



Mogilev Region residents soon to become familiar with wind turbines on their horizon

Strength and power taken successfully from nature

Mogilev Region relies on development of alternative energy

By Svetlana Paramygina

The wind turbines which appeared a couple of years ago near the regional centre immediately attracted attention, being an unusual sight in Belarus. Installed by Mogilev Tycoon Enterprise, they are saving the company money.

Wind savings!

The director of the business, Sergey Sergievich, tells us, "We are pioneers in developing wind power in the Dnieper River area, having installed our first wind turbine near the village of Zhukovo, in the Mogilev District, two years ago. Today, we have eight, with the most recent being even more powerful."

Mr. Sergievich studied

mountains of literature and the experience of Western colleagues before making his decision. He also researched wind patterns locally and found that the Mogilev Region has plenty of this natural resource, being similar to Germany, where (as in the rest of Europe) wind turbines have been long used successfully. Some months are more productive than others, with last December generating the most power so far. This electricity fully supplies Mogilevenergo but Mr. Sergievich won't reveal how long it will take for the turbines to 'pay for themselves'. He doesn't want to give his competitors too much information! Naturally, we can assume that the turbines are a good long-term investment.

In fact, the company has also installed solar panels nearby, since there is enough sun in Belarus to make this worthwhile. Tycoon is now planning to build a solar module station in Bykhov, on the site of a former military airfield.

Biogas fuel

One of the leading agricultural enterprises in the Mogilev Region and nationally is Rassvet co-operative, in the Kirov District. At the end of last year, it launched Belarus' largest biogas unit, processing agricultural waste into energy. Ideally, the amount of electricity produced is enough not only for this district but, partially, for those nearby.

"We're generating Br2.5bn per month from the

sale of electricity," notes the Chairman of Rassvet, Alexander Bagel. "Plus, we cover all the needs of our agricultural enterprise." Its greenhouses require a considerable amount of energy, as do the grain drying systems. The Chairman of the Mogilev Regional Executive Committee, Piotr Rudnik, stresses that other businesses should follow this model, building smaller biogas units — to at least provide for their own needs.

Tomorrow begins today

"The prospects of alternative energy are obvious," emphasises the Head of Energy and Fuel, on the Mogilev Regional Executive Committee, Nikolay Yurkov.

He adds, "Across the region, a lot is being done to develop this sphere."

Triple company's major investment project to install wind turbines is on the cards, using Siemens equipment, in the Gorki and Mstislavl districts. Each site is to have eight wind turbines, producing 20 MW of electricity. All together, three sites are to launch, producing 60 MW. Using large-scale equipment, as in Europe, it will reduce the area needed for wind turbines. Land comes at a price.

"By creating a detailed map of wind patterns at each site, we are solving technical and organisational issues," Mr. Yurkov explains. "We expect that our first industrial wind turbines will be launched in 2015."

According to the project, the investment should pay for itself within 7-8 years, producing enough energy for about 10 districts: half of the region. The Mogilev Region's community services also plan to install turbines, smaller in size, alongside two mini-hydropower stations, in Mogilev and Bobruisk. Wastewater treatment facilities should also launch this year.

"It's planned to build a larger hydroelectric plant on the River Dnieper," Mr. Yurkov admits. A solar power plant is also planned, partially funded by a Chinese nuclear power engineering company. Accordingly, a factory is being launched to make solar panels locally, at the Mogilev FEZ.

Opel and Chevrolet to receive new registration

General Motors eager to assemble cars in Belarus



Production line for Chevrolet cars

By Sergey Fiodorov

General Motors Company and Belarusian-British Unison enterprise have signed a framework agreement to assemble American cars in Belarus. Opel Corsa will be the first model, with assembly launching in 2014. One of the popular General Motors models, the Corsa sells well in Russia despite lacking local manufacture. Some modifications are planned, as

available on the Russian market, including three and five-door models.

"The signed document has strategic influence on the development of our enterprise," notes Dmitry Yegorov, Unison's Director General. "Apart from manufacturing Opel Corsa, we're considering making a series of Chevrolet cars." Annually, 4,000-7,000 cars are to be assembled, with the focus on competitive and

affordable cars.

General Motors' President and Managing Director in Russia and the CIS, James Bovenzi, believes that it's too early to talk about pricing. "The price will be determined closer to our launch of the first cars, next March. We'll sell in Belarus and within the Customs Union. The principle of our company is to manufacture where we sell; we practice this approach worldwide. Opel Corsa is imported to Russia and Belarus, so we decided to localise production," stresses Mr. Bovenzi.

The American corporation produces automobiles in 30 countries and owns such brands as Chevrolet, Cadillac, Baojun, Buick, GMC, Holden, Isuzu, Jiefang, Opel, Vauxhall and Wuling. In Russia, General Motors sells Chevrolet, Opel and Cadillac models.

Children's spendings are under ATM control

A guide to children's cash cards

By Sergey Vasiliev

Parents give their children pocket money: usually small sums sufficient for a week or a few days. This allows them to control their child's spending and the child learns to plan a budget. Of course, a situation may arise where money is needed unexpectedly so the latest solution is for children to have their own 'cash cards': another step towards adulthood.

Only some banks in Belarus are offering the service, as additional cards on existing adult accounts:

BelInvestBank is among them. Naturally, the main account holder (the parent) can set limits on their child's card and can also receive SMS-notifications for each transaction. Limits can be set for the type of transaction, country where they are permitted, maximum spend and frequency of use, with cards able to withdraw cash from ATMs or be used for purchases, topping up mobile phones or paying for Internet services. Cards

can even be used for remote banking. Children as young as 6 may be given a card: valid for five years.

The Head of Card Services at BelInvestBank's CardCentre, Natalia Kudryavtseva, tells us, "Convenience and safety for children's cards are among the advantages. Cards are much safer than cash since they can be blocked if lost, safeguarding parents' money. Children can learn to use a pay card easily; there is plenty of information online to help them, as well as advertisements. Certainly, it's a way to teach financial literacy and independence: drawing out cash from a machine, paying for purchases in shops, and using remote banking services."

