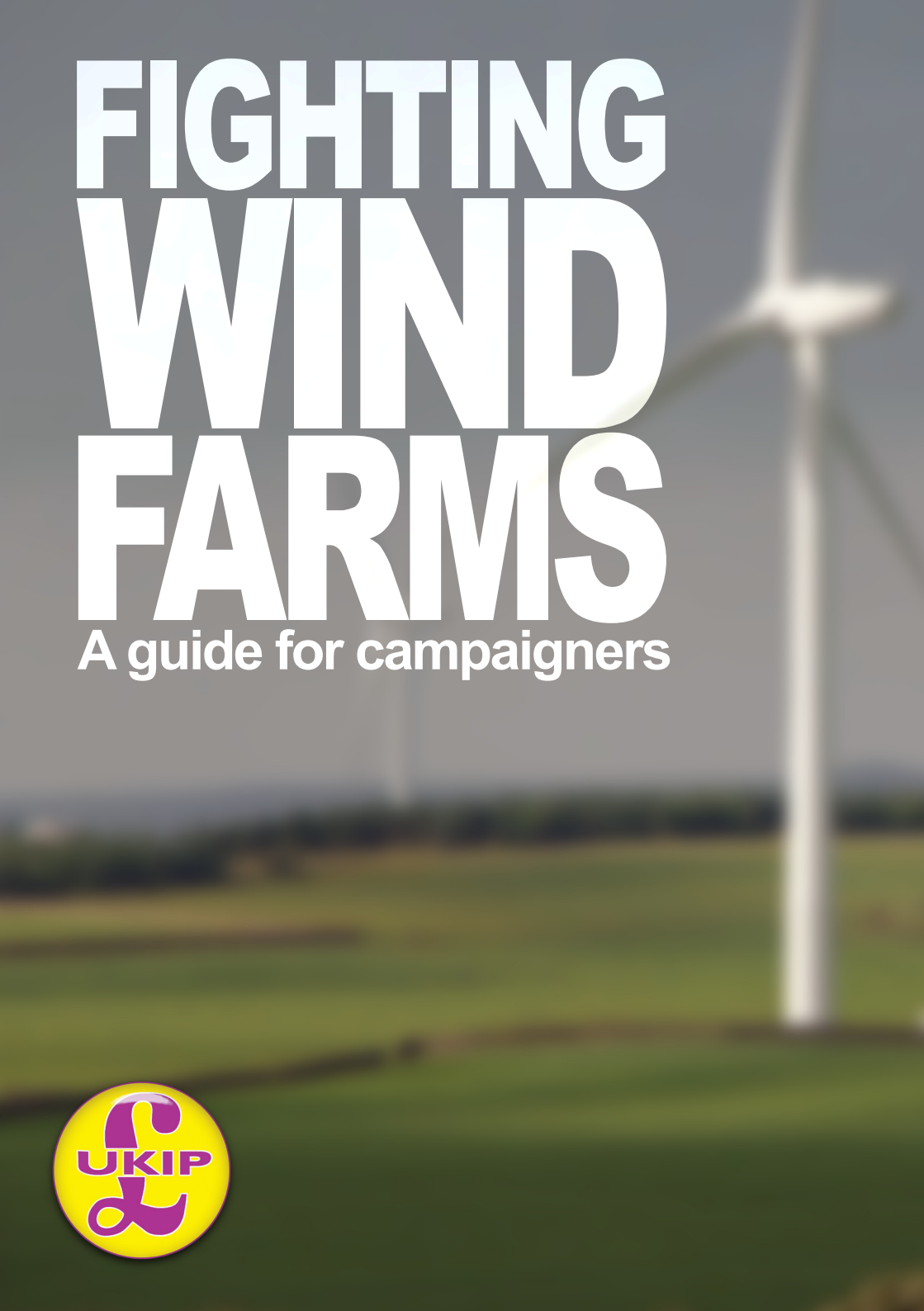
FIGHTING WIND FARMS

A guide for campaigners



INTRODUCTION

This booklet is intended as an introduction to effective campaigning against wind farms.

The following pages offer a number of arguments against wind energy, which may persuade you or help you to persuade others that wind energy is quite simply a bad idea. Rather than providing a complete and technical account of the many concerns about wind energy that campaigners have raised over the years, an overview of them is given here as a starting point for further research. Seasoned wind farm campaigners start out as ordinary folk, but more often than not end up as experts in matters of energy and planning policy.

