

Dear Prime Minister

## **Onshore Wind Energy**

We are delighted that you have pledged to ensure that the UK achieves net zero greenhouse gas emissions before 2050. Onshore wind energy is vital in achieving this at least cost.

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 needed now 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, the excitement expressed by energy industry companies, both small and large, about the growth opportunities that onshore wind presents is welcome.

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.<sup>1</sup> In addition to this, two thirds of people are supportive of turbines within five miles of their home.<sup>2</sup> Yet this high public support is not widely known.

What we are asking for is a level playing field, so that communities that do want onshore wind are able to have them. 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.

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

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

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

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Peter Aldous MP	Martyn Day MP	Kevin Hollinrake MP
Rushanara Ali MP	Thangam Debbonaire MP	John Howell MP
Heidi Allen MP	Anneliese Dodds MP	Eddie Hughes MP
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Deidre Brock MP	Caroline Flint MP	Ivan Lewis MP
Alan Brown MP	Vicky Ford MP	Clive Lewis MP
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Karen Buck MP	James Frith MP	Tim Loughton MP
Vince Cable MP	Mark Garnier MP	Caroline Lucas MP
Ruth Cadbury MP	Ruth George MP	Ian Lucas MP
Ronnie Campbell MP	Preet Gill MP	Rachel Maclean MP
Alistair Carmichael MP	Roger Godsiff MP	Anne Main MP
Maria Caulfield MP	Zac Goldsmith MP	Seema Malhotra MP
Alex Chalk MP	Richard Graham MP	Sandy Martin MP
Sarah Champion MP	Damian Green MP	Rachael Maskell MP
Douglas Chapman MP	Kate Green MP	Kerry McCarthy MP
Jenny Chapman MP	Lilian Greenwood MP	Siobhain McDonagh MP
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Rosie Cooper MP	David Hanson MP	Anna McMorris MP
David Crausby MP	Emma Hardy MP	John McNally MP
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