

Further Newspaper articles regarding Wind Power

Extracted from emails circulated to Anne Forbes. Not arranged in any order. Many more available not included due to time constraints in copying.

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."

Western Morning News

TECHNOLOGY THAT HAS FAILED TO LIVE UP TO THE 'GREEN' DREAM

Date : 07.10.04

The huge E.On Netz Group which commissioned the report is one of the largest electricity generators in Europe. Within its control area in Germany there is a large wind carpet of 6,250 megawatts (MW) of turbines.

Its report observes:

Current UK policy is based on assumptions of 30 per cent load factor onshore and 35 per cent offshore. In fact, in 2003 the UK's onshore turbines achieved only 24 per cent. Over the E.ON controlled area, the wind turbines never achieved more than 80 per cent of their theoretical maximum.

The 6,250 MW of turbines are theoretically capable of meeting 33 per cent of demand in the E.ON Netz area, but in fact for half of the year it contributed only 3.6 per cent. The wind direction/speed changes quickly, and the wind generators produce very large power swings, both up and down, in short periods of time. Rapid swings present significant challenges to the grid operators trying to balance the grid.

On November 19, 2003 the wind power infeed dropped very sharply by 3,640 MW within six hours, with an average value of 10 MW per minute. Wind power is only as reliable as the weather forecasts. Standby generation to a level of over 60 per cent of the installed capacity of the wind power is needed to provide instantaneous support when the forecast is in error. This is costly. Power demand peaks, resulting from cold weather in winter and hot weather in summer, tend to coincide with periods of low wind resulting from stable high-pressure weather systems. So, when you need power because of the weather, wind can't help. Wind power requires much more high and extra-high voltage grid cabling. Wind power has destabilised the E.ON Netz grid.

The UK's current energy policy places an extremely heavy dependence on randomly intermittent wind generators, but is based on unjustifiably favourable assumptions about the performance of these generators. The wind is too weak to generate much power: load factor was only 14.8 per cent in Germany as a whole. The E.ON Netz report casts very serious doubt on the ability of wind power to do the job effectively at reasonable cost.

Western Morning News [letter]

WIND FARM 'PULSE' CAN BE DISTRESSING

Date : 12 Nov 2004

I am in total agreement with your correspondent that as a society we need to make changes in the manner we generate and use electricity but cannot agree that wind turbines are not intrusive when sited in landscapes recognised for their natural beauty, nor that they present no noise nuisance. Your correspondent says that he could hear only a slight swooshing noise when he lay on the ground directly beneath a turbine. This is a phenomenon well understood by those wishing to encourage the development of wind "farms" who will suggest people stand underneath to satisfy themselves there is no noise problem.

There may be little or no noise directly underneath a turbine but for those living within a mile or more of a windfarm, and particularly if downwind, this is not the case.

The noise is caused by the pressure wave that is generated each time a turbine blade passes the mast. For a single turbine these broad-band fluctuations are not excessively intrusive, but where several turbines operate in proximity the pulses move into and out of phase, creating doubling, tripling or more in the sound level, depending on the number of turbines.

Consequently several low magnitude pulse trains cause noise with an unexpectedly strong impulsive character whenever they synchronise. This cannot be heard close to each individual turbine but is known to cause considerable distress at greater distances and to be much more noticeable at night. What a pity that those attempting to "sell" the idea of wind energy to your correspondent and his party omitted to point out these well-researched facts.

Susan Kingdon

Braunton

Caithness Courier:

17-11-04

Bellamy to speak at wind farm rally

THE environmental campaigner David Bellamy will be in the Far North next week to speak at a rally organised by the Caithness Wind Farm Information Forum.

Professor Bellamy is well known for his trenchant views on the current upsurge in wind farms and for his efforts to debunk what he claims is the "myth" of global warming.