Across the centre pages is an outline of the wind farm planning process. This includes some detail about what the wind farm developer will do, and some suggestions for your own response. Sadly, there is no magic formula for winning against wind farm developments in the planning process. Thanks to the UK government's irrational commitments to renewable energy and wind energy in particular, the planning process is loaded against any opposition. Objecting to wind farms is hard work, time-consuming and often expensive. But unless people raise their voices about the horrific destruction of our peaceful landscapes and the dangers of relying on wind energy, the process will continue.

Following the outline of the planning process, the third section of this booklet suggests some steps that you may want to consider when establishing your own wind farm action group. Many people have little or no experience of campaigning, and find themselves at a loss when confronted by the bureaucracy of local planning processes, and the might of huge energy companies. This guide will help, and there are increasing numbers of wind farm campaigners across the country all keen to offer advice to new campaigns, and share their experiences.

It is important to remember that it's not just your area that is threatened by wind farm developers. There are many areas throughout the UK which are now or will be the site of proposed wind farms. Keep an eye on the national and even international campaigns and debates about wind energy, and make your campaigning efforts reach beyond your own village, town, or city.

WHY OBJECT TO WIND FARMS?

There are many reasons for objecting to wind farms. For those living close to them, they are a noise and visual nuisance which can cause distress and a danger to health. For many, wind farms are an ugly intrusion into Britain's natural heritage, and a despoilation of our precious and ancient wildernesses. But not everybody shares the appreciation for unspoilt landscapes. To make a convincing argument against wind farms it must be explained to people that wind energy suffers from many technical and economic problems, which left unchallenged will cause greater hardship for people throughout the country.

This section of the booklet offers an overview of wind energy's inherent problems, and is by no means exhaustive. Further information can be found on the points raised here by referring to the sources listed on the back page.

Wind turbines

The most easily forgotten fact about wind turbines is that very few people want to live near them. They are huge machines. Their visual appearance and noise dominate any otherwise peaceful landscape. But they are often sited in remote, and sparsely populated areas. This means that those affected by any one wind farm are necessarily small in number, and so find it difficult to organise sufficient resources to fight wind farm proposals in the planning process. Those who have not anticipated problems with turbines before they were installed have later found that the claims made by developers are untrue, and that their peaceful lives have been shattered.

Resistance to wind farms has been dismissed by renewable energy campaigners, green organisations and the government as 'Nimbyism'. Wind farm campaigners, they claim, are concerned only with themselves, and the value of their homes. But once burdened with a wind turbine, homes in the vicinity of wind farms may lose between 5 and 50 per cent of their value, often making them completely unsaleable. This can trap people in houses that are afflicted by the visual and noise disturbances cause by turbines. This can lead to loss of sleep and to further health complications. Wind farm developers refuse to believe the mounting evidence against them, and are not held liable for any loss of value their schemes cause to other people. To make matter worse, loss of value to homes is not a 'material consideration' to most planning processes.

Wind farm noise

The planning process requires wind farm developers to make estimates of the noise pollution their turbines will cause. But in most cases, it is not in the developer's interest either to make accurate estimates, or to release full details into the public domain. In one case, a developer who was the subject of a BBC documentary was shown refusing to release data to the owners of neighbouring properties. In other cases, developers take measurements of 'normal' background noise during times of the year that are most likely to be noisy, such as harvest time. Although developers claim to take noise problems seriously, they fail to put their money where their mouths are, and offer to turn the turbines off when they make noise that exceeds the levels indicated by their estimates.

The permissible level of noise from wind turbines is limited by a standard called ETSU-R-97. To estimate noise caused by turbines, readings are taken at the site which record the noise that already exists, such as passing traffic, wind in the trees and any other regular local activity. Noise above this level, to a certain threshold, is acceptable under the standard. But evidence is mounting that this standard is insufficient to protect wind farms' neighbours from noise nuisance. In particular, on occasions where there is little wind near ground level, there is little background noise to mask the noise from wind turbines. The resulting rhythmical noise is especially irritating, and can sometimes be heard many kilometres away.

