



## Setting up an Energy Services Company (ESCo)

### What is an ESCo?

**An ESCo is an organisation set up to deliver renewable energy and efficiency projects:**

An ESCo can be a company, co-operative, society, trust or partnership. ESCo's are involved in various aspects of the energy market. ESCo's may be used to oversee the financing, construction, operation and/or maintenance of a system. However the precise responsibilities of an ESCo will be tailored to meet the needs of the individual scheme and can include the following:

- Renewable energy supply
- Energy efficiency and energy savings
- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Affordable heating

**Laurence Gould has extensive experience** assisting in the formation and management of producer groups, and have a dedicated environmental and planning team with a **successful record** of working on energy projects in rural businesses.

### Case study - North Cornwall Wind Farm Co-operative

Laurence Gould is helping to deliver this project for a group of farmers who are forming a wind farm co-op. Each farmer will have 2 wind turbines. The planning process has taken time but all now have planning consent. The grant bodies are interested in the project as it demonstrates how energy can be generated and sold collectively.

**Laurence Gould are preparing the grant applications and putting together the financial package to fund the project.**



### How does an ESCo work?

The structure of an ESCo will be unique to each individual project and will depend upon the cost and scale of the project, attitude of the initial stakeholders to risk, level of knowledge of cooperating bodies and stakeholders, and the aims of the project itself. Adopting the correct business structure for your ESCo is key to delivering **a successful and profitable project**. Bringing in **Laurence Gould's professional advice** and management expertise throughout the project will save you time and money.

### Why form an ESCo?

An **ESCo reduces the individual risk** involved in an energy project by sharing responsibility formally amongst stakeholders and allowing for the distribution of tasks to those most suited to completing them. With our industry knowledge, an ESCo can secure better deals on energy prices and will stand a much better chance of being awarded grant funding to support its work.

An ESCo can also help to improve the delivery of the project. Although many groups forming an ESCo will already be in some form of association, creating **a group focussed on energy projects** can encourage focussed and cost effective delivery. Without an ESCo, an existing group can be distracted by its other activities, thereby causing delays to the project.

**Laurence Gould's specialist planning advisers** can guide you through obtaining permission for multi-site projects, as well as determine optimum installation locations to minimise planning and environmental objections.

Forming an ESCo is an excellent way to deliver and manage an energy project. Investing in the experience of Laurence Gould's environment and planning team will help to ensure that your project is **feasible, well planned and successful**.

**If you would like us to speak to your stakeholder group, or for an initial, no obligation discussion please contact:**

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