

Swaffham I, Ecotech Centre

Swaffham I is the UK's first multi-megawatt wind turbine and one of a new generation of direct drive, variable speed wind turbines, brought to the UK by Ecotricity.

The turbine was installed at the Ecotech Centre in Swaffham, Norfolk in October 1999 and officially opened by the Environment Minister, Michael Meacher. It produces enough electricity for around 3,000 people - over a third of the population of Swaffham.

The Ecotech Centre is an environmental education centre and Swaffham I includes a viewing platform, which has already been visited by over 50,000 people. The unique public viewing platform, designed by Foster & Partners, is situated just below the hub and can be reached by climbing a 300-step spiral staircase inside the tower.

Swaffham I is superior to conventional electricity generators, in terms of energy efficiency and yield, as well as having minimal environmental impact. An official Millennium Product, this world leading wind converter incorporates unique design advancements and refinements to increase aerodynamic efficiency and significantly reduce noise.



Project Details

Site address:	Ecotech Centre, Swaffham, Norfolk
Installed:	October 1999
Turbines:	1
Capacity:	1.5MW

Annual electricity output

Generation:	over 3 million units each year
Equivalent to:	1,121 homes
Blade rotation:	10 – 20rpm (depending on wind speed)

Turbine Dimensions

Hub height:	67m
Rotor diameter:	66m
Blade length:	31m

Annual emissions savings

Carbon dioxide (CO ₂):	3,161 tonnes
Sulphur dioxide (SO ₂):	37 tonnes
Nitrogen oxide (NO _x):	11 tonnes