Environmental damage

Although wind energy is touted as a clean and green form of energy, it is capable of causing immense harm to local wildlife and ecology. The foundations of wind turbine structures require the removal of huge quantities of earth -- often ecologically important peat -- which is replaced by many tons of carbon-emitting concrete. More concrete is used in the construction of the access roads created to permit heavy industrial machinery such as cranes and digging equipment across landscapes that have never been disturbed. This can alter local water courses and their chemistry.

Turbine blades cause harm to birds and bats. Studies show that harm to birds varies between locations. One study of three wind farms in Belgium showed the average turbine caused the deaths of around 25 birds per year. Another study showed that one turbine caused as many as 125 bird deaths a year.

An access road cuts accross land at Cefn Croes wind farm in wales.

Wind energy and carbon emissions

Although wind turbines are at face value 'carbon free', the reality is somewhat different. The construction of wind turbines, the disturbance of earth (especially peat), and the concrete used in the foundations of wind turbines and the construction of access roads each produce large amounts of CO_2.

When they are operational, wind turbines need to be constantly backed up by conventional generators which are kept ready should the wind drop. The higher the proportion of electricity we produce from wind turbines the more back up is needed, and the more carbon is emitted.

Developers frequently exaggerate the potential of wind energy to displace carbon from energy production, and as a result have found themselves in trouble with the Advertising Standards Authority. The best estimate offered by the government is that the carbon saved by the entire UK fleet of wind turbines is equivalent to the output of one medium-sized coal-fired power station. And that is likely to be an overestimate. In fact there has been no serious attempt to do a 'carbon audit' of any wind farm, because to do so would be to reveal that they make no significant savings at all.

If there is a real and urgent need to reduce carbon emissions to mitigate climate change, then wind energy is one of the least practical ways of meeting it. The CO_2 emissions from coal-fired power stations could be halved by replacing them with gas-powered alternatives. It would take as many as 4,000 wind turbines rated at 1 MW to replace the output of just one nuclear power station such as Sizewell B. There are 310 wind farms in the UK, with 3421 wind turbines between them (as at November 2011). For all the destruction caused to the environment and disturbance caused to people's lives by wind turbines in the UK, they do not even match the output of Drax power station, whose primary fuel is coal.

WHY OBJECT TO WIND FARMS? (continued)

Climate change policies

In order to combat climate change, the EU and UK government has set targets for CO2 emissions-reductions, and for the use of 'renewable' energy. However, methods of producing electricity from 'renewable' sources are more costly than conventional means such as coal, gas and oil. Because wind energy cannot compete economically with conventional electricity production, the government has introduced a complicated system which guarantees income for investors in renewable energy.

The Renewables Obligation Certificate (ROCs) and Feed-in Tariff (FiT) schemes force energy suppliers to buy electricity produced from renewable sources at higher cost than the wholesale price of electricity on the market. This guarantee of profit creates a huge incentive to invest in renewable energy, and so to build wind farms where they are not appropriate, and where they are not wanted.

A further point to consider is that there has been no national debate about the UK's energy policies. Just as you have little say over the planning decisions that will affect you, there has been virtually no attempt to test the public's desire for renewable energy and climate policies. The present coalition and the previous government were each committed to the same policies. It was widely presupposed that renewable energy and fighting climate change were good things, and that there was no need for a discussion about the best way to meet environmental and energy problems.

Who benefits?

As the table at the bottom of this page shows, wind farm operators and the owners of the land on which they are installed make huge profits thanks to generous subsidies (ROCs and FiTs). Around half of the income generated by wind turbines is subsidy, which makes it possible for developers to get returns on their investment back in just a few years.

This scheme is so lucrative that it makes little difference to the developer if his wind farm is not sited appropriately. Furthermore, it demonstrates the biggest challenge facing wind farm action groups. Even a small wind farm is worth millions of pounds a year of almost pure profit to wind farm developers. Thus, it makes commercial sense for them to invest £millions in fighting opposition to wind farms. With such huge amounts at their disposal, developers are able to buy expert legal representation, and to challenge any planning decisions against them, exhausting the resources of wind farm action groups.

With such huge sums available to them, wind developers, and the wind industry as a whole, is able to lobby UK and EU politicians. In the UK, energy and climate change ministers have regular meetings with renewable energy companies to discuss ways of increasing the UK's use of renewables. And in the EU, organisations representing renewable energy companies enjoy privileged access to the policy-making process. These organisations aren't merely invited to help draft policies that will benefit their members, they are also paid €millions a year for the privilege of lobbying in their own interests.

