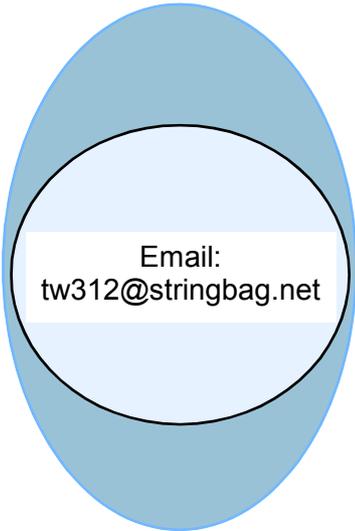


# NEWSLETTER



Email:  
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You really couldn't make it up.

A wind farm owner in Aberdeenshire has objected to a neighbour's plans to site a wind farm on adjacent land. His objections centre on the height of the proposed turbines and the loss of efficiency on his own site—they will be stealing his wind. But, and here's the coup de grâce, he thinks the proposed turbines will have a visual impact!!!!

*With thanks to CAWT (Communities Against Wind Turbines) for alerting us to this. It takes the biscuit!*

Here we are again, like the bad penny.....You might think, as we did, that August would be a quiet month and we could put our feet up, not so. We mentioned the proposed Barclay Hill wind farm in the last newsletter and since then RES (the developer) has produced a Newsletter with their version of answers to some frequently asked questions (pity about the misplaced apostrophe!). Alan has looked at these carefully and you will see on pages 3 and 4 our response under Frequently Questioned Answers.



Having told you last month that the Draft Terms of Reference for the Community Liaison Group (CLG) that RES initiated had been amended so that the public could speak at meetings, we note with interest that the original terms are still in force! Hmm!

However, it did not stop the public speaking at the CLG meeting on 23 August as Rae will testify! See page 2 for our report on Barclay exhibitions.

It was a surprise to discover that the Mayfield wind farm is back on the burner with a notification of application for 6 turbines and a mast, no height mentioned. We had thought this might be at least another six months down the line in view of the surveys they were asked to produce but no. Perhaps they are trying to get in quick before Barclay or maybe even before the draft IPP is adopted. So it looks likely that we shall have two wind farms proceeding through planning at the same time which does not augur well for a quiet life.

Along with many of you we attended the Scottish Government's public services meeting at Stranraer see the next page for the report.

Five of us also travelled to Ballantrae for the public meeting on wind farms organised by Communities Against Turbines. There were several speakers but it was Struan Stevenson MEP who stole the show with his barnstorming attack on policy and myths. His speech has been well reported so, following the oft-quoted maxim that there is no such thing as bad publicity, wind farms continue to make the news.

## THANK YOU

Many people are donating time, energy, material goods and money to help us provide credible opposition to inappropriate wind energy developments.

We want you to know how much we appreciate your contributions.

## THANK YOU



### Scottish Government in Stranraer

Several of us made the journey to Stranraer for the Summer meeting of the Scottish Government at the Ryan Centre. Probably some 200 members of the public in attendance facing a stage of 8 MSPs.

It started with the First Minister hidden from view, off stage, from where he entered after a brief introduction. He stepped to the podium to give us a run down on the achievements to date with the odd nod in the direction of work to be done. It was a polished performance.

Questions from the audience were largely about services—health, education, transport, etc. However, the question that lit up what had been an otherwise contained exchange between MSPs and the audience was a pointed question about wind farms from one of our group. At that point the auditorium erupted in cheering and clapping.

Ministers looked somewhat disconcerted but the First Minister reassured us that wind is an abundant and FREE resource and that Scotland could become the “powerhouse of Europe”. At that point laughter broke out.

It came across as a patronising response that seemed oblivious to any expertise within the audience.

Interestingly, there does not seem to be any recognition of the level of knowledge developing within communities on this topic and although it has not yet reached a critical mass, I feel it will, and, in the meantime, an underestimation of our capacity could be to our advantage, or am I clutching at straws?



