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# MEET THE AMBASSADORS:

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

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## **GREG EVANS**

### **DIRECTOR OF CENTRICA ENERGY**

Greg Evans is Director of Centrica Energy - a world-leading integrated energy company. He has been actively involved in the campaign for Anglesey to be approved for a new nuclear development and believes this is central to the economic life of the island. Mr Evans received the Chartered Management Institute (CMI) Regional Chartered Manager of the Year award for Wales in 2009, and is recognised as an outstanding leader who makes a difference to the future prosperity of Wales, having been awarded the Leading Wales Award.

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## **ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

This is an important growth sector for North West Wales, with 'green energy' identified by policy and industry leaders as playing a key role in the future of the region. Initiatives such as Anglesey's Energy Island programme reflect this emphasis:

***“The Anglesey Energy Island™ Programme is a collective effort between several stakeholders within the public and private sector working in partnership to put Anglesey at the forefront of energy research and development, production and servicing, bringing with it potentially huge economic rewards”.***

There are a number of policy-led initiatives at Welsh and UK Government levels which are targeted at developing business capacity in this sector in the region. For example, the Wales Renewable Energy Producers Business Rate Scheme Business was launched by Welsh Government Minister Edwina Hart in January 2013. A new fund for energy and environment SMEs in Wales can provide up to £50,000 of match funding.

There are new investments and programmes across the North Wales region spanning a wide range of energy generation, including nuclear, solar, wind (particularly offshore), and biomass. Plans for a new build nuclear plant on Anglesey, “Wylfa B”, are progressing with Japanese firm Hitachi’s recent acquisition of Horizon nuclear power. Major offshore wind developments in progress include the ‘Rhiannon’ offshore windfarm in the Irish Sea between Anglesey and the Isle of Man, and separate proposals to run undersea cables transmitting power from wind farms in Ireland to the UK, linking into the UK grid at Pentir near Bangor.

One of the largest solar park applications submitted in Wales was recently approved by Anglesey council, and Wales’ first commercial tidal energy farm is being built off the coast of Anglesey. Offshore oil and gas drilling is also an important aspect of the energy sector in the region. The three-platform Douglas Complex, sited 24km from the North Wales coast, is the nerve centre of BHP’s offshore development.

At a policy level, relevant Sector Skills Council publications have identified the energy sector as a growth area and have set out strategic priorities for training and skills. There is significant investment in the provision of relevant training and qualifications across the North Wales region; for example, Coleg Llandrillo has set up the Renewable Energy & Sustainability Centre for Wales (RESCW); on Anglesey, Wylfa operator Magnox has moved its centralised UK Learning & Development team to co locate with Coleg Menai's £6 million Canolfan Ynni (Energy Centre). Postgraduate education opportunities and cutting edge research and development are to be found at the regions universities, such as at Bangor University's Biocomposites Centre. Capacity building and network opportunities linking business, industry and academic initiatives in the region include Green Innovation Future Technologies (GIFT).



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