

Blackburn Meadows - Proposed renewable energy plant

Community information from E.ON UK

E.ON UK is exploring the possibility of building a renewable energy plant as part of the regeneration of the Blackburn Meadows site in Sheffield.

Our proposal

We're developing a £60m proposal for a biomass power station that would produce enough electricity for around 40,000 homes by burning a combination of recycled wood and specially grown crops such as willow and elephant grass.

Rated at 25 megawatts, the new renewable energy plant would also displace the emission of around 80,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide every year - equivalent to taking approximately 20,000 cars off Britain's roads - by producing electricity that would otherwise have been supplied by conventional coal and gas-fired power stations.

It is also expected that the development will see the creation of 20 full-time jobs once built.

The new power station would be built on the site of the former coal-fired plant once the last two of the original cooling towers have been demolished.

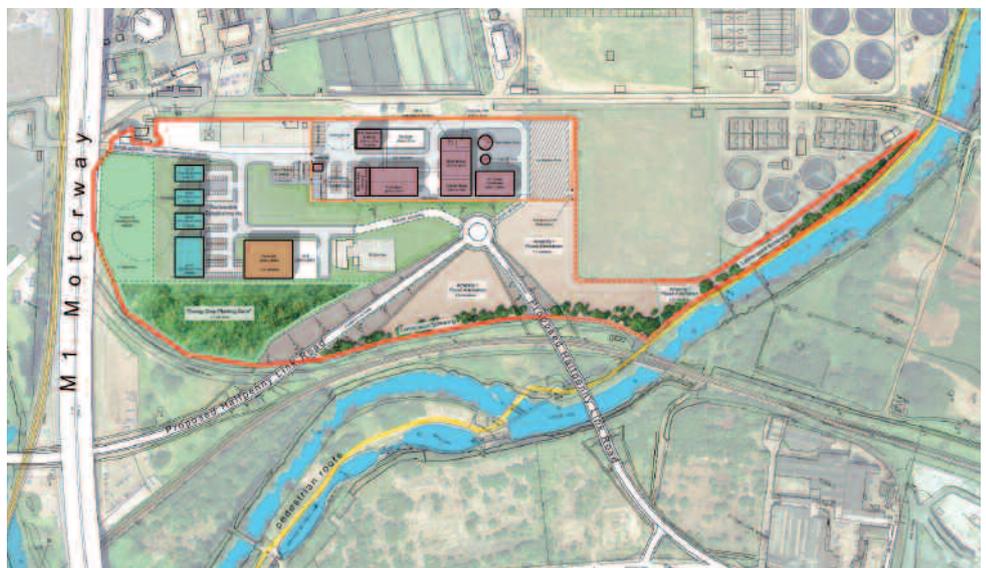
E.ON UK Project Developer Dr Nilton Chan said: "Although our proposed development is for one section of the Blackburn Meadows site, we're hoping that a new renewable energy plant will kick-start the broader regeneration of the area.

"We're also investigating the possibility of further boosting the project's green status and efficiency by supplying heat to neighbouring commercial and industrial establishments.

"And not only would we be breathing new life into the now redundant site but we'd also be helping the Yorkshire and Humber region achieve their target of reducing

greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% by 2010."

We hope to submit a planning application to Sheffield City Council later this year, following initial design activities and environmental studies. If the project gets the green light, construction is expected to start early in 2009 with the first power being produced in 2011.



Artist's impression: The potential regeneration of Blackburn Meadows (Biomass plant shown within the top right area of red border)

In July 2007, we submitted a scoping statement to statutory consultees including Sheffield City Council, the Environment Agency and English Heritage, which outlined our initial plans ahead of asking for formal planning permission. We've started to speak to the local authorities about potential issues such as traffic and flood risk and expect to submit a planning application later this year. Our application will be accompanied by an Environmental Statement which looks at the potential effects on the local environment and is designed to ensure our scheme will have a minimal impact.

Keeping you informed

We are fully committed to working with the local community and keeping everyone informed of our progress and plans.

We are keen to hear people's views and to address any concerns so we will be holding the first in a series of public exhibitions to give everyone the chance to meet with us face-to-face.

