

Subject: "Hands Across Scotland" to fight windfarms

Scottish Wind Watch Press Release  
November 2004

Kinross, 27th

### Campaigners join hands across Scotland to fight windfarms

Campaigners opposing windfarm plans across Scotland have launched a new initiative to promote co-operation between action groups and strengthen the campaign against the massive increase in windpower schemes - more than 400 projects totalling over 6000 turbine-masts are now in the planning pipeline in Scotland alone.

The "Hands Across Scotland" campaign was announced following the successful launch meeting of new campaign group GLARE (Galloway Landscape and Renewable Energy) in a packed village hall at Corsock, twenty miles west of Dumfries. Representatives of campaign groups from Dalmellington (Ayrshire), Mellock Hill (Kinross), Bridge of Cally (Glen Shee) and Glenfarg (Perthshire) spoke at the meeting and vowed to help GLARE in their fight against the Blackcraig windfarm which is planned for one of the most prominent and widely visible areas of high ground in Galloway.

As part of the new initiative, members of action groups all over Scotland will collaborate and pool resources and expertise in areas such as botany, ornithology, hydrology and geology to help scrutinize windfarm planning applications which are often hundreds of pages in length. Speaking after the launch of "Hands Across Scotland", Dr. Brendan Hamill, convener of Scottish Wind Watch, said: "2005 will be possibly the most critical year for landscape conservation in the entire history of Scotland. It is vital that action groups help one another to step up their campaigns against these massive industrial estates on the tops of our hills. If we lose this fight, Scotland's landscape will be blighted for generations and possibly for ever. This is not about global warming - even the windpower companies have admitted that windfarms don't reduce carbon dioxide levels - the whole process is driven by greed and blatant profiteering. The developers are simply desperate to cash in on the subsidy gravy train here in Scotland before it dries up, as has already happened in Denmark and Germany, where the governments have now realised they were sold a pup by the wind-industry."



Wind-farm campaigners at the launch of the "Hands Across Scotland" scheme in Galloway:

L to R: Jerry Mulders (Dalmellington), Brendan Hamill (Scottish Wind Watch), John Patterson (Dalmellington), Sylvia Thorne (Bridge of Cally), Alistair Emery, Alison Chapman and John Chapman (GLARE).