He is a prominent thorn in the flesh of the powerful wind-farm lobby. Prof Bellamy recently asked, "Why are so-called greens backing a cartel of multinational companies which are hellbent on covering some of the best of our countryside with so-called wind farms which can neither provide us with a sustainable source of future energy nor have any measurable effect on reducing the amount of carbon dioxide pouring into the atmosphere?"

He claims that Britain's 1100 wind turbines currently produce meaningful amounts of electricity for only 24 per cent of the year and produce insignificant savings in CO2 emissions.

Their total output, he says, represents less than a thousandth of the power used in the UK.

It is hoped several of the wind-farm developers involved in Caithness ventures will be represented at Tuesday's rally in Thurso High School to put over the opposite side of the argument. The forum has also invited MSPs, Highland councillors, community councillors and representatives of public agencies.

A spokeswoman for the forum said: "We were set up by individuals who are very concerned about the impact wind farms will have in Caithness.

We hope this will stimulate public debate on the issue."

The event, which starts at 7.30pm, is being chaired by John Thurso, MP for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross.

<http://www.yorkshiretoday.co.uk/ViewArticle2.aspx?SectionID=101&ArticleID=892144>
<<http://www.yorkshiretoday.co.uk/ViewArticle2.aspx?SectionID=101&ArticleID=892144>>

Alternative power hopes just blowing in the wind

From: Steven Beasley, Wadsworth, Hebden Bridge.

I have read a number of articles in the Yorkshire Post over the last few months on the wind-power debate and I think it is time to get real. It is now a proven fact that wind power is inefficient. A typical example is the Ovenden Moor wind-power station near Halifax, where it is reported to be less than 27 per cent efficient, and that means for 267 days in the year they don't do anything, even if the blades are turning. The conventional power station has to be kept on-stream at all times, just in case wind power fails in its duty and it does. In still weather, the turbines are becalmed and in strong wind they have to be turned off. It was thought that wind turbines whirring away on the hills would attract the green vote and they certainly looked the business in terms of reducing pollution, and what a wheeze to have a few around. But to make wind power look viable, huge subsidies (from the levy fund) have been put in place to make up the difference and this provides the profit that the developers are eager to get their hands on. There are other unacceptable side effects that wind power stations bring, particularly environmental ones, including serious threats to flora and fauna, migratory birds, irreparable peat degradation, permanent disruption to water supplies, pollution during construction, bird strike, noise and above all the visual influence. They are not farms but industrial developments with huge machines polluting our most treasured asset: our landscape.

Wind turbines are the easy way out for the politicians. They are visual, they move, they send out a message, even though it may be the wrong one. They make it seem that we are fulfilling the agreements signed by our leaders in world-wide campaigns to reduce greenhouse gasses.

Our Government should be looking at conservation of energy, better insulation, campaigns to reduce demand with penalties for overuse of power, local schemes for solar or water-power, geo-thermal schemes in appropriate areas to provide direct benefits and instead of the stupid cheap air fares, a more realistic charge with a contribution going to reducing the damage in the skies.

We have all a part to play and turbines, on our hills, are not the solution.

Wind farms stunt growth of property value

Rupert Jones
Friday November 5, 2004
The Guardian

Arguments that wind farms are a blot on the landscape will be fuelled by new research showing they cause the value of nearby homes to fall.

A survey by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors found that 60% of surveyors who deal with homes near wind farms said the turbines "decrease the value of residential properties where the development is within view".

It also uncovered evidence that property prices "begin to recover" after a wind farm has been operating for two years - suggesting communities grow used to them.

The organisation's findings will be seized on by those opposing expansion of wind farms, who include TV personality Noel Edmonds and naturalist David Bellamy, and the Conservatives.

Britain has 1,100 wind turbines supplying enough energy for 440,000 homes, with several hundred more due to come on stream in the coming months.

The Conservatives recently claimed that government changes to planning laws would mean the number of turbines soaring to 6,000 by 2010. But a Green peace poll found that 69% of Britons would support the development of wind farms in their local area.

