

## Activity Description

Many problems for wind farms that are located in mountain terrain, during the winter months, are caused by snowfalls. These snowfalls make practically the plant inaccessible in a safe way and a potential outage of a wind turbine may last a lot more than in summer period. The common practice in these cases is snow removal activities in order the service teams to access the sites in time for troubleshoot.

In the region of Thrace, Greece, EGP Hellas has proceeded with the internalization of all the maintenance activities in two of its wind farms. Moreover, in the region, EGP Hellas owns additionally 3 wind farms in which the majority of activities are also performed by our own personnel. These five wind farms in total are located to the mountains near the Greek- Bulgarian borders at an altitude of 1.000 meters. These plants face severe access problems during the winter months.



In order to minimize the loss of energy due to extensive outages, EGP Hellas performs also internally the snow removal activities, by using two machinery vehicles. The operators of these machineries are trained and have all the needed certifications for such activities. The snow removal activities are performed in a wide area and the total kilometers that are under our responsibility and are cleared by EGP Hellas personnel is around 35km.



Regardless the improvement in the cost that we are succeeding with the internalization of the activities, we are also provide help to the local communities. They benefit from our activities because except from the internal roads leading to the turbines, many kilometers of provincial and farmer roads are also cleaned from the snow and the access to their habitants is restored.



In most of the times, in order to minimize the downtime of the wind turbines, our machinery and personnel are the first, which perform activities in the access roads. So, we are providing also snow removal activities to several local mountain villages. In addition, many times during the years we have voluntarily helped people who stacked with their vehicles in the snow. In addition, it is very usual for the local municipality to call us, in order to help with our equipment to the snow removals of a small-populated village located very close to our roads network. In that village, usually old people are blocked in their houses due to the heavy snowfall. There was also one incident that an old woman who had to be transferred successfully the fastest possible to the hospital due to a heart attack.



Our responsibility for performing this activity starts from the access road to the wind parks for about 30 kilometers before our plants and keeps going to the whole ridge of the mountain where our turbines are installed, at a road network approximately of 35 kilometers long. During this activity, we usually have to face hard weather conditions that cause snow concentrations of different height to the road network.



### **Benefits**

- **Efficiency benefits**
- **Social benefits**

The social benefits are related with the help to the local community. As described above, EGP Hellas has helped in stacked people in cars and in many cases in trapped local population in their houses. These activities make a good reputation for the company and improves the relations with the local communities.