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## Case study: Delabole Wind Farm

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**Juliet Davenport,  
Chief Executive,  
Good Energy Group PLC.**

## Customer: Good Energy Group PLC

### Project: Delabole Wind Farm

The UK's first commercial wind farm at Delabole in North Cornwall, reopened in February 2011 thanks to a multi-million pound loan from The Co-operative Bank. With four new 2.3 MW turbines, the farm will increase its output and generate enough electricity to supply around 7,000 customers.

The brainchild of the Edwards family, Delabole Wind Farm was originally developed as a greener alternative to plans for a nuclear power station in the area. To part fund the initial scheme, the family of farmers sold their 150-strong dairy herd and milk quota and in 1991 their dream became a reality. The wind farm, with its 10 400kW wind turbines, was completed enabling the site to power the homes of around 3,000 customers.

In 2002, Delabole Wind Farm was purchased by the Good Energy Group PLC, the UK's only 100% renewable electricity supplier, with 26,000 domestic and business customers nationwide. "We were confident that advances in technology meant we could significantly improve efficiency by installing new turbines that would repower the wind farm," said Juliet Davenport, Chief Executive of Good Energy. "We planned to remove the existing turbines and replace them with fewer turbines, delivering greater output."

Good Energy has significant experience in energy generation. In addition, as a power purchaser the company has a thorough understanding of renewable energy generation, technologies and methods. Good Energy was also known to The Co-operative Bank as it purchases energy from seven bank funded projects, including wind farm projects at Cairnhill, St John's Wells and Westmill. So when Good Energy was looking for funding to help finance this second-generation project, the bank was a natural choice.

#### Putting ethical values into practice

"Ethics extend to all areas of our organisation and we employ strict ethical supplier guidelines, which the bank was able to meet," said Juliet. "They also have a specialist team dedicated to the renewable energy sector who have extensive experience in terms of funding and of the workings of this sector."

The cost of the project was £11.8 million. The bank provided £9.66 million and the rest was provided as equity by Good Energy. The wind farm was officially reopened to great fanfare by the Energy and Climate Change Secretary, Chris Huhne. Replacing the 10 original turbines with 4 larger ones has more than doubled the output of the wind farm and is helping to save over 13,700 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year. The electricity generated is sold to Good Energy and the income will enable them to repay the loan within 15 years, while supplying customers with 100% renewable electricity



The new wind turbines at Delabole are more powerful and have increased output and efficiency.

in the meantime. "We are delighted to have developed our relationship with Good Energy," says John Puddephatt, Business Development Manager at The Co-operative Bank. "We are committed to supporting innovative green energy and carbon reduction projects that have a positive impact on the environment."

Delabole is the first in a pipeline of new onshore wind energy projects being developed by Good Energy, and they plan to add around 50MW of new capacity in the next five years, enough to power the homes in a city approximately the size of Cambridge. "Both The Co-operative Bank and Good Energy have been at the forefront of renewable energy development for many years. I am delighted the bank's specialist Renewable Energy Team is a co-funder on this project," said Juliet. "Increasing capacity at Delabole will help contribute to Cornwall's and the UK's renewable energy targets, increase price stability for customers and take another step in helping the UK reduce its carbon footprint."

**Speak to our Renewable Energy Team**  
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**[co-operativebank.co.uk/corporate](http://co-operativebank.co.uk/corporate)**

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