Most respondents said the biggest price impact was at the time of the planning application. A smaller number said property

values dipped when construction started or when the turbines began turning. The RICS added: "This still leaves a sizeable minority of 40% of surveyors reporting no impact ... on values."

The organisation said the purpose of the study was not to endorse or criticise wind technology but to gauge the opinion of property professionals

Time to stock up with candles!
AK

BBC Ceefax. 18/10/2004

UK faces winter power crisis -- union

Britain is facing winter blackouts and rising energy prices because of a "looming crisis" in electricity generating capacity, a union has warned.

Amicus -- which has members in the power and engineering industries -- wants the government to invest more in nuclear energy and coal-fired power stations.

Amicus general secretary Derek Simpson told of an "increasing reliance" on supplies from unstable foreign nations.

A government spokesperson insisted there was a good outlook for power supplies.

Greens declare war on Blair for 'failures' over climate change

Nov 19, 2004 - Independent-London
Author(s): Marie Woolf Chief Political Correspondent

BRITAIN'S LEADING environmental organisation dramatically withdrew support from Tony Blair yesterday over climate change, saying he could not be trusted to reduce global warming.

In a declaration of war over the issue, Greenpeace expressed doubts about the Prime Minister's sincerity over tackling climate change, adding that his record on tackling carbon emissions was "pathetic".

The attack by Stephen Tindale, the Labour-supporting head of Greenpeace, came as Mr Blair and Jacques Chirac, the French President, said that climate change would be "one of the two priorities" for the G8 group of leading industrialised nations when Britain assumed the presidency next year. But the attack on Mr Blair's record on the issue by Britain's most powerful green lobby group will be extremely damaging to the Prime Minister, who has made tackling global warming a key theme of his tenure in office. Leading environmentalists joined forces yesterday to criticise Mr Blair's record, accusing him of spin while failing to support measures to reduce carbon emissions from cars, planes. They also accused him of not doing enough to promote energy efficiency measures in the building of new homes. Mr Tindale, a former government special adviser on the environment who played a key role in framing Labour's policy on climate change, said Mr Blair "cannot be trusted to resist industry lobbying" from car manufacturers and airlines.

"On the climate change issues we have been very supportive of the Government. We have been essentially trying to work with them to promote renewable energy. But we have basically taken a conscious decision that he [Tony Blair] can no longer be given the benefit of the doubt," he said. "So far Blair's record on climate change is almost entirely a record of fine words and no action. His repeated failures on this issue is undermining his diplomatic efforts."

Greenpeace's change of policy follows a series of meetings within the organisation which one figure said amounted to "a declaration of war". The decision to criticise Mr Blair openly over climate change follows the Government's attempts to block energy-efficiency targets in social housing which would help prevent global warming and save lives, and to dilute emissions trading targets. It also follows Downing Street's decision to "allow industry to emit as much carbon in future as it has in the past". Mr Tindale, Greenpeace's executive director, said Mr Blair's reheated "tub-thumping speeches" on the world stage were undermined by his "failed" record in Britain.

"Emissions of carbon dioxide have actually increased since Blair became Prime Minister. So much for leadership. Through all this, Blair kept on giving the speeches and we kept on trying to believe him perhaps for too long. We are now going to mobilise a lot more public pressure against them." He said the Prime Minister's "rhetoric" on wanting to tackle climate change bore no relation to his record. World leaders would "laugh at Tony Blair" because of his dismal record on reducing carbon emissions at home, Mr Tindale said. "They have completely failed on road transport and failed to control emissions from air

transport. They are in complete denial." Carbon emissions have been increasing and experts have warned Britain will not meet its target of reducing them by 20 per cent below 1990 levels by 2010. There are also fears that the Government may try to water down the target in the next few weeks when it publishes its "review" of its policy. Tony Juniper, executive director of Friends of the Earth, said there was a gaping "gap" between the Prime Minister's rhetoric and leadership on the world stage and his record in the UK. "The leadership position of this country is jeopardised by the position at home," he said. "The credibility of this country on climate change is essentially derived from the policy choices taken by the Conservatives in the 1980s when they decided to shift from coal to gas generation."

