

Investment Case Studies

With over £60 million of capital raised, the Ventus Funds are one of the largest groups of investment funds specifically targeted at the UK renewable energy sector. The members of our team have already helped create over 1,000 megawatts of renewable energy capacity, therefore we are perfectly placed to provide the detailed understanding of the technical, financial and contractual requirements necessary to deliver projects. We work in partnership with independent developers, bringing companies to life that provide sustainable, emission-free power. **From imagination to generation. We make it happen.**

Bringing Companies to Life: Fenpower Limited

As pressure increased on traditional agricultural revenues, Duncan Boughton, who farms at Ransonmoor in the Cambridgeshire Fens, searched for ways to diversify the use of his land and turned his attention to the potential of wind power. Planning consent for a three turbine development was granted in 2005 and shortly after, Duncan and his development partner EcoGen chose to work with the Investment Manager.

The Investment Manager provided contract negotiation and technical expertise and co-ordinated the finance for the wind farm company, Fenpower. This included an investment of £1.3 million from Ventus in phase one of the project.

In late 2006, Fenpower secured planning permission to extend the site by a further two turbines, taking the total capacity to 10 megawatts. Ventus provided a further investment of £0.8 million for this second phase of the project. Both investments were structured to ensure Duncan Boughton and EcoGen maintained a significant ownership stake in Fenpower.

Phase one became operational early in 2007 and the two additional turbines became operational in 2008. The combined five turbine wind farm generates electricity equivalent to that consumed by approximately 5,600 homes.

Duncan Boughton said, "I was pleased that my family were able to work with EcoGen and Ventus on this pioneering way of wind farm development. As a hard pressed arable farmer the wind farm will provide much needed revenue for a generation and proves there is a real opportunity for farmers to become involved and increase their returns, other than by purely renting out land to the large power generators. From now on we have a new diversified crop; we shall be farming the wind".



Bringing Companies to Life: Craig Wind Farm Limited

Over fifteen years ago, Neil Ewart, a sheep farmer in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, set out on the path to develop a wind farm on his family land. He endured a long and difficult planning process, but his perseverance paid off when he finally gained planning approval to construct a 10 megawatt project at Craig Farm. Neil needed a partner to help with development and construction funding, as well as practical support. He chose to work with The Investment Manager and Ventus to complete his deal. The Ventus Funds have invested £2.8 million in Craig Wind Farm, with Neil Ewart and his family retaining a 50% stake in the wind farm company.

The wind farm is now operational and the electricity generated by the four turbines is equivalent to that consumed by approximately 4,500 homes.

Neil Ewart said, "I am delighted to have reached the point where the construction and operation of this wind farm has become a reality. After a planning process which took fifteen years it was very important to work with investment partners who could manage the negotiation of the key contracts and arrange competitively priced finance as part of an overall package. The Investment Manager and the Ventus Funds have been instrumental in making this happen".


The Ventus Funds[®]

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