Land owner	number of turbines	Annual income - £		
		Landowner	Energy co.	Subsidy
Duke of Gloucester	5	75,000	2,956,500	1,478,250
Jeremy Dearden	5	75,000	3,357,800	1,773,900
Sir Reginald Sheffield	8	120,000	3,483,700	1,741,850
Earl of Seafield	8	120,000	4,056,900	2,028,450
Duke of Argyll	9	135,000	2,292,500	1,146,250
Earl Spencer	13	195,000	6,149,520	3,074,760
Duke of Beaufort	19	285,000	13,160,000	6,580,000
Sir Alistair Gordon Cumming	29	435,000	18,448,560	9,224,280
Duke of Roxburghe	48	720,000	34,058,880	17,029,440

Source: The Telegraph, 21 August 2011

Who pays?

The extraordinary sums paid to wind farm operators and land owners come chiefly from electricity bills. The government and wind energy advocates insist that this is not a subsidy, but to the consumer, it makes no difference whether the government takes the money through tax to pass on to developers, or forces suppliers to buy wind energy.

The effect of under-investment in viable and conventional forms of energy production, the over-emphasis on renewables and the subsidisation of renewable energy has seen fuel prices sky-rocketing. This has led to millions of households falling into 'fuel poverty' as they find it harder and harder to pay their bills.

Between 2004 and 2009, the number of households living in fuel poverty doubled to 5.5 million -- approximately one in five homes. Since 2009, a further 1.1 million homes have fallen into fuel poverty. And new research suggests that during winter 2011-2, more than a third of British homes -- 8.3 million households -- will fall into fuel poverty. Another report finds that fuel poverty is the factor responsible for 2,700 deaths a year. That's more people than are killed in road traffic accidents.

Then there are the wider economic effects of expensive energy. Because the UK has such poorly-conceived energy policies, energy-intensive industries are unable to continue operations in Britain, and so either move off-shore, or simply close down altogether. This causes job-losses, and increasing levels of unemployment, welfare-dependency, and fuel poverty. Yet the government promises ever more money to the green energy sector, and promises that this 'investment' will create 'green jobs'.

In summary

Wind energy may spoil natural landscapes and disturb lives, but there are many further reasons for objecting to it. It damages the local environment, and fails to live up to promises that it will save the planet from climate change. It is extremely expensive, and there are serious questions about the relationship between politicians and wind energy companies. Although energy bills are rising, and millions of people are suffering the consequences, politicians continue to support wind energy, leading to an inevitable deepening of the problems experienced by people in their daily lives.

What about off-shore wind farms?

Many people believe that off-shore wind farms overcome the concerns that wind farm campaigners have raised. Out of sight, out of mind. But off-shore wind farms are not out of sight. Huge turbines rise unnaturally out of the sea, and the movement of their blades makes them all the more visible for dozens of miles along the coast. In fog and other bad weather, wind turbines create a hazard to navigation.

Off-shore wind farms don't merely cause the destruction of wonderful views, they are hazardous to wild life. According to the RSPB, wind turbines cause collisions, displacement from habitat or disruption of food resources, and diversion of major flight routes. Beneath the surface, wind turbine developments causes ecological disruption, and harm to dolphins, whales and seals.

There are plans for vast arrays of wind turbines in UK waters, stretching across many hundreds of square miles. The environmental costs of these plans cannot be calculated. The UK's fishing industry, which has been damaged by EU regulations, will be forced away from important fishing grounds by the physical and environmental effects of many thousands of wind turbines.

Then there are the technical problems. A wind turbine at sea is no more efficient than its on-shore counterpart, but installing off-shore wind turbines is more difficult, and thus more expensive. In order to encourage developers to invest in off-shore wind, the government promises them even greater subsidies, which are added to your electricity bill.

Putting wind farms off-shore does nothing to resolve the problems of wind energy. From any perspective, an off-shore wind farm is at least as bad as an on-shore wind farm. Hiding wind turbines out at sea won't conceal the fact that the UK is likely to end up with the most expensive and least reliable energy supply in the developed world.

