

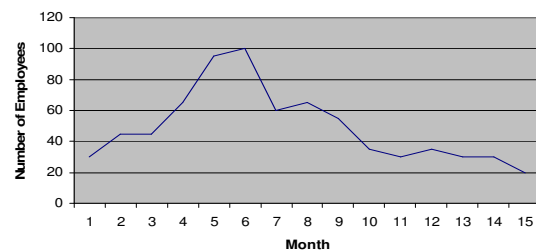
Case Study

Name	Dunbeath Wind Farm – Economic Impact Assessment
Capacity	66MW
Client	Falck Renewables/RDC
Project Type	Wind

Overview

Atmos Consulting has developed a rigorous approach to socio-economic impact assessments providing robust estimates of the economic impacts during construction, through operation.

Renewable energy projects can often bring significant socio-economic change to an area during their construction and ongoing operation. Both SPP6 in Scotland and PPS22 in England advise that applications should include details of the socio-economic benefits that will arise from a project. However, in many Environmental Impact Assessments and planning submissions, socio-economic impact is often treated as the Cinderella issue - overlooked, and underplayed. For many projects where those making the decision on the application have a finely balanced proposition to assess, it can potentially mean the difference between a project which fails and one which succeeds.



By undertaking research with the main contractors and utilising economic multipliers adapted from national input-output tables, we have been able to provide robust, defensible estimates of the economic impacts of wind farm development during the construction process and over the project's operational life at the national and regional level. Recently we have undertaken this form of detailed analysis for EON and for a large project for Falck Renewables/RDC (Dunbeath Wind Farm in Caithness).

Extracts from Dunbeath Wind Farm Supplementary Environmental Information (2009)

TABLE 17: SCOTLAND: OPERATIONAL IMPACTS				
Activity	Direct	Indirect	Induced	Total
Employment	15.4	9.3	6.0	30.7
Income	£402,910	£215,557	£107,577	£726,044
GVA	£760,222	£436,367	£293,446	£1,490,035

TABLE 18: HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS: OPERATIONAL IMPACTS				
Activity	Direct	Indirect	Induced	Total
Employment	10.8	3.2	2.6	16.6
Income	£281,854	£75,396	£46,605	£403,855
GVA	£531,810	£152,629	£125,886	£810,326

For further information on socio-economic assessments contact Fraser Mackenzie:

fraser.mackenzie@atmosconsulting.com

