

Wet and windy: Renewable energy on the WGWE

The WGWE is helping to deliver energy security for future generations. The [Pen y Cymoedd Wind Energy Project](#) is Wales' largest onshore wind farm and is located on the WGWE. The project was completed in 2017 and will be operational for the next 25 years. Some key facts:

- There are 76 turbines, each standing 145m tall.
- It includes a pioneering 5MW battery storage project.
- More than 1,000 workers from Wales helped build the wind farm.
- 52% of the £400m investment to build the project went to businesses in Wales.
- It's estimated that it will save 6.4m tonnes CO2 over the life of project.
- It will generate enough electricity to meet the domestic need of 188,000 homes per annum, the equivalent of 15% of all Welsh homes.
- A £3m fund has been established to support a peat restoration & habitat creation.
- A £45m Community Trust Fund has been created to support local people.
- There is an education cabin on site which hosts regular school visits.
- It generates approximately £7m income per annum for Welsh Government.
- It has funded the creation of a new £350k Blade mountain bike trail at Afan Forest Park, and an additional £100k refurbishment of the Skyline trail.
- A compensatory planting fund for tree planting has been established to offset those removed during construction of the project.
- It continues to employ a site-based Operations Team most of whom live locally.



The [Anafon Hydro Scheme](#) in Abergwyngregyn is the largest community owned hydropower scheme in Wales, and much of the scheme is located on the WGWE. The scheme is owned and managed by Ynni Anafon Energy Cyf, a Community Benefit Society. Preparatory work started in March 2015 and the scheme was completed in December 2015.

One year on, it was reported that the scheme had exported 1,128,130 KWh of electricity to the national grid, earning about £240,000 gross. This was enough electricity to meet the annual consumption of 284 average homes, significantly more than the 100 households in Abergwyngregyn. The disposable profits generated by the hydro scheme have been transferred to a new charity, Dŵr Anafon, to distribute the money for the benefit of local communities.

Pursuing SMNR:

