

## More than £400,000 awarded to 46 community groups

A total of 46 community groups from across East Sussex, West Sussex and the city of Brighton & Hove were awarded £405,865 from the first application round of the £3.1 million Rampion Fund managed by Sussex Community Foundation.

Grants were announced for a wide range of community initiatives, from the establishment of community orchards and running a professional insect survey, to supporting young people in crisis and developing community art and design projects.

One recipient, Sussex Sailability will be able to buy a new safety boat to support disabled sailors who want to get active on the water. Chris Hodge, Chairman of Sussex Sailability said: "I am delighted that the Rampion Fund is part of changing disabled people's lives by building their independence and confidence and helping them to enjoy the great Sussex coast."

A full list of the grant beneficiaries can be found on the Rampion website.

Local grant-making charity Sussex Community Foundation's Chief Executive Kevin Richmond said: "We received a high quality of applications, 40% of which were from groups that had never applied to us before. That was very encouraging as we are always looking to reach sections of the community that need support from our growing band of fundholders and donors."

The Rampion Fund was designed to help local projects, particularly those with links to the environment and ecology, climate change and energy, as well as those that work to improve community facilities.

Rampion's Development and Stakeholder Manager Chris Tomlinson said: "Community organisations put forward many innovative and exciting projects with numerous project bids incorporating renewable energy installations and energy conservation measures, which we continue to encourage in future application rounds."

Awards for the second round of grants will be finalised in July. The next deadline for applications is Friday, 14 September 2018.

### Local RNLI stations receive boost

In a separate Community Benefit Fund donation, Rampion also gave £100,000 to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, to be spread across the lifeboat stations in Newhaven, Brighton, Shoreham and Littlehampton, which operate in the area surrounding the wind farm.



### Inspiring the next generation

Rampion aims to encourage young people to learn more about offshore wind, and inspire them to choose a career in the sector, through direct involvement in local education initiatives.

Rampion team members have run physics masterclasses at the University Technical College Newhaven, and participated in the Big Bang Eastbourne, attended by 15 local schools, while the organisation has funded school and community art workshops via the Sussex Community Development Association to create 'clean, green and marine' themed costumes for the opening parade of the 2018 Fish Festival.

Newhaven Artist Carol Havard, workshop coordinator said: "The support has enabled many young people to develop their artistic side in a purposeful way, learning about renewable energy as they put their efforts into creating eye-catching and memorable parade costumes."

Rampion is also a supporter of this year's Eco, Young and Engaged (EYE) Worthing & Adur Eco Summit event at Worthing High School, involving schools from Worthing, Adur, Arun and surrounding areas and with a 'Getting Back to Nature' theme.



Art workshop with Carol Havard and Seahaven Academy students



Wind turbine technicians John Everest (left) and Mark Hammond at work

## Rampion flagship base opens in Newhaven Port

Rampion's operations and maintenance team has now moved into its brand new home at the East Quay at Newhaven Port, East Sussex.

Completed in March and with its official opening in May, the dedicated facility is a flagship for the area, close to the harbour entrance and visible to all vessels sailing through the mouth of the River Ouse.

The building was completed in 12 months and meets all the needs of the 60-strong team with offices, control room and warehousing. It also boasts a raft of environmental features including solar panels, air source heat pumps, enhanced insulation, energy efficient lighting, and charging points for electric vehicles. It has achieved an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) A rating.



Rampion's flagship base in Newhaven

Plant Manager Richard Crowhurst says that moving into the new building is a significant milestone for the team as it takes over full operation of the wind farm, using advanced remote diagnostics and daily servicing.

The building is sited next to the quay for easy access to crew transfer vessels, which take turbine maintenance teams to the wind farm every day. The teams service every turbine once a year, with each service taking three to four days, to ensure they have the highest levels of availability to generate clean green electricity.

### All turbines generating power

All of the 116 turbines at Rampion are now able to generate electricity and deliver power to the grid.

While works will continue both on and offshore, to prepare the site for full operation later this year, commissioning all the wind turbines marks a significant milestone in the project.

Matthew Swanwick, Project Director said: "We are delighted to have reached the point where all the wind turbines are up and running and contributing clean power, adding to the UK's growing renewables fleet and its ability to help meet the nation's energy needs."

We have a number of activities to complete, for example at the onshore and offshore substations and landfall, so people will see ongoing activities over the coming months. Full reinstatement of the onshore cable route back to its former condition is another top priority for us this year."

## Onshore reinstatement restarts after wet winter

Reinstatement of the onshore cable route, a key remaining body of work for the Rampion team, has restarted after the particularly wet winter had activities on hold from December until late April.

The work will involve returning the land along the full 26.8km length, from Brooklands Pleasure Park, through the South Downs National Park, and to the surrounds of Twineham substation, to how it was before construction.

There are some pressing focus areas for the team including the Brooklands Par 3 Golf Course, which requires new topsoil, fresh turf and a few weeks of growing time before being returned to Adur & Worthing Council to be re-opened by them when ready.

The rest of Brooklands, and areas that are of paramount importance for stakeholders, including around the substation and areas in the South Downs National Park, are also scheduled for reinstatement in the early phase works.

Onshore Cable Package Manager, Richard Carpenter said that the work has taken longer than planned due to technical delays during construction and unseasonable weather conditions, however the project is back on track with reinstatement due for completion this year.

“We appreciate it has been a trying time for people living and working in the vicinity of the works but all our efforts are now on reinstatement. It is in everyone’s interest that the land is returned to how it was as quickly as possible, and that we ensure it is done properly to give vegetation the best chance to thrive.”

An added complication for the Rampion reinstatement works was that the main works contractor, Carillion, went into liquidation early in 2018. However, in late April contracts were signed with new works contractors who are now active on-site.

Following reinstatement, Rampion will monitor the condition of the route for up to 10 years to ensure it is a success.



Reinstatement has now restarted after a long, wet winter

## Disused outfall pipe removed

Working closely with Southern Water, Rampion has agreed to remove a twin outfall pipe at Lancing Beach, improving the environment and making it safer for beachgoers and local sea users.

Rampion will remove the entire outfall, safely cap it off and then reinstate the beach so that no part of the outfall remains visible.

Notices about the potential hazards posed by the works and the need to remain at a safe distance have been sent to all relevant bodies and posted online.



Outfall at Lancing Beach

## Restricted diving allowed in array

The Sussex coast is a popular area for diving with numerous sites of interest and although some offshore construction activities are ongoing, Rampion has now re-opened the wind farm array for divers, with some restrictions.

Sea user safety remains paramount and it is strongly recommended that diving be avoided on the export cable route and within 100m of turbines and the substation, and within 500m of construction vessels, until the remaining construction works are complete. It is divers’ responsibility to be aware of all admiralty charts and associated navigation advice.

For details visit the ‘Information for divers’ page at [www.rampionoffshore.com](http://www.rampionoffshore.com)

## Jack-up vessel returns

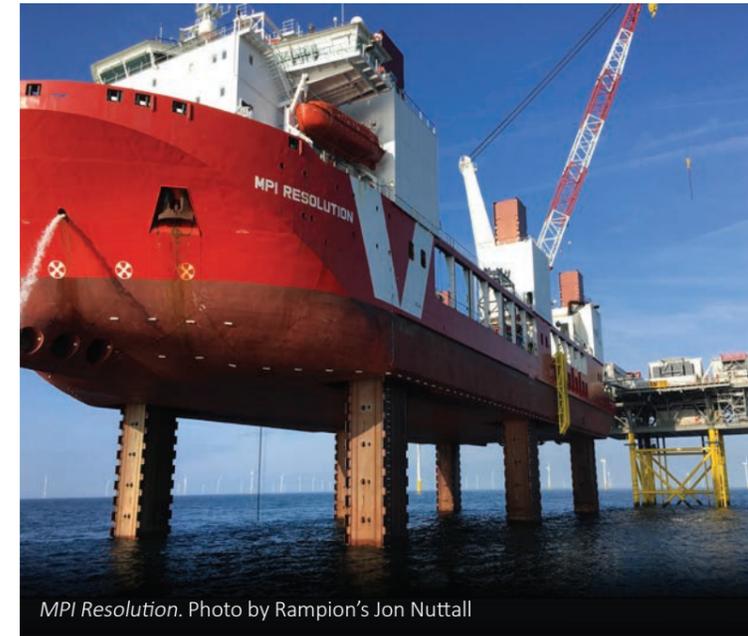
All of Rampion’s 116 turbines are now able to deliver power to the grid so people may be wondering why there is a jack-up vessel located at the Rampion offshore site.

*MPI Resolution* arrived in April to provide accommodation for up to 70 workers, enabling them to walk to work as they undertake 12 hour shifts, seven days a week on the 2,000 tonne substation at the heart of the wind farm.

This is to carry out a painting campaign as well as various other minor works, which while not critical to energising the substation, need to be finished before the wind farm is fully operational.

The 130m vessel has six legs which extend to the seabed and allow it to rise above sea level, creating a stable platform. Its on-board facilities include a hospital, conference room, mess room, coffee shop and gym.

It is anticipated the jack-up will be on site until around November this year.



*MPI Resolution*. Photo by Rampion’s Jon Nuttall

## Rampion set to appoint seventh wind turbine technician apprentice

As Rampion’s first two apprentices are set to graduate, the project is about to appoint the seventh to join the team and start on the road to becoming an offshore wind turbine technician.



Third year apprentice – Tony Walker.

The first two apprentices, Tony Walker and Ross Muirhead, started training at the Uniper Academy in Nottingham in 2015 where they gained their Technical Education Qualifications. They are well into their practical wind farm experience, working from the new base in Newhaven Port and on track to achieve their National Vocational Qualifications.

Sussex locals Alex Reah and James McMillan joined the team in 2016 and, in late August 2017, Toby Newman and James Daniels, also both from Sussex, started their training.

Wind turbine technicians are a significant part of the wind farm’s operation and maintenance workforce and it has been a long-held Rampion goal for apprentices to fill around 25 per cent of the newly created technician roles.

Toby studied at Ringmer Community College (now King’s Academy) then at the Park Campus of Sussex Downs College in Eastbourne before working as a warehouseman when he decided he needed a more technically based career.

“I’ve already been fortunate enough to go offshore and transfer onto a turbine which is an experience very few people in the world will ever get to have,” he said.

James came to the apprenticeship from Plumpton College where he was studying agricultural engineering and working part time as a butcher.

“I didn’t enjoy many subjects at school which put me off A-levels and University so I decided to follow a path with hands-on training. It is fun to be able to go out on a wind turbine at sea and enjoy amazing views of the coastline,” he said.

Rampion’s seventh apprentice will start in August 2018 and a new round of apprenticeships is likely to be advertised in early 2019.