, explains why the bank became involved in the project. "We already had a good relationship with The Co-operative Bank, not just Westmill but all our other energy co-operatives we've created over the years, so they were the obvious choice," says Annette. "We share the same ethos and they offered a much better service than their competitors. This project was all about supporting each other and we were fully supported at every stage by The Co-operative Bank."

Kelvin Cheetham, Business Development Manager at The Co-operative Bank's Head Office in Manchester and a member of the Renewable Energy Team, headed the deal to provide the crucial funding. He says, "At The Co-operative Bank we have a real aspiration to contribute to projects that not only fit perfectly with our ethical values, but also make full use of sustainable energy resources. A lot of hard work from a huge team of people has made this wind farm a reality and we are proud to have achieved a goal that provides green energy to thousands of homes and, above all, improves the state of our planet."

Power generated from the turbines is fed into the local grid. The electricity generated is sold through a Power Purchase Agreement to two separate electricity suppliers.

A dedicated team

Summing up the historic achievement, Annette says, "We couldn't have done it without The Co-operative Bank. The fact that they have a dedicated renewables team demonstrates their commitment to the sector. Having one-to-one contact with Kelvin made everything easier, especially during the due diligence stage when we were calling him once a day, and that level of service has continued. The Co-operative Bank is a much valued partner."



**Speak to our Structured
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