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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **WIND TURBINE A BIG DRAW AT RES HQ OPEN DAY**

The annual Open Day at Beaufort Court, the award winning eco-friendly office of Renewable Energy Systems (RES), was another big success this year, with the public flocking to the former Ovaltine Egg Farm last Saturday (25 June) to discover how it has been transformed into a world-first in renewable energy generation and sustainable design.

On what turned out to be a windy day, visitors were able to stand beneath the turning blades of the famous wind turbine just metres from the M25 and find out more about the green energy generating technology. RES staff were also on hand at 'Windy Corner' to answer the many questions people had about wind power.

Anna Stanford, Communications Manager for RES, said;

*"Wind power is always in the news and, like last year, the wind turbine turned out to be the main attraction. We were delighted at the overwhelmingly positive comments we had from visitors, which reflects how popular wind power is with the British public. What struck us all was the general feeling expressed by people that we have to protect our environment and move to greener energy technologies."*

*Overall the Open Day was a roaring success. We were especially pleased to see so many people come on foot, bicycle or by public transport and to see visitors enjoying the fun activities we had laid on, especially for the children. We are also delighted to announce that the Open Day raised over £500 for the St Francis Hospice."*

This was the second public open day held at Beaufort Court since the company moved in in late 2003. This year it coincided with National Architecture Week, and many local people were keen to see how the much-loved historical buildings have been sympathetically transformed into a pioneering example of sustainable design.

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Visitors were able to follow the Energy Trail around the site to learn about each of the renewable energy technologies, such as the solar panels and the energy crop growing next to the motorway. Well-attended tours ran throughout the day. This year the Open Day was also supported by a range of local organisations, including the Apsley Paper Trail, Groundwork Hertfordshire, Three Valleys Water, Greenworks and Friends of the Earth. A display of electric cars by Redborne School and Greenpower also proved a popular attraction.

A bouncy castle, competitions, wind-themed arts and crafts and solar-powered models kept children entertained throughout the day. Music was provided by local musicians including Kings Langley School band and the Kings Langley and Abbots Langley Scouts and the Kings Langley Historical Society also gave valuable help on the day.

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**Notes to editors**

UK-based Renewable Energy Systems (RES) is part of the Sir Robert McAlpine group of engineering and construction companies and is one of the world's leading developers, builders and operators of wind farms, with operations on three continents. RES built its first wind farm in Cornwall in 1992 and has to date installed almost 1,000 MW of wind generating capacity.

The re-development of Beaufort Court using best practice sustainable strategies was achieved with EU support through the EC Framework 5 Programme. The project has won many awards including from RIBA and Business Commitment to the Environment, and in 2005 RES was given a Queen's Award for Enterprise in the Sustainable Development category. A dedicated website for Beaufort Court can be found at [www.beaufortcourt.com](http://www.beaufortcourt.com). This includes information on booking tours for school groups.

**For further information, please call Anna Stanford on 01923 299203, email [anna.stanford@res-ltd.com](mailto:anna.stanford@res-ltd.com) or visit our website at [www.beaufortcourt.com](http://www.beaufortcourt.com)**  
**Photos of the Open Day are available on request.**