

Who would be the Winners and Losers from the proposed development?

The Winners:

Developer, Mr Dale Vince, who owns 100% of Ecotricity Group Ltd, which in its latest accounts had a turnover of £38,343,068 on which it made an operating profit of £3,245,107. Mr Vince lives in Gloucestershire, over 3km from a single turbine, which is one quarter the size of the proposed Silton Turbines.

Landowners, the Harris family, who it is estimated will receive an income of at least £1m over the lifetime of the turbines operating on their land. In addition, they receive grants for preserving the countryside. According to www.farmsubsidy.org, the Harris family received £82,920 in 2008 (the last year for which figures are available).

The Government who will take credit for additional renewable electricity capacity irrespective of whether it saves CO² or is good for the environment.

The Losers:

The environment, as the contribution of wind turbines to reducing CO² emissions is at best debatable while their negative impact on our countryside is indisputable, massive and permanent. The turbines have a life of around 25 years, but the 1000 tonnes of concrete needed for each base will remain permanently.

Owners of small businesses who rely on tourism and whose livelihoods will be jeopardised if these turbines are built.

Local residents who will be living literally in the shadow and with the noise and flicker of these giant turbines.

Hundreds of homeowners who may suffer a significant drop in the value of their houses and may have difficulty selling.

Millions of people who love our English countryside and do not want to see it defaced, for no good reason.

Local and migratory wildlife including bats, badgers and owls.

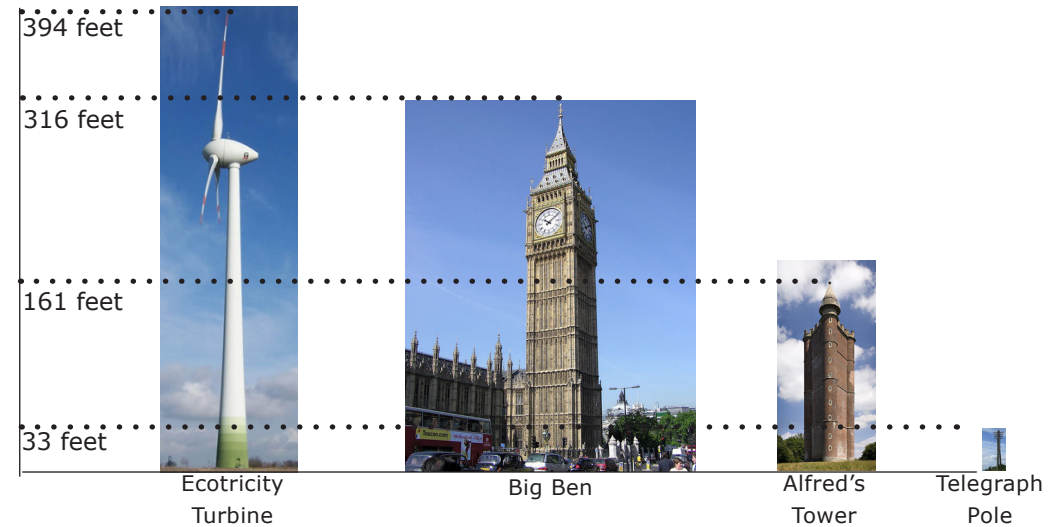
All UK Households, who end up paying higher electricity bills because of the subsidies paid to wind farm operators. The Silton wind farm alone is forecast to receive £1 million annually in subsidies - more than the value of the electricity it will produce.

We could ALL be winners if the Government were to promote more effective ways of reducing CO² emissions.

www.saveoursilton.org

Save Our Silton

There are plans to build four giant wind turbines near Gillingham, which would industrialise this rural area - and to little effect.



"The net effect on security of supply of displacing fossil fuel generation with (largely) intermittent renewable sources of generation is at best neutral, but not beneficial."

Ofgem, consultation response on The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (Ref 139/08)

[An] internal report of the Spanish government admits that the price of electricity has gone up, as well as the national debt, due to the extra costs of solar and wind energy. Even the government numbers indicate that each green job created destroys more than 2.2 traditional jobs.

La Gaceta (21 May 2010)

"Wind turbines are unreliable and expensive and won't make any real contribution to the future security of electricity supply."

James Oswald, former head of R&D at Rolls Royce Turbines.

"We have a Good Neighbour policy and are committed to building turbines where we can be sure they will be good neighbours throughout their lifetime. If we can't be sure, we will walk away."

Dale Vince, sole director and 100% owner of Ecotricity Group Limited, Annual Report for year ended 30th April 2009.

THE FACTS

- These turbines will be 120m (394ft) high. The blades will stand higher than the surrounding hills - from Shaftesbury you will look up to them.
- Wind turbines are not silent as developers often claim. Experience has shown that residents living up to a mile (1.6 Km) away can be seriously affected by noise, especially at night, causing sleep deprivation. The nearest houses will be less than 700 m away.
- Once built, this development will do nothing for local employment. The turbines will be imported from Germany and operated by remote control. Also, several families nearest to this development rely on holiday lets and tourist income, so employment may fall!
- Tourism contributes greatly to the local economy. The owners of nearby properties which depend on tourism believe that having wind turbines as close as proposed would devastate their businesses.
- The Silton turbines would get about £1m a year in subsidy, yet save less than 0.002% of UK CO² emissions. There are many more effective ways in which this subsidy could be used – such as Biomass, Biogas, Ground Source Heating, Solar Heating, Hydro Electric and energy saving initiatives.
- Over a year, onshore wind turbines in England generate only 25% of their maximum output and always need conventional power stations to cover for periods when the wind isn't blowing or is blowing too strongly. The Silton site has below average wind speeds and so would generate little electricity but a lot of subsidy
- Not one conventional power station in the world has been able to close because a wind farm has been built. Germany, despite building thousands of wind turbines, is to build 5 new coal fired power stations to balance the fluctuation of wind power. One of our largest operators of wind power, E.ON UK, has pointed out, in evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs, that for every megawatt of wind capacity, 0.9 MW or more of conventional plant is needed as backup capacity.
- CO² saving using wind power is very expensive compared with the alternatives. The cost (which we are all paying on our electricity bills) is around £480 per tonne of carbon compared to EU Emissions Trading values of £12-£70 per tonne. We should instead be developing cost effective technologies.

If you are as shocked by these facts as we are, please write –

TODAY!

Time for action is very limited. Details are on the letter enclosed.