

THE WIND FARM SCAM by John Etherington, Stacey International, 2009.

CHAPTER KEYNOTES

1 Wind Turbines

- How a wind turbine "works".

2 Wind-generated energy

- An elementary introduction to wind power.

3 No wind, low wind – intermittent generation.

- Rarely generate full power
- Intermittency poses a problem for acceptance of electricity into the distribution network and grid.
- Provision of backup generation to solve this problem reduces CO2 mitigation and massively increases already high cost.

4 Financing the impossible

- No country with a large wind power industry has managed it without unprecedentedly huge hidden "subsidies" from bills, taxes or both.
- UK's Renewables Obligation and Climate Change Levy exemption are explained together with a glance at other countries.

5 Do wind turbines abate carbon emission?

- They do, to a limited but also unproven extent.
- Scandalously the BWEA has for years overstated the saving by a factor of more than two, but has recently been forced by ASA action to reduce the claimed mitigation by half.
- Even if the maximum possible amount of wind power could be deployed in the UK it would reduce global CO2 emission by a fraction of 1%. The UK's target for 2010 amounts to saving 0.04% of global CO2 emission. If we assume IPCC is right about CO2 and warming, these amounts could have no measurable effect on atmospheric concentration or climate change and hugely disproportionate environmental impact in our tiny island..

6 Landscape degradation and wildlife

- Care for landscape - once a matter of pride is now summarily dismissed by 'greens' on the dishonest grounds that unless we have wind power, climate change will destroy it in any case.
- Aside from "silly" claims that wind turbines beautify landscape or make it less "boring" it is undeniable that industrial structures are inappropriate in open country (until recently, planning law would have precluded even the most beautiful buildings from such places).
- Wind turbines kill a significant number of birds and bats and because soaring raptors and large water birds are particularly at risk the impact is generally on rarer species. The wildlife bodies dismiss this, arguing that the wind turbines will bring the greater good by altering the weather - again on the same dishonest grounds.

7 Noise, shadows and flicker

- Despite denial by BWEA and wind farm apologists that noise is a problem, power companies have withdrawn development proposals on just such grounds.

- Complaints concerning noise and loss of amenity have been judicially upheld and reflected in rating valuation.

8 Danger and nuisance

- Direct danger is relatively minor though risk from 'flying' debris, ice and burning fragments becomes steadily greater as very large turbines are dispersed, ever closer to people.
- Radar and air-traffic control. Recently it has been claimed that nearly half the wind farms held up in planning are delayed by MoD concerns about air-traffic safety because turbine blades either block radar or create false images. This has not been resolved but there is intense political pressure to rescind such objections.

9 Property, tourism and employment

- The wind power industry is in denial or deliberate concealment of the impact on property value. Since this book was published Denmark has introduced a compensation scheme – what further proof is required?
- If property is provenly devalued, it is a matter of common logic that tourism will also suffer. There is no need to await the 'Catch 22' demand for actual proof.
- Employment by the renewable industry has been exaggerated and a recent Spanish report shows that more than twice as many jobs are destroyed as are created by subsidy-driven "green" energy.

10 Misrepresentation and manipulation

- Intense political pressure to meet (EU-driven) targets has forced the imposition of the Renewable Obligation system which the Commons Public Accounts Committee has identified as "at least four times more expensive" than other means of reducing CO2 emission. Some regional authorities have not even bothered to establish how much CO2 mitigation their installed-MW targets will achieve!
- CO2 mitigation has been grossly and provenly exaggerated in the past as has electricity yield..
- Denmark has falsely been claimed as satisfying 20% of its electricity consumption from wind. Repeatedly and untruthfully it is claimed that wind will avoid resort to nuclear power. Claims concerning wind power noise, local supply of electricity and security of supply are all unfounded on evidence and logic.

11. Climate change and Kyoto – Is it all necessary?

- A simplified explanation of the way in which man made CO2 might warm the world and why it is probably an exaggerated

12 Epilogue

- Some options and problems