### Overheard at Castle Douglas:

“What did you think?” (couple leaving RES exhibition). “Well, it’s up there (pointing vaguely towards the hills) so we won’t see it.”

**I think we need to be make people aware of the wider community and just how many of us live in and amongst the hills. Also, people should know that more and more turbine applications are being submitted for sites closer to individual residences, settlements, villages and towns. It is no longer simply a problem for the upland areas.**

visit: [www.tw312.org.uk](http://www.tw312.org.uk)

### Barclay Hill Windfarm Exhibitions

**RES held two exhibitions, one in Castle Douglas at the Community Centre on 30 August and one in Kirkcudbright on 31 August. We had a presence at both.**

**In the case of Castle Douglas we hired the room opposite RES and staged our own exhibition. We estimate that we had some 50+ visitors, RES may have had a few more as they had their room for longer. Our room at CDCC was perfect and we owe a debt of gratitude to the staff and management committee for providing such an excellent facility.**

**Our presence in Kirkcudbright was limited to the pavement but we used our banners, ‘A’ board and posters to make ourselves conspicuous. There were fewer visitors than at CD.**

**It was a rush to get our exhibition materials prepared but we now have a core of exhibits that we can add to, hopefully at a more leisurely pace.**

**However, Community Windpower intend to stage an exhibition at CD in September for the Mayfield proposal. No rest for the wicked!**

**Thanks to everyone who supported us, your presence and encouragement kept our spirits high.**

## WIND INDUSTRY FQAs (Frequently Questioned Answers)

Produced by A F Keith

### Don't wind farms get big subsidies? Isn't that the reason they're built?

#### RES answer

The energy market is a highly complex one with many mechanisms to encourage investment in infrastructure which benefits Scotland. To compete in the short term, new renewable energy technologies need help to get into the market place. The government does not pay subsidies to companies to develop or construct wind farms, but once generating, help is provided via the Renewables Obligation Scotland (ROS). The ROS requires power suppliers to derive from renewables a specified proportion of the electricity they supply to their customers. This started at 3% in 2003, rising gradually to 10.4% in 2010 and to 15.4% by 2015. Eligible renewable generators, such as wind farms, receive a Renewables Obligation Certificate (ROC) for each MWh of electricity generated. These certificates can then be sold to suppliers so they can fulfil their obligation to buy electricity from renewable generators.

#### TW312 answer

*Of course it is! Yes! But it's not the government that provides the subsidy - it's you, via a cunning arrangement that makes the industry provide lucrative incentives to wind farm operators while putting the cost on everyone's bills. Without this subsidy, no wind farms would be built as, despite the fact that the wind is "free", the actual cost of power produced is such that operation of wind farms would be uneconomic.*

### Will wind farms damage tourism?

#### RES answer

That's not what the tourists say! In 2008 a report to the Scottish Government investigated the economic impacts of wind farms on tourism. The findings showed that 75% of people surveyed felt wind farms had a positive or neutral effect on the landscape. Of those surveyed, 97% suggested that wind farms would not have any effect on their intention to visit Scotland again. There is no evidence that any existing UK wind farm has had any negative effects on tourism. A 2002 MORI poll in Argyll, where there are several existing wind farms, revealed 80% of tourists surveyed said they'd be interested in visiting a wind farm if it were open to the public with a visitor centre. And, twice as many would be 'more likely' to visit again than the number who would be 'less likely' to visit again. The number of wind farms built in Scotland has increased in recent years and according to recent data from the Office for National Statistics Travel Trends 2007 Report the number of visits to Scotland has an [sic] increased year on year over the period 2003-2007.

