

# Wind Turbine Installation at Woodland Valley Farm



**Chris Jones, an Organic Farmer from Cornwall, describes his experience of installing a wind turbine on his farm.**

## **Briefly describe the farm set up**

170 acres (27 acres woodland) organic livestock farm

## **How did you come to the decision to install a wind turbine?**

We already host a community owned turbine, as well as having solar thermal and PV panels, and we wish to diversify further into renewables while the Feed In Tariff is still applicable.

## **What model have you got and why?**

An Endurance E3120, predominantly because it is affordable, effective and arguably not too intrusive considering the proximity to the nearby village (420m).

## **How was the pre-installation phase? (For example, planning, wind speed studies, public engagement)**

I carried out all the pre-installation work – spoke to neighbours and the Parish Council and community at large. I also informed them that I would be making a voluntary contribution to the community renewable fund. It is a windy site, and planning was straightforward after a couple of initial hiccups.

## **How did you find accessing finance?**

Finance was less than straightforward – banks were difficult despite our core business being profitable and our gearing being very low. In the end went to a bank in Germany which was very keen to support us

## **How did you decide where to site it?**

Siting was an easy decision really, being close to connection line and just right distance from hedges and other neighbours.

## **How was the installation process?**

The installation process was straightforward, a slight alteration was required to the base of the turbine as the contractors made a small faux pas but it cost no time. Western Power could have improved their service by conducting a recce of their connection site, so we lost 3 weeks through them.

## **Have you had any issues since it's been up and running?**

Only very minor issues and TGC Renewables, the supplier, have been excellent.

## **Now its up, would you do anything differently (if you were installing again?)**

As we got through planning so easily I would perhaps have considered a slightly larger turbine for that site, in the 30-40m hub height range.

## **What advice would you give to people considering installing?**

Put something into your community – ideally gather a few likeminded people together and set up a renewable energy club or coop with tangible community benefits – make the connection between wind turbines in the area and good things happening. Some of the larger developments could easily justify contributing 7-10% of turnover annually – it will not only be good for you, but also for those others following you in your area. If you can't afford it and the bank is sticky consider getting neighbours to invest in it too, so keeping the returns local, and giving people a stake in the success of the project.

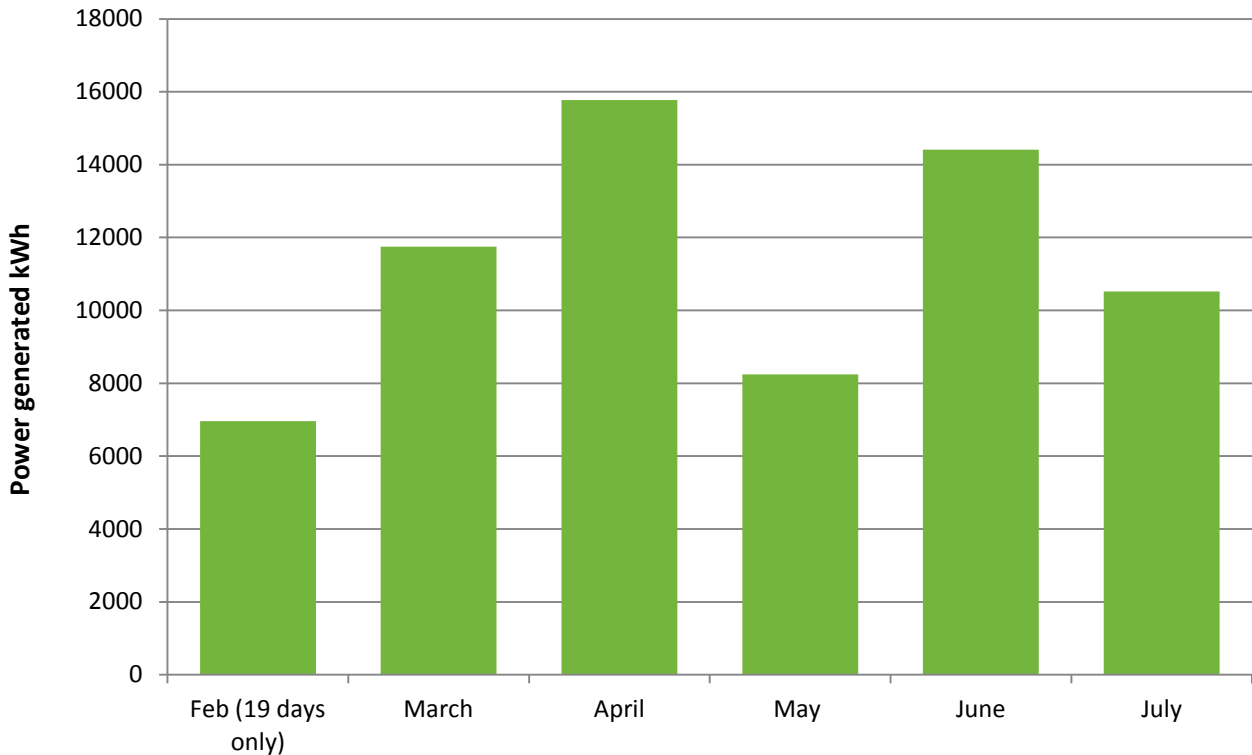


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## Turbine performance

The graph below shows the performance of the wind turbine in kWh since it began generation in Feb 2012.



Would you like to find out more about the benefits of wind power, the different types of turbines available and the costs and risks involved in installing a wind turbine on your farm? If so visit the [wind power explained](#) pages of the Swarm Hub Website.

Click [here](#) to read about other farmers from the South West who have had wind turbines installed on their farms.