Charles Secrett, the former head of Friends of the Earth who now heads Act, a sustainable development campaign group, yesterday said Mr Blair was "all talk and no action". "Blair thinks he can get away with boosting his green credentials by making a big speech every year on climate change. It's always about the grand scenario and when it comes to putting his own house in order it is always business as usual."

Britain's environmental leaders called on Mr Blair to introduce a crackdown on car and plane emissions and the introduction of tax incentives to go green, when he publishes his climate change review. "We need to shift away from road building and encouraging car use. We need to bring in fiscal incentives to switch away from coal to renewable energy," said Mr Juniper. Mr Tindale, a former adviser to Michael Meacher, a former Environment minister, said Mr Blair "cannot be trusted to stand up to the motoring lobby, the airlines or even the Treasury". He added: "Fancy speeches are not enough - tackling climate change requires radical action. All the evidence suggests that Blair will not provide it."

Copyright 2004 NetContent, Inc. Duplication and distrib

World's largest solar plant in China

Published on 22-Oct-2004

URL: http://www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=3D9071

The world's largest solar power plant is being developed in China, to supply power to the city of Dunhuang in Gansu Province.

The World's largest solar plant is being planned in China

Representatives from China's National Energy Bureau, the solar energy industry, regional and local governments, and WWF met to discuss the development of a demonstration project for an 8MWp grid-connected solar PV plant in the Gobi desert.

"We want to create a solar revolution," said Gan Lin, WWF China's Climate and Energy Program Director. "Our aim is for solar energy to provide 20 times the government's target."

WWF aim to develop 30GW of power generation capacity by 2020, equal to 3% of the total power generation capacity, or 1% of the total electricity to be generated by 2020. They plan to realise this through three major developments: large scale solar power plants in western deserts of China; solar roof applications in buildings in coastal cities; and rural electrification for independent households and village power systems.

The project combines private sector investment and international aid with government investments, in contrast to former projects formulated by government investment or subsidies alone.

High cost is still the main barrier hindering solar PV development.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NRDC) said that, by 2010 China's central government plans to set up two 5MW solar PV demonstration sites, and by 2020, the government's current aim is to generate 1.6GW of energy from solar PV.

China's main source of energy at present - coal - accounts for 75% of the energy used in the country. Per capita, energy consumption is less than half of the world average.

If economic development continues at current rates, energy consumption in China will double by 2020.

By David Hopkins

Faversham House Group Ltd 2004. edie news articles may be copied or forwarded for individual use only. No other reproduction or distribution is permitted without prior written consent.

Sunday Telegraph =AD TODAY!

Christopher Booker meets Professor David Bellamy in front of Brunel's famous Clifton suspension bridge which is 70 feet lower than the gigantic wind turbine proposed for the Mendips!

This symbol of the god Mammon will only be about six or seven miles from Wells Cathedral. Shall we witness the BWEA, Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace gathering in their hordes to 'embrace' this metal monster and worship at its foot?

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

Booker notebook 17 October, 2004

PIC STORY

The battle over plans to cover hundreds of square miles of Britain's countryside with wind turbines is rapidly approaching crunch point. This year 30 new schemes have been approved, for turbines generating 770 megawatts of power, equal to the entire output of the 1165 turbines erected to date. Up to 9000 turbines are now at different stages of the planning process, many much larger than most of those already built.

On one hand, the Government is desperately bending the planning laws, to meet its EU obligation to generate 20 percent of our power from renewable sources by 2020. On the other, as ever more scientists, engineers and conservationists weight in to point out that wind turbines are ludicrously costly, inefficient and ineffective, the clamour of those arguing that the Government is making a catastrophic blunder becomes deafening.

Although I have been professionally concerned by the delusions surrounding wind power for some years, I have recently become personally involved, as chairman of a group set up to oppose the first giant turbine proposed for the 1000-foot escarpment of the Mendip Hills in Somerset.

