

Dear Prime Minister

Onshore Wind Energy

Onshore wind is the cheapest new source of energy in the UK today - and the UK is the windiest country in Europe. Wind has great potential to benefit our local communities, our economy and our environment. New government policy is now needed to realise these benefits.

Onshore wind can play a key role in an ambitious industrial strategy delivering clean, cheap and smart energy to businesses and consumers alike. As well as being the cheapest new energy source, clean or otherwise, there is welcome excitement expressed by energy industry companies, both small and large, about the growth opportunities that onshore wind presents.

Furthermore, onshore wind energy is vital to our aim of achieving our climate targets at least cost and the inspiring vision of a before-2050 net zero greenhouse gas emissions target.

Local communities also stand to benefit. New onshore wind developments mean the opportunity to lock in local investment for our villages, towns and cities and to guarantee local revenue sharing through proven business models.

Public support across the country for onshore wind is large. Government statistics show that 76% of people now support onshore wind - ten times the proportion opposed.¹ In addition to this, two thirds of people are supportive of turbines within five miles of their home.² Yet this high public support is not widely known.

Concern where new turbines are proposed should be addressed. We believe in local democratic decision making. Applications for new wind turbines should face a fair and reasonable local planning process and be treated in the same way as other renewable or low carbon energy.

To realise these benefits for consumers, businesses and communities our planning and financial frameworks need updating in order to ensure that onshore wind is given the fair opportunity it deserves within our energy mix.

We therefore ask that:

- The National Planning Policy Framework is amended so that applications for small-scale onshore wind developments in England of no more than five megawatts are treated in the same way as any other application for renewable and low carbon energy.
- Onshore wind is allowed to lower power prices through the resumption of competitive electricity market auctions for low carbon energy for the cheapest technologies.

Yours sincerely

Ben Bradley MP, Maria Caulfield MP, Simon Clarke MP, Zac Goldsmith MP, Richard Graham MP, Kevin Hollinrake MP, Jeremy Lefroy MP, Damien Moore MP, Matthew Offord MP, Rebecca Pow MP, Derek Thomas MP, Sarah Wollaston MP, Tom Brake MP, Alan Brown MP, Vince Cable MP, Edward Davey MP, Caroline Lucas MP, Peter Kyle MP, Layla Moran MP, Liz Saville Roberts MP and Alex Sobel MP

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/energy-and-climate-change-public-attitudes-tracker-wave-25>

² <https://1010uk.org/articles/fracking-nuclear-and-wind-which-would-you-rather-have-in-your-backyard>