

Frequently Asked Questions – Dragon Energy

1. Why is Dragon doing this? Will the price of Dragon gas go up because of the wind turbine investment?

We have developed a renewable energy strategy for various reasons. Firstly, we wish to decarbonise our operations as much as possible and take positive steps to reduce our carbon footprint, contributing to Wales' net-zero targets. Secondly, having power generators on-site in the shape of our solar farm and, hopefully in due course, our wind turbines will increase security of electricity supply for us and ensure that we remain a competitive business.

2. Is the project being subsidised by public money?

No. Dragon will not be receiving any Government or other public subsidies for the solar farm or the wind turbines.

3. How long has Dragon been considering wind turbines?

The introduction of renewable energy generation to the business has been considered for a number of years under our greenhouse gas and energy management plans which focusses on reducing our energy demand by harnessing technology and changing behaviours and developing renewable energy sources. The sequencing of solar followed by wind allows us to accelerate our first power from renewables and spread the considerable investment.

4. The wind turbines are bigger than the Wear Point turbines, why is this?

Wind turbine technology is developing fast and since the Wear Point turbines were installed, turbines have got bigger, and efficiency of turbines has improved considerably. In the interests of investment and power generation and therefore decarbonisation, finding the optimum turbine to suit the specific site conditions is key and will be studied throughout this feasibility phase.

5. How do you minimise the visual impact of wind turbines?

Over the years, wind turbines have become an increasingly normal part of the landscape, particularly around the Haven which is living up to its reputation as one of the UK's most important energy hubs. The landscape and visual impacts of each wind project are assessed on a case-by-case basis by landscape professionals, in close consultation with local planning authorities and statutory consultees, and with particular regard for potential impacts on sensitive landscapes such as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks. As part of this process viewpoints for the assessment of visual effects will be agreed with the relevant authorities. The wind turbine layout is partially designed with future views of the wind farm as a whole in mind, also mindful of any cumulative impacts, i.e., the combination of other wind developments in the area. Dragon Energy's proposed wind turbines would be placed in line with the existing Wear Point Wind Farm when viewed from the east or west, such that visual impacts are focused in places where they already occur. Planning permission for wind turbines is only granted if visual impacts are deemed to be acceptable by the determining authority. Although Dragon Energy's turbines will be higher (up to 40m) than Wear Point, as demonstrated by the photomontages, they do not appear

entirely uncharacteristic in the context of the Milford Haven Waterway, which is strongly influenced by large scale industrial facilities and existing wind turbines.

6. Will the wind turbines be noisy?

Improved technology of modern wind turbines has, among other things, resulted in an improved noise profile for many turbine makes and models. Noise is an important part of the Environmental Impact Assessment that is being prepared to inform the planning application, and Dragon has appointed specialist noise consultants to ensure that there will not be any unacceptable impact. Existing background noise, including the existing wind turbines, are taken into consideration in the assessments. The noise report will be available for public viewing once the planning application is submitted.

7. How are you making sure that construction traffic will not be an issue?

Professional transport and access consultants will assess the transport routes for the selected wind turbine components as well as normal construction traffic. The wind turbine components are classed as 'abnormal loads' due to their size and special measures will be carried out to transport them safely to site, such as a police escort, transporting them outside peak hours on the road network etc. A trial run will be undertaken with the haulier driving the turbine lorry without turbine components along the route to ensure they can pass everywhere and there are no bottlenecks. For normal construction traffic, the proposed routes are part of the documentation accompanying the planning application as well. The aim is to minimise impacts on the local road network to ensure road traffic will flow as normal, and our contractors will be briefed accordingly.

8. Will the Meadow remain in agricultural use?

Yes, the fields will continue to be grazed once construction is complete. The Meadow has been used for crops and grazing in the past, however it is not classed as top-quality soil and therefore restricting its use to grazing is of little agricultural significance.

9. Will property prices devalue because of having more wind turbines in the area?

Wind farms have been operational for decades in the UK and survey evidence to date does not reveal a negative trend in property values amongst properties in proximity to wind farms. According to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, there are no representative and peer-reviewed studies that suggest an effect either way.