Compared with what more than 70 similar groups are fighting all over Britain 340 turbines up to 400 feet high within 18 miles of Perth, 500 in the Hebrides, 22 monsters near Ilfracombe in north Devon, 26 on Romney Marsh in Kent - our battle may seem like peanuts (although, if we lose, there are already plans to build more).

We were therefore delighted last week to win the support of the doughtiest anti-wind campaigner of all, the veteran conservationist Professor David Bellamy, who was at Bristol Zoo to talk about his forthcoming book *The Battle For Britain's Countryside*, and to pose against the backdrop of Brunel's Clifton suspension bridge, 70 feet lower than the turbine we are fighting on the Mendips.

The statistics demonstrating the futility of wind power are now overwhelming. Electricity from wind is two and a half times more expensive than that from conventional sources. The claims for the amount of power generated by turbines (which consumers are already subsidising to the tune of £31.5 billion a year through higher electricity bills) are wildly exaggerated.

On the Government's own admission, the output of each turbine, thanks to the vagaries of the wind, is less than a quarter of 'installed capacity' (24.1 percent), so that the 1165 turbines already built produce on average only 186 megawatts: a fraction of that produced by one large conventional power station. The saving in greenhouse gas emissions is so minimal that, although those 1165 turbines may displace 93 tons of CO₂ an hour, this is less than the 100 tons an hour given off by just five jumbo jets. And even this notional saving is discounted by the need to keep conventional power stations permanently ticking over, ready to make up for the three quarters of the time when turbines are unable to generate.

On one side is the Government (as deluded by its windmills as Don Quixote), backed by a strange alliance between ill-informed, sentimental greens and the wind companies themselves, who cannot believe their luck in being able to cash in on a bonanza worth more than £31 billion a year. On the other, led by such eminent conservationists as Professor Bellamy and James Lovelock, is an increasingly clued-up army of critics, who cannot understand why we should desecrate vast tracts of Britain's most beautiful countryside for what they see as 'the great wind hoax' or 'the scam of the century'.

www.edie.net <<http://www.edie.net>>

Cost of Kyoto five times above EU estimate
Published on 19-Nov-2004

http://www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=3D9208

Implementing the Kyoto protocol might hit the EU economy five times as hard as predicted by the European Commission, according to research presented by pan-industry lobby group Unice on Thursday. The group called for a radical change in the EU's climate change policy.

Consultants Cowi found that current EU policies to meet Kyoto targets would most likely shave 0.48% off the bloc's GDP by 2010 - two years into the protocol's 2008-12 compliance window. The European Commission has forecast a drop in GDP of only 0.1%, though its study used a very different economic model.

Unice has published the figures ahead of a major stakeholder conference in Brussels next week that will kick-off EU debate on how the Kyoto protocol should evolve after 2012. The Commission will put proposals to ministers next spring and the EU should decide its stance in late 2005 for subsequent global talks.

Unice fears the EU may decide unilaterally to set even stricter emission targets even if the USA and some large developing countries refuse to participate. "The study shows that if we keep pushing forward these policies, there could be a problem," Nick Campbell, head of Unice's climate working group said.

Instead the EU must build a "truly international" climate regime, perhaps blending absolute emission caps with target-free strategies to reduce energy intensity and disseminate cleaner technologies. "EU leadership means getting [countries] round a table and seeing how to curb global emissions in such a way that doesn't harm competitiveness," he said.

The Cowi study says Kyoto will also dent EU competitiveness in other ways. Its models predict a drop in exports of around 0.5%, rising to as much as 5.1% for "energy-intensive" exports. Emissions outside the EU would rise by as much as a fifth as economic activity moves out of the block, eroding the benefits of lower emissions at home.

Unice's statement coincided with an announcement by the UN that Russia has formally submitted its ratification of the Kyoto protocol. As a result the treaty will now enter force on 16 February next year.