THE WIND FARM PLANNING PROCESS STAGES

	Pre-planning	Scoping	Temporary mast application	Planning application	Appeals
WHAT DEVELOPERS WILL DO	Most of what happens during this stage of the wind farm development process takes place away from the public's view. The developers will approach land owners to discuss their plans, and may have secured preliminary agreements with them. They will also have carried out some initial surveying of the local area and made initial inquires with the Local Planning Authority (**LPA**).	During the 'scoping stage' of the process, the developers submit a request to the LPA to 'define the scope' of their planning application. This will explain to the developers what they need to provide to the LPA in order to go forward with their plans, such as an Environmental Impact Assessment (**EIA**) The LPA will in turn request comments from interested parties in the vicinity, such as the MOD and airports.	Developers often apply to the LPA for permission to install a very tall anemometer mast (or meteorological mast), to record the wind speed at the site for up to two years. The data recorded by the mast will be used by the developer to create estimates of wind turbine performance, and their likely noise impact.	When the developers have compiled the information stipulated by the LPA (in response to the 'scoping request'), they will submit it to the LPA. The LPA then invites responses from other parties. Their comments are then considered along with the application over the following 16 weeks. When a decision is reached, the LPA recommend either an acceptance or refusal to local councillors, who make the final decision at a planning meeting.	If local councillors decide to reject the application, the wind farm developers may decide to appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. If the planning application was successful, and providing there are no further challenges to the decision, the developers are free to continue the installation of wind turbines at the site.
WHAT CAMPAIGNERS CAN DO	Although this stage is not visible to the public, you may get to hear about wind farm developers approaching local land owners. If so, this is the time to get your campaign started. The earlier you can show the extent of local opposition and begin your challenge to the development, the better.	There is no basis for an objection to a scoping request, but you can submit your comments to the LPA, who may require the developer to take your concerns into consideration. The LPA will publish details of the application and correspondence related to it on the website. If you haven't started your campaign yet, you should do so now, and begin by alerting people in the local area about the plans.	You are able to object to the application to install a temporary mast. However, these objections are rarely (if ever) sustained. You should object to the mast to demonstrate the local opposition to the plan. But concentrate your efforts on challenging the final planning application for the permanent wind farm.	This is the most important stage for any wind farm campaign. The developer will submit a great deal of evidence to the LPA. You must check the facts they present in the application and ensure that the developer is not holding any information from the planning process on the pretext of 'commercial sensitivity'. Maintain a good relationship with local media, and nationwide campaigns, and keep neighbours informed of the process.	If the developers win consent for their plan, all is not yet lost. But the chances of you overturning the planning decision are substantially reduced. The only course of redress available to wind farm campaigners is to apply to the High Court for a judicial review, which is a very expensive and time-consuming process. The only grounds for appeal are mistakes or misleading arguments made in the planning application or the process, not the decision itself. It is best to take expert legal advice at this stage.

SETTING UP A WIND FARM ACTION GROUP

Create an action group

• Canvas local support. Inform people living in the neighbourhood and around the proposed wind farm site of the plan.

• Create a 'contacts list' of people with expertise that may be useful to the campaign, and those who will be willing to help out more generally.

• Get in touch with local councillors and politicians to establish their opinion on the wind farm proposal. Do not approach members of the planning committee as this may compromise their roles.

• Arrange a public meeting to discuss the proposal. Create a flyer to advertise the event, and distribute it to homes in the neighbouring areas. Invite councillors and the local press.

• Use the public meeting to establish the facts about the wind farm proposal and make them known to those likely to be affected by it, to gauge the level of opposition to the wind farm, and to invite individuals to get involved with your campaign.

• Create a form rather like a petition, asking people to register their opinion on the wind farm application (for, against or undecided) so that you can answer developers' claims that their proposal enjoys local support.

• Following the meeting, invite the individuals interested in helping to the first meeting of the action group. Allocate specific roles to one or two individuals, such as chair, research, press, and fund-raising to head each aspect of the campaign effort.

• Make contact with other local and national wind farm campaigns such as NAWAG and seek their advice in any areas you are unfamiliar with.

• Start a fighting fund. Set up a bank account and begin fund raising.

Keep up the pressure

• Go to the developers exhibition or public meeting and collect any literature they publish or distribute in support of their proposal. Complain about any errors or inaccuracies used in their campaigning literatures to the Advertising Standards Authority. Make notes or record any answers to your questions. Take your survey forms to public meetings, and counter any claims the developers make in the press with your own survey results.

