

**Regen SW is launching a new initiative; 'Communities for Renewables'.**

In response to the new localism agenda and an increasing number of enquiries from local communities, we are launching an initiative to support and bring together communities in the south west interested in developing local renewable energy projects.

**We are seeking communities that are particularly interested in generating finance for their own low-carbon initiatives, by harnessing their abundant local wind resources.**

**Background**

Communities are increasingly aware of the benefits and opportunities that harnessing their local renewable energy resources can offer. The introduction of the Feed in Tariff has dramatically improved awareness and the economics of small-scale renewable electricity generation technologies. In addition, communities are beginning to realise the significant potential revenue streams that larger projects eligible for Renewables Obligation Certificates, built under appropriate business models, can offer.

Wind energy is the most abundant resource of the south west and currently the most profitable. The revenue streams generated from harnessing this abundant resource could provide communities with the finance to deliver their low-carbon ambitions. These ambitions could range from installing energy efficiency and microgeneration technologies in homes and community facilities, to securing low-carbon services such as broadband or retaining local services.

Regen SW therefore wants to develop a new approach to harnessing our wind energy resources, which aims to ensure that local communities benefit from and drive local projects that in turn can help them finance other local low-carbon initiatives.



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The Westmill Wind Farm in Oxfordshire is a 100 per cent community owned scheme

**Next Steps** 





Ashley Vale Action Group, winner of the 2009 Green Energy Award for Best Housing Scheme

### Next steps

We are now asking communities to come forward to help us demonstrate that the drive and ambition exists within communities, but that there is a need for funding and support to achieve community ambitions.

We will be actively seeking funding to support communities that want to establish wind energy schemes in their area and finance their own local low-carbon initiatives. Our aim will be to draw funding into local communities that want to set up sustainable wind energy projects, to ensure as much of the revenue as possible is retained locally, helping the communities to become more vibrant and sustainable. From June 2010, Regen SW will be working with partners to provide information and support tools to assist communities in their journey towards harnessing their local wind energy resources.

### Your involvement

- If you are part of a community that is interested in sustainable energy, please register your community at [www.regensw.co.uk/projects/communities-for-renewables](http://www.regensw.co.uk/projects/communities-for-renewables).
- If you would like to know more about Communities for Renewables, or if you are a local community liaison officer who works with communities that are interested in sustainable energy, please email [communities@regensw.co.uk](mailto:communities@regensw.co.uk) for further information about the development of this initiative.