#### TW312 answer

*Strange then that the 2008 report in question, by the Moffat Institute at Glasgow Caledonian University, estimated that Dumfries & Galloway's tourism industry would, on the basis only of wind farms built, planned and projected at that date, cause a loss to the local economy of £4.1million and 277 jobs by 2015! Many times that number are now planned, so that figure represents a serious under-estimate. The corollary to the cherry-picked sentence from the 305-page report is of course that 25% of those questioned thought that wind farms had a negative effect on the landscape. RES also forgot to mention that in the 2002 MORI poll, only 20% of the people questioned had actually seen a wind farm! As for the "recent" data from the Office for National Statistics Travel Trends 2007(?), in fact this report only covers overseas visitors, a small proportion of Scottish tourists. However, if RES is suggesting that the increase from 2003 to 2007 (during which time relatively few wind farms were being built) means that they don't affect tourism, perhaps they would like to explain why according to the 2010 version of the same report, visitor numbers have fallen in the last 3 years (as the spread of turbines increases)?*



## Scotland is already more than self sufficient in electricity, so why do we need more?

### RES answer

It is true that currently Scotland can produce more electricity than it requires. However, during the next decade, much of our centralised coal, gas and nuclear capacity is due to retire, leaving a generation gap. Whatever makes up the balance, the future lies in Scotland meeting as high a proportion of its needs from clean renewable sources as it can. The Scottish Government has set a target of generating 100% of Scottish gross electricity consumption from renewable energy.

### TW312 answer

*Scottish and UK governments have blindly signed up to EU treaties obliging them to shut down coal fired power stations unless they are retro-fitted with carbon capture equipment. Power companies have refused to invest in this, no doubt because installing wind farms is more lucrative. Nuclear capacity in England is to be replaced, though due to incompetent planning, these will not be operational in time to avoid a shortfall. Scotland of course has chosen not to replace its nuclear capacity though it will be importing nuclear electricity from the south at times. The somewhat confusing Scottish target of 100% generation from renewables is based on the principle that sufficient capacity (mainly wind of course) will be built to produce the equivalent of the country's demand. At times there will be a surplus that is likely to be dumped at below cost, while when the wind don't blow, power will be imported, sometimes at high cost. The power companies of course will not suffer as the costs of all this will be passed on to you, the consumer via your ever-increasing electricity bills.*

## Wind farms can only produce electricity when the wind is blowing. So can it make a real contribution to our needs?

### RES answer

It is important to remember that the wind is always blowing somewhere in the UK. Recent reports ('Managing Variability' Milborrow, 2009; 'Impact of Intermittency' Pöyry, 2009; 'Operating the system beyond 2020' National Grid, 2009) say that variability is not an obstacle to the deployment of wind energy. A breakdown in a large thermal plant will pose more problems to the national grid than the variations in the output of a wind farm. Although all energy generation requires back up capacity, there is no need for any additional back up capacity specifically for a wind farm. Wind is part of the current and future energy generation mix and adds to the diversity and security of our energy supply.

### TW312 answer

*Actually it's not always blowing, as everyone noticed last winter when, during the coldest period for many years, virtually no turbines were generating over the whole of the UK. Milborrow's 2009 report sponsored by such climate change fanatics as Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth should be treated with scepticism. However, far from saying that "variability is not an obstacle to the deployment of wind energy", both Pöyry and National Grid warn in their reports that many challenges will result, and Pöyry say in C7 (managing the grid with high wind) that "both markets (UK & Ireland) will require significant increase in the reserve capacity". In their concluding remarks Pöyry indicates concern about the economic shape of the (electricity) market. National Grid commence their 2009 report by saying "We face new challenges in operating an electricity transmission system with variable wind generation and new larger nuclear power stations." Rather than adding to the security of energy supply, use of wind degrades it.*

## Other dubious claims by RES

### Benefits of wind energy

Scotland has one of the best wind resources in Europe. By utilising this abundant and free resource we can generate electricity, reducing the need for fossil fuels and harmful emissions such as carbon dioxide. Wind is a tried and tested way of generating electricity and, as Scotland moves from centralised large traditional power stations, such as coal and nuclear, to a more decentralised energy Generation wind can play a vital part in this transition. Wind generates clean and secure electricity and contributes to legally binding renewable energy targets.

