



Forewind Champions for Wind

Fact Sheet July 2014

Background

Early in 2011 Forewind understood there was a need to engage the local communities near its proposed onshore infrastructure to ensure they were aware both of the Dogger Bank development itself and also of the opportunities it could bring.

Given the indicative timeframe of the development, it was decided that students in the first three years of secondary school would be best placed to take advantage of the earliest pre-construction and construction roles (2015 and onwards), as well as the longer-term operations and maintenance opportunities. They would be looking at subject choices and their potential futures in these years when aged 13 to 14. It was therefore decided to develop a programme that would engage with secondary school students and raise awareness of the types of careers that would be on offer as the Dogger Bank project progressed.

The key objectives for creating a local careers programme were:

- To engage relevant stakeholders
- Encourage local students to consider career in wind – across the whole range of possible jobs
- Contribute to reducing the wind industry skills gap
- Meet community and other expectations for community involvement

- Positively profile Forewind
- Address issue of potential socio-economic benefits
- Create a legacy for the lead operator(s).

Aims

Forewind approached the Humberside Engineering Training Association (HETA) with a brief to help them progress a programme with the aims of developing:

- Gender balance in STEM careers
- 'Roundedness' of the industry
- Local skills development
- Pride in the area
- Innovation
- A vision for the future
- Teacher continuous professional development.

It was also vital to have a robust evaluation methodology.

From this brief, the Champions for Wind programme was created. Champions for Wind, is an innovative careers education engagement initiative which awards bursaries to teachers from a broad range of subject areas to help them develop curriculum-based materials and lessons that teach their students about offshore wind and the potential career opportunities within it.

First cohort

Ten teachers from Hull and East Riding secondary schools were selected to be the first group of 'champions' in early 2012.

Each teacher champion, working with careers advisors and wind industry representatives, designed and developed a curriculum-based resource relevant to their local area and appropriate to their school, on opportunities offered by the offshore wind industry. The teachers then delivered their resource to their own school, followed by one to two additional schools. Each teacher received funding and a bursary to support their work.

They were given six months to design activities specific to their students before delivering it in the classroom. The second phase of the programme was to roll out the initiatives to other schools in the local catchment areas.

Evaluation

To evaluate the success of the programme, 198 students and nine teachers within nine secondary schools completed pre and post programme questionnaires and focus groups were carried out with a sub-sample of students.

Student's knowledge about the offshore wind industry and related careers significantly increased after the programmes had been delivered in their schools. Increases in student's interest to learn more about the offshore wind industry and related careers or pursue a career in the industry also increased.



KEY
 ▲ Substation
 — Onshore Cable Route
 — Offshore Cable Route
 ● Cohort 1 (purple), Cohort 2 (green), Cohort 3 (blue)

This is a map of the participating schools with other schools also involved via the dissemination process. In some of the schools, more than one teacher has taken part.

- Champions for Wind – participating schools**
- Oases North East
 - Dykehouse School
 - Hartlepool Pupil Referral Unit
 - Redcar and Cleveland College
 - St. Anne's Primary
 - Lockwood Primary
 - St Peters School
 - Kirkleatham Hall School
 - Ryehills School
 - Bydales School
 - Castleton Primary
 - Glaisdale Primary
 - St Hedda's Primary
 - Caedmon School
 - Eskdale School
 - Scalby School
 - Graham School
 - Headlands School
 - Driffield School
 - Ashwell Academy
 - Cottingham High School
 - Malet Lambert
 - Kelvin Hall School
 - Boulevard Academy
 - Hessle Federation
 - Act the Facts (educational script writers)
 - The Snaith School
 - Withernsea High
 - Laurence Jackson School

Gender differences in knowledge were wider prior to the programme than after the programme, with boys consistently reporting greater knowledge. Gender differences in interest were similar before and after the programme, with boys reporting greater interest.

Teachers also reported a significant increase in knowledge and confidence to deliver an education programme relating to the offshore wind industry and related careers, after the programme.

A key learning was the fact that to maximise impact, students should find out about offshore wind career opportunities through a variety of methods. This would help to both increase the interest and reduce gender differences – likely to be the greatest challenges in the future.

Other learnings incorporated into the management of the subsequent cohorts included a selection process focussing more on the passion and commitment needed to be a champion, and an increase in support throughout via professional dialogues among the champions and better resource sharing.

Programme extended

The successful evaluation of the initial cohort enabled the extension of the programme to schools near the Dogger Bank Teesside catchment area.

Ten Teesside teachers were selected in late 2012 and in summer 2013 presented their results at the National STEM teachers' conference at the National STEM Centre in York.

A further successful evaluation led to the third cohort where teachers geographically spread from Hull to Hartlepool, spent six months developing their resources having attended the introductory workshop in November 2013. They presented their initiatives along with the work produced by students at the 2014 National STEM teachers' conference, again held at the National STEM Centre in York. More than 60 teachers from across the country attended the event and saw first-hand the success of the programme.

Wide subject spread

'Champions for Wind' facilitates the development of tailored curriculum materials to raise student awareness of the full range of potential career opportunities in offshore wind energy. Subject areas have included a very wide spread including: humanities, mathematics, geography, business, science and design and technology. Also a three-part script has been produced to give teachers an inventive way of highlighting the offshore wind energy career opportunities through the use of drama and performance.

The champions have interpreted the brief in many innovative and creative ways with student activities ranging from building wind turbines and foundations, to making stop-start animation films, preparing job advertisements, debating the merits of offshore wind, canvassing parent opinions via surveys, producing wind-energy apps, and holding inter-school competitions.

Resources and impact

The teacher resources are now available on a central website managed by HETA enabling teachers from across the country to access and gain inspiration from the work done by the champions. The resources include the Act the Facts script, lesson plans, survey questionnaires, debate materials, and creative outlines for classroom activities.

The programme was also recognised locally by being a Finalist in the 2013 Humber Renewables Awards.

More than 3000 students will have had some level of involvement with the programme by the summer of 2014 and exit surveys from those who have taken part have shown a marked increase in both their level of knowledge of the offshore wind industry and also of their interest in pursuing a career in the sector.

Forewind contact details

Website: www.forewind.co.uk
 Email: info@forewind.co.uk
 Freephone: 0800 975 5636

Freepost RSLY-HKGG-HEBR
 Forewind
 Davidson House
 Forbury Square
 Reading RG1 3EU