

Helping provide a renewable energy solution



PROJECT
 Hole Farm Wind Turbine
SUPPORTED THROUGH
 RE:think Energy
FUNDING RECEIVED
 £20,000

John Hudson, owner of the Hole Farm near Shrewsbury.

The Hole Farm in Halfway House between Welshpool and Shrewsbury, is a 110 acre dairy farm with 140 cows run for the last 25 years by John Hudson.

When John began looking for ways to lower his fuel costs he decided to seek ways to harness the naturally windy landscape at the farm.

The end result is the wind turbine installed with support from the Re:think Energy programme.

The 15 kilowatt wind turbine is around the height of an oak tree and it is hoped will enable John to generate 26,000 of the 38,000 kilowatts of energy his farm uses each year.

John hopes this will enable him to save more than £2,000 per annum and a year and recoup his investment within seven years. The £42,000 turbine has been supported with a £20,000 grant

from the Re:think Energy programme which is funded through the Advantage West Midlands Rural Regeneration Zone.

RE:think Energy is delivered by the Marches Energy Agency and Shropshire Council and works with businesses to support and fund businesses keen on exploring environmentally friendly energy improvements.

Farm owner John Hudson explained: "We're in a pretty windy spot here at The Hole Farm and I'd been looking into the possibility of using a wind turbine to provide some of the energy for the farm for about four or five years.

"It's only been relatively recently, however, that the technology has been advanced and affordable enough for my needs.

"I'm really pleased with the turbine which is already producing energy for the milking parlour, bulk tank and water coolers.

"On average I'd expect to be using 38,000 kilowatts of energy each year and the turbine ought to be helping me to generate 26,000 of that with any surplus energy generated during quiet periods being directed back into the grid."

Matt Smith, Rural Regeneration Zone Partnerships Manager, said: "The Hole Farm turbine is not only a brilliant environmental project which fits with the sustainability targets of the Zone but it also has a major impact on the business.

"By saving more than £2,000 a year, John will have a major impact on his bottom line and competitiveness which is vital for businesses of all kinds to seek to achieve."

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