Copies of our scoping statement will be available for you to look at at the exhibitions but if you can't make it down, you can view a copy on our website (details below) or request to see a hard copy at Sheffield City Council.

If you would like to contact us to find out more, you can call our free information line or email us. Alternatively, please feel free to complete the tear off strip and pop it in the post if you have any comments or questions about the project.

Public exhibitions - find out more

Friday 19 October -

10am to 1pm and 5pm to 7.30pm

Tinsley Green Children's Centre, 34a

Norborough Road, Tinsley, Sheffield S9 1SG

Monday 22 October -

1pm to 6pm

E.ON marquee on The Moor,

Sheffield City Centre

Tuesday 23 October -

10am to 7pm

Upper Atrium Marks & Spencer,

Meadowhall Shopping Centre, Sheffield S9 1EP

Freephone: 08000 096119

blackburnmeadowsenquiries@eon-uk.com

www.eon-uk.com/newbiomass/blackburnmeadows



Who is E.ON UK?

E.ON UK is part of the E.ON Group, the world's largest investor-owned power and gas company. We're the company that runs Powergen, one of the UK's leading energy brands, and we generate, distribute, and supply energy to millions of people nationwide.

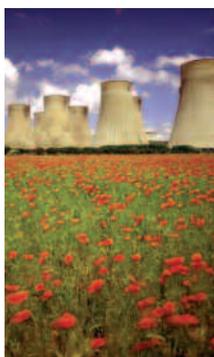
From our portfolio of world-class power stations and renewable projects, we generate 10% of the UK's electricity, using some of the most advanced technologies in the world.

We're one of the UK's leading renewable generation businesses with plans to invest £1bn into new renewable energy projects in the next five years, including new wind farm developments and pioneering marine projects that look to harness the power of the tides and waves.

Our distribution business, Central Networks, brings a reliable supply to 4.9 million customers across central England, through 133,000km of underground and overhead cables and via almost 97,000 substations.

And we're a leading energy supplier, with around nine million electricity and gas customer accounts through our Powergen and E.ON Energy brands.

You may also know us as the main sponsor of The FA Cup, now known as The FA Cup sponsored by E.ON.

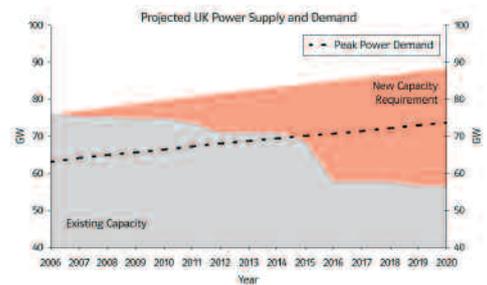


Security of supply and the climate change challenge

Despite improved energy efficiency, demand for energy in the UK has never been higher. The combination of increased demand and the expected closure of many of the UK's coal-fired power stations and nuclear plants within the next decade means there's a lot of work to be done to ensure we help fill the gap in supply, keeping the lights on for our homes and businesses.

We believe the key to maintaining security of energy supply for the UK is sustained investment across a balanced mix of generating capacity that includes renewable technologies alongside coal and gas-fired power stations and nuclear power plant, ensuring we don't become over-reliant on any one fuel type.

The challenge of climate change means that future sources of supply must be lower carbon than those technologies they replace.



Renewable energy from Biomass

Biomass is any plant-derived organic material available on a renewable basis and is often termed as 'carbon neutral' because the carbon released into the atmosphere when the material is burned is equivalent to the amount absorbed by the plant during its growth cycle.

We're planning to burn clean recycled waste wood in the proposed new power plant, potentially alongside other biomass fuels such as forest residue and 'energy crops' which are plants specifically grown for their value as a fuel source.

Our biomass record to date

We have finished construction of the UK's largest dedicated biomass plant at Lockerbie in Scotland, which will produce enough renewable energy for 70,000 homes and displace the emission of 140,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases each year.

And we also burn biomass alongside coal in two of our fossil fuel power stations, reducing overall carbon emissions in a process known as co-firing.

