

# Findhorn Wind Park

## Generators Connection Policy

October 2020



### Background

Since 2006 Findhorn Wind Park Ltd (FWP) has generated renewable electricity from our wind turbines at the Park Ecovillage. We sell this power to residents and businesses via New Findhorn Directions (NFD) who own and operate the distribution network at the Park.

At times that we do not generate enough power to meet the needs of the Park, FWP buys power from the grid to meet the shortfall. It varies from year to year, but the amount of electricity we import (buy from the grid) is similar to the power we export (sell to the grid) when we are generating more than the Park is using.

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) own and operate the national grid in this part of Scotland and FWP has a formal agreement with them governing the type and amount of generating equipment that 'we' can connect to the grid. Although this agreement is with FWP, it applies to all generating equipment connected to the grid via FWP's connection.

As an organisation aiming to promote renewable energy in practical ways, FWP has:

- installed 675kW of wind generation at the Park in 2006.
- granted the addition of 50kW of private PV generation systems at the Park at no cost.
- added its own 'rent-a-roof' PV systems on eight properties at East Whins in 2015.
- agreed to the installation of a Tesla Powerwall battery at the Hive in 2018.

FWP is committed to facilitating the addition of renewable energy generation systems at the Park with the objective of the ecovillage being a net exporter. As demand at the Park increases it is necessary for us to partner with others to meet this objective, as well as operating our own generation facilities.

### New Regulations

The increase in renewable energy generation presents challenges to the grid companies as it is more difficult to maintain a reliable and stable national electricity grid from intermittent supplies. In response, the grid companies have together agreed new technical standards that are now applied to the connection of any new generating equipment across Great Britain.

(continues)

FWP's export connection agreement requires that we meet these new regulations. We are working with SSEN to make the connection of further generation using different technologies practical. However, there will now be costs to FWP for the connection of new generation equipment of any kind.

### **Costs to Connect Generation at the Park**

We hope SSEN will apply the regulations to the Park with a light touch, but how light is not yet known. Nevertheless, there will be increased administration costs for FWP and these will depend on the technologies and scale of generation involved. There may also be delays in connecting some generating systems.

Further, unless we increase our export capacity, FWP will in future lose its ability to offer connections or to add a further wind turbine. To be cost effective this export capacity has to be increased in large blocks. An application under the new regulations will cost around £120/kW of increased installed generation capacity.

We are currently looking into what cost implications this will have for new connections to the Park grid and will publicise the details as soon as we are able to. In the meantime, please contact FWP via [duncan.easter@findhorn.cc](mailto:duncan.easter@findhorn.cc) if you are planning to install any new generation equipment such as PV or a battery that can feed power into the grid. (Such battery systems are classed as generators under the new regulations.)

**Duncan Easter (for FWP)**