• Keep an eye out for activists in the area. Developers have been known to hire green campaigners to canvas support for their wind farm application with misleading information about the application itself and wind energy in general.

• Keep people in the local area informed about your campaign and its progress. Consider using a newsletter, flyers, posters and signs in front gardens. Ask them to write to the planning authority themselves.

• Get the support of local and neighbouring councillors, Parish Councils, VIPs, MEPs and MPs and local organisations such as the CPRE, Ramblers Association. Keep them up to date with your campaign. Request to make presentations at their meetings, or for meetings with them in person.

• Organise events for fund-raising and information-sharing. Invite speakers from other campaigns to talk about their successes and failures. Invite experts to give seminar talks.

Create an action plan

• Set up a website. Make sure it's easy to use and read. If your group has no web design expertise, and you cannot find a tech-savvy young person to help, free and easy to use 'blogging' sites are available at www.blogspot.com and www.wordpress.com.

• Establish a relationship with the local planning authority. Find the names and contact details of key planning personnel. Let them know about your group and give them the contact details of two or three individuals. To avoid confusion, all correspondence between your group and the planning authority should take place through the individuals allocated the task of liaising with them.

• Request a meeting with planning officer and a small number of your group (two or three should be enough). Make sure he understands that your intentions are to understand the planning process and to get his advice, not to confront him about the proposal. Prepare for your discussion with him with questions about the process, such as: which experts may be examining the proposal; previous applications that the authority has dealt with; which local policies are relevant to the application; what will happen during the planning meeting, and will you be able to present your arguments, etc. Ask him to keep you up to date with developments in the case.

• If the developer makes an application to install a meteorological mask, organise an objection to it. The application will probably be accepted, but you will have an opportunity to demonstrate the strength of opposition, and have conditions attached to the planning consent. For instance, you could request that it is made a condition that all the wind-speed data from the mast be released to the planning authority, which may be useful to your own evaluation of their estimates of likely noise nuisance caused by the turbines.

Create an objection

• Make sure that you understand the local planning policies, and which forms of objection are acceptable to the process. Concentrate on developing arguments that relate to 'material planning considerations'.

• Obtain a copy of the developer's planning application from them or their agent, or view it at the local library. Examine the application thoroughly, checking facts, figures and claims and look out for uncorroborated opinions. Raise any major issues or shortcomings with the planning officer.

• Keep monitoring the local planning authority's website for new information regarding the application.

• Create a photomontage of the proposed site, showing the visual impact of turbines on the existing landscape. Make sure these are produced accurately, so that you can counter the photomontages offered by the developer, which invariably show their proposal in a favourable light.

• If you have sufficient funds, commission your own Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to counter the developer's. Ask the planning officer for advice on how this will be received by the planning process to make sure that it is worthwhile before committing any funds to it.

• Compile your investigation in a document outlining your objections to the application, detailing all of the errors, omissions and failures of the planning application. Submit the result to the planning authority with a short (two or three page) executive summary.

MORE FAQS AND FIGURES...

A single Boeing 747 produces more CO2 in a year than an on-shore wind farm with a capacity of 60MW -- between 30 and 60 wind turbines.

A 2005 report from EON NETZ revealed that wind could not safely meet more than 10% of a country's electricity demand. Any amount above this requires equivalent backup.

- Wind energy is only able to replace traditional power stations to a limited extent.

Their dependence on the prevailing wind conditions means that wind power has a limited load factor even when technically available. It is not possible to guarantee its use for the continual cover of electricity consumption. Consequently, traditional power stations with capacities equal to 90% of the installed wind power capacity must be permanently online in order to guarantee power supply at all times.

E.on Netz 'Wind Report' 2005

In certain conditions, wind turbines actually consume electricity. To protect them from damage from cold or warm spells, the machinery is heated or cooled. It is not unheard of for the daily net contribution of all the UK's wind turbines to be negative.

To meet the EU commitment to renewable energy, the UK needs to add 7,500 wind turbines to its fleet by 2020. That would mean installing 2.24 wind turbines every single day from now until then.

