

## Gigha Renewable Energy Company Ltd

### Background

Residents of the Isle of Gigha created the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust which purchased the Isle of Gigha for £4.5 million in 2005. Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust manages the Isle and aims to regenerate the island through a number of enterprise, employment and housing initiatives. These include a housing improvement programme, a renewable energy project and the operation of a quarry. The trust identified the needs of being sustainable and hence the Gigha Renewable Energy was formed to develop and manage a wind farm.



### Mechanics

Wind turbines were commissioned on 21 January 2005 and are capable of generating up to 675 kW of power. Revenue is produced by selling the electricity to

the grid via an intermediary called Green Energy UK. Gigha residents control the whole project and profits are reinvested in the community. The cost of project £440,000 was raised from various sources. The energy generated is sold to Nation Grid. The estimated income is £150,000 a year, and this leaves a profit of £75,000 per year for the next 8 years. It is the first community owned wind farm in Scotland.

### Outcome

The wind farm produces approximately 2.1 gigawatt hours of electricity a year, approximately two thirds of the island's electricity requirements. This makes the Gigha windmills a small, but locally significant, producer of electricity. The three wind turbines, named 'The Dancing Ladies' by locals, are on the south of the island and have become a must-see tourist attraction. The successful community run business model won the Green Energy Award of the Scottish Renewable Energy Industry. In 2008 The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) has made an award to the Isle of Gigha in recognition of quality of thinking and planning in the Isle of Gigha Physical Masterplan and Design Guides commissioned by the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust. Gigha's success can encourage more local communities to develop their own renewable energy projects and business models.



For more information please visit: [www.gigha.org.uk](http://www.gigha.org.uk)