

On-shore Wind Energy in the UK: **a wish list for action**

The undersigned companies have endorsed the following statement:

Sainsbury's
 Alliance Boots
 Kingfisher
 Scottish & Southern Energy
 Reckitt Benckiser

British American Tobacco
 St Modwen
 Johnson Matthey
 Imperial Tobacco
 Slough Estates

Problems	Possible Solutions
<p>Planning</p> <p>Planners and councillors lack guidance and consistency in application of planning rules.</p> <p>Planning applications currently take far too long to process.</p> <p>There are a lack of checks and balances to prevent the inadvertent politicisation of decision-making.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent surveys, which would give an accurate reflection of public opinion on the role for wind farms • Government should then take the initiative in educating public, planners and councillors on actual impacts and benefits • Mandatory guidelines for planners and councillors on granting/declining planning with limited scope for interpretation. Local authorities to work together to enhance planning skills and expertise.
<p>Complexity of Economic Model</p> <p>High barriers to entry in the form of complex, overlapping regulation and complexity of economic model for both sellers and buyers. This has created a lack of transparency on charging which encourages stalling on building new green capacity and lack of confidence in buyers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of trading model and its impact on green energy in relation to the Electricity Act • Simplification of entire system.
<p>Lack of Joined Up Policy</p> <p>Too many departments and agencies with overlapping responsibilities has so far led to uncoordinated, sometimes fractious approach to renewable energy policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider combining departments and remits to streamline responsibilities – avoid creating yet more bodies • Create a 'roadmap' document stating the roles and responsibilities of government, providing clear policy leads across government departments.
<p>Carbon Reduction Not Incentivised</p> <p>The current system relies on subsidising preferred options, not encouraging the right behaviour.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies should dovetail around incentivising carbon reduction, irrespective of how (i.e. whether through technology, energy efficiency etc.) • Cross-departmental funding initiatives (for example from the Environmental Transformation Fund) to incentivise innovation in wind energy.
<p>Uncertainty Holds Back Investment</p> <p>The life of wind turbines (15-20 years) requires a financial and legal framework of equal or longer duration. The Renewables Obligation Certificate (ROC) system, which is basically sound, requires long-term extension and answers are needed on what will follow Kyoto post 2012.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As long as they remain effective, the Renewables Obligation Certificates (ROCs) system should be projected on a rolling basis into the next 15 years • Some assurance in the form of a reasonably explicit long-term energy policy as soon as possible.
<p>Microgeneration: not enough support</p> <p>The supply chain is immature, with a lack of explicit support for R & D.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ring-fenced grants for Microgeneration R & D i.e. through the DTI's Technology Strategy. • Enhanced capital allowances for all technologies with proven carbon reduction • Structural support for professionalising manufacturing or lose out to other countries.

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