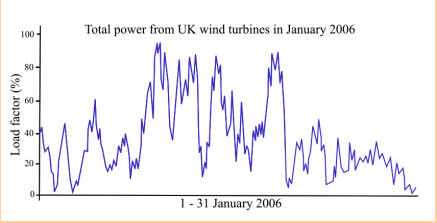
The UK currently has 294 operational onshore wind farms, with 30 more under construction, and planning approved for 221 schemes. There are a further 307 wind farms currently in planning.

	Schemes	Capacity (MW)
Operational	294	4219
Under construction	30	1377
Approved, not built	221	3739
In planning	307	7123

Each of these wind farms faces growing local opposition, causing substantial delays. Another factor impeding wind farm developers' plans has been uncertainty about the future of subsidies for renewable energy. It is embarrassing for the government to be favouring expensive renewable energy while fuel bills are so high. It is important to keep the pressure on government, as well as developers.

The average wind turbine produces energy 75 per cent of the time. However, because wind speeds vary, a turbine's output also varies between nothing and its capacity. The average wind turbine only produces 28 percent of its total capacity.

The UK often experiences days without any wind, meaning that the output from wind turbines is almost zero. For that reason, wind energy cannot displace a single conventional power station. Therefore, the UK consumer doesn't just have to pay for the subsidised wind energy, and for the wind turbine, but also for its backup.



Although advocates of wind energy claim that Denmark is a success story, up to 70% of the electricity produced by Danish wind turbines has to be exported to its neighbours at a loss because of grid integration problems. Not a single conventional power station has been replaced by wind energy in Denmark.

Wind energy is touted as 'safe'. But broken turbine blades and build-up of ice can be sent through the air at great speed. Turbines are also prone to catching fire, which creates risks for nearby property, ecology and crops. This risk is increased at remote locations and where access is limited.

"...the level of support provided by the Renewables Obligation is greater than necessary to ensure that most new onshore wind farms... are developed"
... "The Renewables Obligation is currently at least four times more expensive than the other means of reducing carbon dioxide currently used in the United Kingdom"

-- UK Auditor General, February 2005.

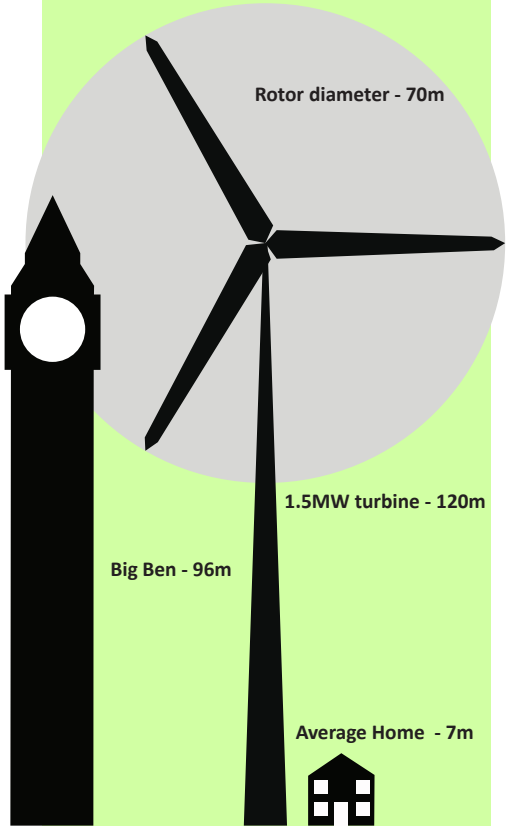
£1,000,000,000 - the subsidy given to wind energy operators in 2010.
5,000,000 - the number of households living in fuel poverty in 2010.
2,700 - the number of people who died in 2010 due to fuel poverty, according to DECC.

The graphic below shows the relative heights of a 1.5MW wind turbine, an average home and Big Ben. From the ground to the tip of the turbine's blades is 120 meters, but much larger wind turbines are being developed.

Newer turbines, which are nearly 200m tall, and with a capacity of between 4.5 and 6MW have been installed at onshore wind farms in Germany.

Although wind turbines have a life-expectancy of 25 years, more realistic estimates suggest that they may only achieve half that.

With ever larger turbines being designed, and with substantial subsidies available to developers, there is an increasing risk that wind developers may chose to 'repower' existing wind farm sites, replacing the lower-power turbines with larger models.



