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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **DEN BROOK WIND FARM DEVELOPER RECOGNISED BY THE QUEEN**

Renewable Energy Systems (RES)<sup>1</sup>, the company proposing to build a wind farm at Den Brook in North Tawton, has won acclaim for its responsible approach to wind farm development and its commitment to the environment. The company has been awarded a Queen's Award for Enterprise in the Sustainable Development category - the most prestigious business award in the UK. A ceremony will take place for award-winners at Buckingham Palace in July.

The Award judges recognised RES's considerable success as a British developer, builder and operator of wind farms and the company's overall commitment to clean energy and social responsibility. Singled out for praise were the company's '*comprehensive approach to environmental and social impact assessment prior to the commencement of every wind farm project*' and RES's award-winning eco-friendly HQ and educational centre<sup>2</sup>. The judges said they hoped that RES's commitment to sustainability would act as an example to others in the energy sector. A major report published recently by the Sustainable Development Commission underlined the critical importance of wind power for the UK.<sup>3</sup>

Andy Paine, Development Director for RES UK, commented;

*"We are delighted to receive the Award. Not only does it acknowledge RES's position as a successful British company in this fast-growing and sustainable industry, but we are also proud that our commitment to sensitive development and best practice has been recognised. As the Sustainable Development Commission has confirmed, wind power has an important role to play in meeting our future energy needs in a non-polluting way. It is essential, however, that projects are developed and designed responsibly. The Den Brook wind farm is a good example of our careful approach. We are confident that it will have no negative effects on the local community. On the contrary, by generating enough clean, green electricity for the equivalent of over 12,000 homes every year, it will help the people of North Tawton and Devon do their bit for a cleaner environment."*

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RES has been consulting widely with local residents and interested organisations since plans for the project were first announced in early 2004. As part of its policy to work closely and constructively with the community, RES has held exhibitions, meetings and sent out information to householders, and is also involved in a pilot project being run by Regen South West<sup>4</sup> to establish a protocol for community engagement. Once details of the wind farm design are finalised, a planning application will be submitted to West Devon Borough Council. It is expected that a decision will be made by the end of the year.

Rachel Ruffle, Project Manager for the Den Brook proposal, added;

*'Naturally when a wind farm is proposed in an area, local people will have concerns because it is often their first experience of wind power. However, our experience of building wind farms across the UK for over a decade shows that these concerns prove to be unfounded. There is also a lot of exaggeration and misinformation circulating about the impact of wind turbines. We hope people in the North Tawton area will look at the facts before making up their minds. We have been very pleased so far with the support expressed to us by local people and we hope it won't be long before wind power is bringing environmental and economic benefits to the area.'*

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors**

1. RES built its first wind farm in Cornwall in 1992 and has to date completed over 900MW of wind generating capacity, including the 280MW King Mountain wind ranch in Texas, which was at the time of construction in 2001 the world's largest wind project. More recently, RES completed a project in Jamaica that stood up to Hurricane Ivan in 2004, and is nearing completion of a 20-turbine project in Scotland. RES is also working on offshore wind development around the British coast.

2. In 2003, the RES Group moved into pioneering new environmentally-friendly headquarters in Hertfordshire, which are self-sufficient in renewable energy generated on-site, including solar power, energy crops and a wind turbine. There is a popular visitor centre outlining the benefits of renewable energy and sustainable development. Beaufort Court is the first example in the world of a historical building refurbished as a zero-emissions commercial development and has been hailed as a landmark example of sustainability in action. More information can be found at: [www.beaufortcourt.com](http://www.beaufortcourt.com).

3. The Sustainable Development Commission, chaired by Jonathan Porritt, published a report on 19 May concluding that wind power must be made to work to meet climate change and energy security goals. It concludes that wind, along with other renewables, 'offers the only sustainable and secure option for generating electricity over the long term'. The full report is available online at the SDC website: <http://www.sd-commission.org.uk>

4. Regen South West is the renewable energy agency for the southwest of England. Its community engagement protocol is the first of its kind and aims to promote more effective public engagement within the development of wind energy projects. To download the protocol or for further advice visit [www.regensw.co.uk](http://www.regensw.co.uk).

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