

# Developing a Framework for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Community Engagement in Onshore Wind Projects



**SUSTAINABLE**  
COMMUNITY ENERGY NETWORK

Connecting Sustainable Projects  
With Energy Investors Everywhere

The project:

- developed a framework for evaluating the effectiveness of community engagement in onshore wind developments
- addressed a research gap in the evaluation of community engagement in these projects

“Thanks to Sarah's work, we're now well on our way to developing a framework for community engagement in renewable energy.”

Jelte Harnmeijer, Director, SCENE

## STUDENT FEEDBACK

Sarah Jones  
MSc Environmental Sustainability  
University of Edinburgh

I felt that I wanted to do a work based project because I think getting an MSc is worthwhile, but what makes the experience really useful is to actually apply your knowledge in a real life situation. This helps to cement your learning and I think that demonstrating that you've worked with an organisation as part of your MSc also makes you more employable.

It was really inspiring and motivational to be working with an organisation which was doing so much work in the sector that I wanted to work in. It definitely boosted my confidence as it got me used to working in an office environment and meeting people in the sector.

I was able to tap into SCENE's fantastic network of contacts for my research. Having such a wide range of highly regarded interviewees definitely added weight to my findings and SCENE were incredibly supportive and gave a lot of input into my studies.

## THE EMPLOYER'S EXPERIENCE

Jelte Harnmeijer  
Director, SCENE

At SCENE, we believe people do their best work when they're engaged with something they're passionate about. That's why we wanted to bring in someone with an interest in community renewables, who would be able to bring the requisite focus and commitment to complete the project.

Thanks to Sarah's work, we're now well on our way to developing a framework for community engagement in renewable energy. We also decided to publish Sarah's work on our [website](#), where it's publicly available, and attracting attention.

Furthermore, we are currently talking to partner organisations and research collaborators in South Africa to use some of the fruits of Sarah's research in an African context.

We speak to Sarah regularly, and several of our staff will be attending an event at Sarah's new employer in November, providing new links for us.



**Making the Most of Masters**