Developers are keen to explain the benefits of their wind farms in terms of how many homes they will be able to supply with electricity. For example, in 2005, Renewable Energy Systems (RES) claimed that their 16MW Dun Law wind farm would provide power to 14,000 homes. But RES overstated the wind farm's 'load factor' by 80%, and only provided sufficient power for 7704 homes.

Powering every home in the UK with wind farms of equivalent power as the Dun Law wind farm would require 1,788 wind farms and a total of 46,428 wind turbines. That's one wind turbine every 5 square kilometres, across the entire UK.

Even if it were feasible to build such a huge number of wind farms, it would still not be possible to shut down a single conventional power station.

The government estimates that 9.2 million tons of carbon were saved by wind turbines in 2010. That sounds like a lot, but it represents just 0.03% of global emissions. The UK emits 2% of global emissions. Even if the UK emitted no carbon whatsoever, it would make no difference to climate change at all. Wind energy has virtually no chance of making a meaningful contribution to 'saving the planet'.

Between 2002 and 2010, the UK gave £5.6 billion in subsidies to the wind energy sector. That amounts to nearly £200,000 per worker in the sector. The government claim that their 'Green Deal' and other green policies will create jobs, but the evidence shows that their plans are amongst the least effective and most expensive make-work schemes ever conceived.

Wind farm campaigners frequently report that the majority of workers they meet at wind farm sites during development are from overseas. So too are the wind turbines manufactured abroad. Since Britain doesn't manufacture any wind turbines, it is easy to see through claims that wind energy creates British jobs.

A 2010 study of EU renewable energy targets on the UK economy considered the possible closure of just one energy intensive plant (INEOS Chlor, Runcorn) due to high energy prices. It concluded that closure could cause the direct loss of 9,000 jobs, and 124,000 job losses in the ancillary and downstream industries. A total of 133,000 jobs.

FURTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ADVICE

Wind farm campaigns

European Plaform against Windfarms
http://www.epaw.org

Country Guardian
http://www.countryguardian.net

Useful data

Renewable Energy Foundation
http://www.ref.org.uk

Global Warming Policy Foundation
http://www.thegwpf.org

Digest of UK Energy Statistics
http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/dukes/dukes.aspx

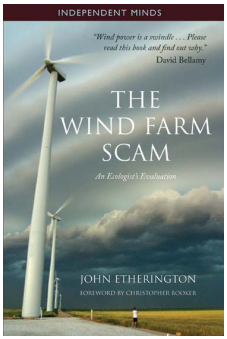
Pro-wind organisations

Renewable UK (formerly BWEA)
http://www.bwea.com

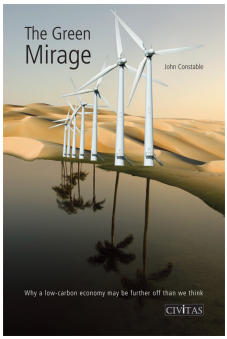
European Wind Energy Association
http://www.ewea.org/

Dept. of Energy & Climate Change
http://www.decc.gov.uk

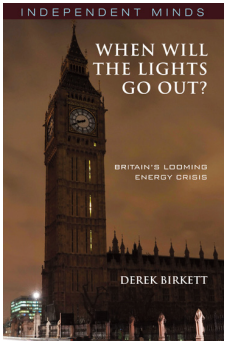
Essential reading



The Wind Farm Scam
John Etherington
Stacey International
ISBN-10: 1905299834
ISBN-13: 9781905299836



The Green Mirage
John Constable
Civitas
ISBN-10: 1906837309
ISBN-13: 9781906837303



When Will the Lights Go Out?
Derek Birkett
Stacey International
ISBN-10: 1905299834
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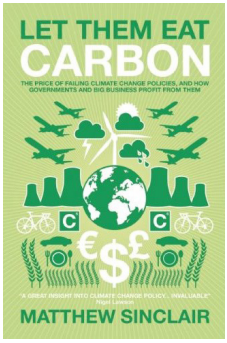

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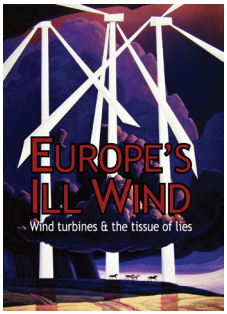

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