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Pioneering renewable energy village project earmarked for NE Scotland

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Wednesday, 02 December 2020



Robin Whitlock

Plans have been unveiled to construct a large-scale renewable energy park in the north east of Scotland, to deliver between 150 – 200 megawatts of green energy to supply to the Scottish grid, with the capacity to tens of thousands of homes across the north-east of Scotland.



Courtesy of Holistic Energy Ltd

It is estimated that 1500 jobs will be created to build the energy park while a further 25 permanent jobs will be created in the operation. The developers, Edinburgh-based Holistic Energy, hopes to commence in building in 2023 and be operational by 2026.

The ambitious, large-scale development is earmarked to be built on a purchased 40-hectare site close to the existing Peterhead Power Station, Aberdeenshire. It has attracted interest from an investment group - North China Power Engineering (NCPE) - who has purchased £800,000,000 (£800million) for the build-out phase.

Holistic Energy has completed a feasibility and evaluation study of what will be the UK's Low Carbon Energy Facility. The feasibility study has produced an outline layout of the full range of technologies to be used and how these will interact, to ensure the best possible

and the lower environmental impact.

Concepts have already drawn up to encompass and integrate several different energy generation technologies. These include a mixed fuel gasification biomass plant, a green biodiesel production facility and an aerobic digestion (AD) plant. These will be housed alongside solar PV, wind energy, and a green hydrogen production facility and large-scale battery storage facilities.

As a phase two to the project, Holistic Energy will explore the deep geothermal potential of the site. The company will work with several partners in design, civil engineering and construction phases, including Aberdeen-based companies Wood Group and XL Group. Will Rudd Davidson and Bel Design.

The backdrop to the proposed Renewable Energy Park in Peterhead is The Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan which sets out a strategic approach to transition Scotland's emissions from electricity generation to adopting a low carbon-based infrastructure for its future energy needs.

Dr Gen Cannibal, director of Holistic Energy, believes the complex systems approach to engineering a new renewable energy village will both showcase and utilise the capabilities of interlinked renewable technologies. This will create a multiple technology power station fit for the electricity consumption in a new era designed to consign a dependence on fossil fuel energy to history.

"The facility will have three primary purposes - to produce a local renewable power station in Peterhead which can approach the most commonly cited barriers to renewable uptake, to form a major R&D facility for new technologies that have reached the marketable stage but have not, as of yet, a large scale market application in the UK and thirdly, to provide a significant replacement to gas-powered plants in satisfying Scottish electricity demand and, hence, decarbonising the Scottish Economy" said Dr Cannibal. "The ambitions for the development of the Renewable Energy Village are to put Scotland and the UK as a world leader in energy transition projects and enhance our delivery timeline to low or zero carbon energy sources."

Support for Holistic Energy's proposed Renewable Energy Village has come locally from Aberdeenshire Council Economic Development Service, a private sector catalyst driving transformational change in north east Scotland's economy.

Holistic Energy has been planning and developing renewable and conventional petrochemical energy facilities for a number of years. The new Renewable Energy Village is its most ambitious project to date.

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