

## UK Green Investment Bank invests in Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm



**Late in 2014 the UK's Green Investment bank (GIB) invested £240m in the UK's offshore wind energy sector when it purchased a 20% stake in Scira Offshore Energy Limited, the owner of the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm, from Statoil and Statkraft.**

This investment was part of a wider strategy being led by GIB to further strengthen the UK offshore wind

industry by enabling developers to recycle capital into new projects and to attract new investors into the sector.

Statkraft and Statoil have each retained a 40% stake in the business, and Statkraft remains the operator of the wind farm.

*"Statkraft is very pleased to have the UK Green Investment Bank as a new partner in the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm",* said Olav Hetland, Statkraft's

Senior Vice President for Offshore Wind.

*He continued: "As Europe's leader in renewable energy and a long term investor in the UK, we have clearly defined growth ambitions in the UK's offshore wind sector. This agreement will enable us to make further investment in project development, whilst at the same time maintaining our industry role as operator of the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm."*

## Power for UK homes

The latest published statistics show that a record amount of electricity was generated by wind during the 2014 calendar year, enough to supply the needs of more than 25% of the UK's 6.7 million homes. This represents a 15% increase on the amount generated in the 2013 calendar year; a rise from 24.5TWh to 28.1TWh.

**The Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm delivered 1088GWh in 2014 which, using the average annual domestic consumption figure of 4.192MWh in DECC DUKES, is sufficient electricity for 260,000 UK homes.**

Overall, in 2014 wind power, including National Grid connected projects and single turbines connected to local networks, provided 9.3% of the UK's total electricity supply, a rise of 1.5% when compared with 2013.

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# The Sheringham Shoal Community Fund

Since its establishment in 2010, the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund has made grant awards totalling around £280,000 to various community groups, charities and schools in North Norfolk.

The fund criteria relate to renewable energy, marine environment and safety, sustainability, or education in these areas. The fund is operated by Norfolk Community Foundation, and a panel made up of local representatives from the community, business and education sectors, sits twice a year to consider applications and award grants. Panel meetings happen in May and November.

## Case Study

### Sheringham Shoal Community Fund helps people 'get on their bikes'

The Sheringham Shoal Community Fund (SSCF) has awarded a grant of £6,800 to Kickstart of Dereham to invest in energy-efficient electric mopeds.

In rural counties such as Norfolk, travelling long distances to work or college for those reliant on public transport may be impossible, or if not impossible, constraining. Buses and trains do not always run at convenient times.

Kickstart began for this reason. Two ladies bought mopeds, out of their own pockets, for the use of two local youngsters who needed to get to college. Two bikes became ten, when in 2000, the husband of one of the ladies researched funding for the project. His success enabled him to register Kickstart as a charity, increase the number of bikes to 40, and hire premises in Dereham. Despite its ups and downs, today it employs nine members of staff, has a fleet of 261 mopeds, is 100% self-funding, and is the country's largest operation of its kind.

Dale Curtis took over as Project Manager in 2012; by then, funding had dropped and he needed to find ways of sustaining income. "Fortunately, Norfolk County Council could see the benefits of the operation, and gave us a one-off grant to plug the gap while we got back on our feet. We built up our fleet by investing in more petrol-driven mopeds – the best option available at the time," Dale explained.

However, Dale's vision was to expand the fleet with energy-efficient, greener, lighter, electric mopeds. He found a Yamaha



Dale Curtis with the five Yamaha electric mopeds

machine with a battery pack that allows it to run for 35 miles before recharging from a domestic supply, with the same speed as a 50cc petrol moped.

Armed with the facts, Dale applied to the SSCF for a grant to purchase the mopeds. The application was successful, and Kickstart took delivery of five Yamaha mopeds on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2014.

The plan is to implement a 6-month trial to compare cost, reliability and ease of use, with petrol-driven vehicles. "With a limited range before a 6-hour recharge, these mopeds won't be suitable for all our clients," explains Dale. "They will be used mainly for people who just need to get to work or college and back home. But if the trials are successful, I would like to see 50% of our fleet being electric mopeds in the future.

"I am grateful to the SSCF for allowing Kickstart to start down the road of clean energy. Development of the battery pack has taken colossal strides recently, and there is huge on-going investment. I'm very optimistic that we shall be able to go down this route in the future."

## Questions from the community...

### How many people now work at the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm?

Currently there are 82 people working from Wind Farm Place, of which 9 are contractors. Statkraft employs 30 individuals whilst 43 work for Siemens.

### Are marine mammal and bird surveys still undertaken on a regular basis at the wind farm site?

Scira's marine licence requires the Sheringham Shoal Wind Farm team to continue to undertake marine mammal and bird surveys. Depending on the time of the year, the vessel **Scotia W** leaves Grimsby between one and three times a month to conduct marine mammal and sea bird surveys. Additionally, between April and September each year, a Sandwich Tern tracking survey is undertaken as the wind farm is located within the flight path of this protected bird species.

If you would like a question answered in the next newsletter, please email [info@scira.co.uk](mailto:info@scira.co.uk)

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Sheringham Shoal is owned by Statoil, Statkraft and the Green Investment Bank through Scira Offshore Energy Limited. Statkraft is the operator for the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm. Scira Offshore Energy Limited is the legal entity.