### TW312 comment

*Technically wind may be free at source, as indeed is coal, oil, gas and any other of the earth's resources. Extracting the energy from it absorbs money however. It is interesting that carbon dioxide, a substance without which life on earth would cease, as all plants require it, is now classed as a "harmful emission". It's also curious that wind is described here as "a tried and tested way of generating electricity", while earlier (in the FAQs), it is described as a technology "needing help to get into the market place". Description of the changes coming about due to the "dash for wind" as "decentralisation" is of course, a nonsense. The existing power network is not "centralised", nor can the plans to incorporate wind energy be described as "decentralised". The network is entirely interconnected and must always work as one system. Classifying wind energy as "secure" is of course incorrect. As has been mentioned earlier, reserve generation capacity is essential to ensure continuity of supply when, as happens often, the wind fails to blow.*

## Error

Shadow Flicker  
Incorrect Information on our website

TW312 have corrected information on their Shadow Flicker page after an error was discovered.

Originally, we stated that a new report from Parsons, Brinckerhoff for the Department for Energy and Climate Change recommended that shadow flicker should be acceptable at a property for a maximum of 30 hours per year and no longer than 30 minutes per day.

This is incorrect and we offer sincere apologies for posting incorrect information.

In the UK there appears to be no specified limit as to the length of time that a property can suffer shadow flicker, either daily or yearly.

Which raises the question—what is an acceptable limit?

### Summary of Stewartry turbine numbers projected in planning applications

**135 turbines approved**  
**18 masts approved**

**89 turbine applications awaiting a decision**  
**5 masts awaiting a decision**

**71 turbine applications awaiting submission**

**A total of 295 turbines**



## Stewartry planning— turbines and masts Submitted applications awaiting decision

Date	Location	Application No	No of turbines/ mast & height
22/08/2011	Holmhead Moniaive	11/P/2/0332	1 x 45.7m
18/08/2011	Craigley Farm Gelston	11/P/2/0317	1 x 27.1m
10/08/2011	Craigdarroch Blackcraig	11/P/2/0299	70m mast
02/08/2011	Livingstone Castle Douglas	11/P/2/0297	1 x 22.4m
26/07/2011	Low Chapelton Farm, Borgue	11/P/2/0295	1 x 19.25m
22/07/2011	Kirkmabreck Creetown	11/P/2/0290	1 x 45.9m
21/07/2011	Brighthouse Bay Compressor Stn	11/P/2/0289	3 x 24.5m
11/07/2011	Trostrie Farm Twynholm	11/P/2/0277	40.5m mast
08/07/2011	Kirkland Fm Kirkp' Durham	11/P/2/0275	1 x 27m
08/07/2011	Cullinaw Farm Buittle	11/P/2/0273	1 x 19.25m
22/06/2011	Rattra Farm Borgue	11/P/2/0252	1 x 39.9m
10/06/2011	Balmangan Fm Dundrennan	11/P/2/0238	3 x 39.6m
10/06/2011	Muirhead Fm Twynholm	11/P/2/0237	1 x 27m
07/06/2011	Culnaightree Fm Auchencairn	11/P/2/0230 11/P/2/0229	1 x 75m 50m mast
30/05/2011	Ernespie Farm Castle Douglas	11/P/2/0211	1 x 39.6m withdrawn
19/05/2011	Blairshinnoch Kirkgunzeon	11/P/2/0195	3 x 27.1m
16/05/2011	Ingleston Farm Borgue	11/P/2/0193	2 x 39.6m
11/05/2011	Larghill Farm Crocketford	11/P/2/0182	1 x 21m
04/05/2011	Garrochar Tree Fm, Creetown	11/P/2/0170	2 x 27m
15/04/2011	Shenrick Farm Crocketford	11/P/2/0154	2 x 21m
05/04/2011	Crocketford Hs Crocketford	11/P/2/0134	2 x 27.1m



