

SCARWEATHER SANDS OFFSHORE WIND FARM



**Friends of
the Earth
Cymru**
**Cyfeillion
y Ddaear
Cymru**

BALANCING THE DEBATE

Across Wales, renewable energy schemes can replace conventional power generation including nuclear.

Switching to safe, clean and secure renewable energy and using energy efficiently are the best ways to avert a global climate catastrophe which is being caused mainly by the burning of oil, coal and gas.

Avoiding nuclear power is also important because of the costly problems of storing radioactive waste, the increased threats of nuclear terrorism and the potential for major accidents.

Friends of the Earth Cymru estimate that by 2010 30% of electricity demand in Wales could be supplied by renewable energy developments including solar, tidal, biomass and wind power.

THE SCARWEATHER SANDS WIND FARM WOULD:

...help prevent global warming

It would prevent 6 million tonnes of Carbon Dioxide being emitted into the atmosphere.

...provide a domestic and secure electricity supply

With UK oil and gas reserves in decline, imports will increase leaving Wales and the UK in a potentially uncertain economic situation. This could be avoided through the increased use of wind power. The Scarweather Sands wind farm would cost-effectively provide electricity for 82,000 homes in South Wales.

...create jobs

130 during construction. 15 jobs could be created by the energy efficiency fund. More jobs could be created indirectly through tourism and other schemes.

THE SCARWEATHER SANDS WIND FARM WOULD:

...not affect the surf or beach

The largest possible effect is estimated to be only 0.1-0.5% change to the usual wave regime.

...not leave a toxic and expensive legacy

Fossil fuels and nuclear power leave a big ecological footprint on the local and global environment, whereas wind power leaves little trace.

...not ruin tourism

The wind farm could provide a focal point for tourism and educational opportunities in the Porthcawl area. In a recent study in Scotland by MORI, 9 out of 10 visitors say the presence of wind farms makes no difference to the enjoyment of their holiday and, in some areas, the introduction of wind farms has contributed to a rise in tourism.

...not create noise pollution

Advances in wind turbine technology ensures that turbines are quiet enough not to cause disturbance to people living just a few hundred metres away.

...not affect birds or marine life

There is no evidence to suggest that the wind farm would do any more than minimal damage to birds, fish or other marine creatures. In fact, this wind farm could help to prevent over-fishing in the area.

...not spoil the seascape

Clearly this is a highly subjective issue. However, being visible is not necessarily the same as being intrusive. While some people express concern about the effect wind turbines have on the beauty of our seascape, others see them as symbols of a better, cleaner, self-sufficient future.

In a recent poll by Market Research Wales, 87% of people said they would prefer to see 600 offshore wind turbines than one nuclear power station.

If too many renewable energy schemes are blocked, Wales will continue to be reliant on fossil fuels and nuclear power, which carry threats of radioactive pollution, acid rain and global warming for both this and future generations.

However, if Wales achieves 30% electricity generation by renewables (with schemes such as Scarweather Sands wind farm) in 8 to 9 years time, we could create a strong example in the switch to green electricity and be at the forefront of the green industrial revolution.

July 2003

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