

EDF ENERGIES NOUVELLES' FIRST CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS



The 10 future wind turbines of the EDF Energies project are situated in the East of France. The ground studies of this wind farm have been crowdfunded by 198 people for €135,000 (roughly \$150,000), half of this amount coming from neighbors.

The first crowdfunding campaign launched in France by EDF Energies Nouvelles has exceeded its initial fundraising target by 35 percent. The aim was to involve the local population in Vosges and the Lower Rhine in the development of the Bois de Belfays wind farm project.

The campaign ran from June 15 through July 16 on Lendosphere, a web platform dedicated to sustainable development projects. With an initial target of €100,000 (roughly \$111,000), a total of €135,000 (roughly \$150,000) was lent due to strong support from the inhabitants of the six municipalities of the Vosges mountain — Châtas, Grandrupt, La Grande Fosse, Saint-Stail, Ban-de-Sapt, and Saâles.

This support is demonstrated by the results of the campaign with 198 lenders in total, 40 percent of whom live in the Vosges and Bas-Rhin department, accounting for 50 percent of the total lending. Local investment

came from a range of lenders from 18 to 83 years old. The amounts raised will be used to fund pre-construction studies for the Bois de Belfays wind farm, which will consist of 10 wind turbines of 2 MW each. Construction is due to begin in 2016.

This crowdfunding campaign, launched to meet the expectations of local mayors, is a first in France for EDF Energies Nouvelles. Emmanuel Jaclot, Deputy CEO – Strategy, M&A and France at EDF Energies Nouvelles, said, “We are delighted with the success of this first crowdfunding campaign in France, which reflects people’s confidence in our wind farm projects. We hope that the campaign will pave the way for other innovative initiatives of this kind allowing the local population to take part in our projects.”

According to Laure Verhaeghe, co-founder of Lendosphere, EDF Energies Nouvelles is the first major French operator to have carried out

a crowdfunding campaign for a wind power project.

“The campaign has been a complete success,” Verhaeghe said. “It is the largest campaign to date in terms of the amounts raised for an accredited crowdfunding platform. This status, which came into effect on October 1, 2014, enables individuals to lend money to companies via Internet platforms such as Lendosphere, the only site dedicated entirely to projects that contribute to ecological transition.”

Lendosphere is the first crowd-lending platform dedicated to sustainable development projects. On Lendosphere, individuals can lend directly and with interest to the projects they support. Since it was launched in December 2014, more than €850,000 (roughly \$941,702) has already been invested by individuals in renewable energy projects. ↵

— Source: EDF Energies Nouvelles