Approved				Date	Location	Application No	No of turbines/ mast & height
Date	Location	Application No	No of turbines/ mast & height/				
				14/04/2010	Glensone Fm Southwick	10/P/2/0146	1 x 20m
04/03/2011	Quantans Hill Cairnsphairn	11/P/2/0087	80m mast	30/03/2010	Low Barend Fm Dundrenan	10/P/2/0122	1 x 20m
15/02/2011	Larg Farm Creetown	11/P/2/0063	1 x 27m	19/03/2010	Torrs Farm Castle Douglas	10/P/2/0102	1 x 20m
14/02/2011	Merklandwell Lochfoot	11/P/2/0060	1 x 27m	19/01/2010	Plascow Farm Dalbeattie	10/P/2/0018	50m mast
14/02/2011	Crochmore Fm Crocketford	11/P/2/0059	1 x 27m	19/01/2010	Balmangan Fm Borgue	10/P/2/0017	1 x 20m
27/01/2011	Portmary House Dundrennan	11/P/2/0041	1 x 22.4m	24/12/2009	Blairshinnock Fm Kirkgunzeon	09/P/2/0434	1 x 15m
23/12/2010	High Barcaple Fm Ringford	10/P/2/0498	1 x 21m	21/12/2009	Corse Hill Dunchrae Dalry	09/P/2/0429	Mast
22/12/2010	Auchenlock Fm Auchencairn	10/P/2/0496	1 x 27m	05/11/2009	Ardendee, Kirkcudbright	09/P/2/0373	Mast
22/12/2010	Barstilby Farm Tongland	10/P/2/0495	2 x 21m	08/09/2009	Portmary Cott Dundrennan	09/P/2/0311	1 x 15m
22/12/2010	Slagnaw Farm Kelton	10/P/2/0494	2 x 41m	28/08/2009	Durham Hill Kirkpatrick Dm	09/P/2/0300	1 x no height given
08/12/2010	Sypland Kirkcudbright	10/P/2/0474	2 x 20m	12/06/2009	Little Farm Gatehouse	09/P/2/0208	1 x no height given
25/11/2010	Drumhumphry Corsock	10/P/2/0455	2 x 15m hub	16/02/2009	Glenquicken Fm Creetown	09/P/2/0049	2 x 15m
09/11/2010	Ladies Walk Fm Kirkcudbright	10/P/2/0433	85m mast	07/07/2008	Magree Dalry	08/P/2/0289 08/P/2/0290	Mast x No ht Mast x No ht
01/11/2010	Greenburn Creetown	10/P/2/0421	30m mast	17/01/2008	High Barley Fm Gatehouse	08/P/2/0011	Mast x no ht
11/08/2010	Larg Farm Creetown	10/P/2/0316	1 x 23.4m	18/12/2007	Mackilston Dalry	07/P/2/0518	1 x no height given
26/07/2010	Boreland of Colvend Farm	10/P/2/0296	1 x 20m	22/05/2007	Forest Estate Dalry	07/P/2/0223	1 x 15m
22/07/2010	Milnmark Farm Dalry	10/P/2/0291	1 x 20m	26/02/2007	Adj 93 Cottan St, Castle Douglas	07/P/2/0084	1 x no height given
15/06/2010	Mark Farm Creetown	10/P/2/0247	60m mast	13/12/2005	Rainton Farm Gatehouse	05/P/2/0510	1 x 25m
02/06/2010	Culnaightrie Fm Auchencairn	10/P/2/0238	1 x 20m	23/08/2005	Windy Standard	05/P/2/0357	2 x 50m masts
25/05/2010	Milnthird Hill Kelton	10/P/2/0228	50m mast	17/06/2003	Edgerton Cothse Laurieston	03/P/2/0262	1 x no height given
07/05/2010	Barcloy Hill Kirkcudbright	10/P/2/0202	80m mast	10/06/2003	Torrs Hill Forest Estate Dalry	03/P/2/0252	2 x 100m 1 x mast no ht
28/04/2010	Boreland o Borg Kirkcudbright	10/P/2/0186	1 x 20m	28/01/2003	Windy Standard	03/P/2/0022 03/P/2/0018	1 x 60m mast 1 x 60m mast
21/04/2010	Arvie, Castle Douglas	10/P/2/0158	1 x 20m	04/01/2002 ?	Windy Standard	04/01/2002	30 x 100m 36 x 53.5m