



Fund Background - Amenity and Accessibility Fund

Overview & background

To offset the impact caused by the delay of the release of that part of the Sizewell B site which will accommodate the consented Dry Fuel Store, EDF Energy, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council (now East Suffolk Council) agreed, in 2012, to establish an Amenity and Accessibility Fund.

The objectives of the Fund are to improve the amenity and accessibility of the Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (now branded, and referred to from hereon, as the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape) and Suffolk Heritage Coast within the locality of the Sizewell B site and its wider environs.

EDF Energy has a strong track record of behaving respectfully towards the environment. Locally, Sizewell B has won a biodiversity benchmark for the positive way the company has managed the National Landscape in partnership with Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Nationally, EDF Energy launched Team Green Britain in 2009 to help deliver their mission of bringing sustainable, low-carbon solutions home to everyone.

Background: During 2009 a consultation was held with local people about how to manage spent fuel at Sizewell B. At the time, spent fuel from Sizewell B's reactor was stored in a fuel storage pond, which was expected to provide capacity until 2015. A new solution was required for after this date or until a national repository is made available. The Government's Committee for Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) is looking at how this might be achieved but has indicated this repository will not be ready for many years. As Sizewell B is due to operate until 2035, with the possibility of life extension beyond that, EDF needed a suitable plan for managing spent fuel from 2015 onwards.

Following thorough consultation and rigorous technical investigations, the construction of a Dry Fuel Store (DFS) was selected as the best solution. A Dry Fuel Store is a mature technology, tried and tested all over the world. It has been constructed on Sizewell B land and was ready for operation in 2016.

The Fund and its management

The Fund is managed by the Amenity and Accessibility Funding Group (AAFG) made up of a representative from EDF, East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council, and an Advisor from Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape.

The AAFG will be responsible for the identification of projects to improve the amenity and accessibility of the National Landscape and Heritage Coast within the locality of the DFS and its wider environs. Funds will be held by Suffolk County Council, and administered by Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape.

The Fund benefited from an initial one off payment of £120,000 made by EDF Energy when the DFS construction started, and then receives further annual payments by EDF of £20,000 for a period of 60 years or until the date of the commencement of decommissioning of the DFS. The Fund rolls over and any unallocated funds are included in the following year. Each year the total Amenity & Accessibility Fund available will be at least £20,000 and will increase with inflation.