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**To:** [NDE](#)  
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The Welsh Government is responsible for the care of our most precious and irreplaceable asset, the Welsh landscape. However, this responsibility now seems to mean nothing and the renewable energy part of the NDP seeks to trash vast areas of sublime beauty, where an alternative exists offshore. It is the worst piece of work I have ever seen from the WG; there are no words to describe my horror at what is proposed.

1. Incredibly, there is not one mention of offshore wind power in the draft document. Instead, you are heading straight for huge areas of Wales, to thoughtlessly cause maximum damage to landscapes and to those who live within them. Wind turbines belong offshore, and far enough away where little or no harm can be done to people. There will still be objections, but surely far fewer than with onshore installations.

2. There is no mention in the draft document of the potential effects of these huge RE developments on those of us who live in the affected areas; it is as if we did not exist. Rural dwellers have either deliberately ignored or it has not occurred to you to give us a single thought when drafting your plans. Most rural people I have spoken to feel frightened, ignored, abandoned and abused by these plans.

The NDF seems to be written with urban people in mind, and the potential devastating impacts on landscape and on the well-being and livelihoods of rural communities receives no attention at all. Furthermore, it is tailored to the needs of developers, certainly not to those who live in the threatened areas.

3. At a meeting with WG staff in Llandrindod Wells I brought up the subject of planning blight within the designated areas. It was very obvious that this had not been thought about at all.

Prior to withdrawal of 'local search areas' for wind power from Powys County Council's LDP, a house sale close to my home fell through when the purchaser found that the property was very close to a search area. This is hardly surprising; it's common sense, surely? For this reason alone, these 'priority areas' are very damaging and must be removed.

No doubt WG will claim that there is no evidence of blight in the existing Tan8 areas. Has evidence been looked for? Answers are needed.

4. The RE section of Powys County Council's Local Development Plan has been tossed aside. The cost of producing the LDP must have been very considerable, and we now see that our money is to be wasted by the WG. So much for local democracy; the WG is behaving like a dictatorship.

For many of us the LDP battle was massively stressful over a long period of time. It is beyond belief that we now have to go through it all again thanks to the WG.

5. Still on the subject of local democracy, local people across the border in England have rights of veto for renewable energy projects. Not only were these rights never extended to us in Wales, but the WG has further eroded our rights in its intention to make decisions for

installations over a certain size in Cardiff, rather than allowing our local representatives to be involved. This is not how decent democratic government should behave.

6. The expansion of onshore wind power is bound to risk health effects for locals. This is a link to **479** papers and articles on the subject of health effects from wind turbine noise:

<https://www.wind-watch.org/documents/category/health/?titles=on>

This information has been provided to a number of WG staff, including Leslie Griffiths and Kirsty Williams; as far as I am able to gather, it has been ignored. It is however, becoming known about by more and more people, and should be taken seriously.

7. Protections referred to in the draft NDF are meaningless since we all know what is likely to happen with any application to develop wind farms. Any objections will be swept aside and local democracy overturned, as it was in the case of Hendy wind farm in Powys, when government minister L Griffiths single handedly overturned the decision of a planning appeal inspector who had comprehensively rejected the scheme. Once again, tax payers paid for the appeal process and were subsequently cheated.

There is nothing in the NDF to give anyone any confidence that local people will be anything other than ignored.

8. Homeowners living close to wind turbines risk devaluation of their properties. For most of us a lifetime's work is needed to purchase a house. The money tied up in homes belongs to the homeowners; it is not anyone else's to do whatever they wish with it by placing major developments nearby.

9. Tourism is a vital generator of income for rural Wales. What work has been done to estimate the effect of mass development of renewables on the tourist trade?

10. Finally, the perceived need to develop onshore turbines and solar across Wales is being sold to the public as a mitigation against climate change.

I spent many years in electrical engineering and power generation, and I have made some calculations. For a start, the UK produces about one percent of global emissions (Source: BBC); of that, about one fifth comes from fossil fuelled power stations. (Source: [gov.uk](http://gov.uk)). I am not suggesting that we should not aim to shut down all of these CO2 producers, but from these figures it is possible to see that the global effect would be very much smaller than most people might imagine.

I have no idea how many wind turbines the Welsh government might force onto our precious landscapes with its National Development Framework, but let us take a hypothetical example of one thousand typical two Megawatt units, each very considerably higher than Big Ben. By my calculation, this mass of turbines would reduce global emissions by a mere 0.006 percent. (See figures below)

If an average person were to stretch out their arms and hands horizontally both sides to represent total global CO2 emissions, the contribution of an extra one thousand 2MW wind turbines across Wales would make a difference which could be removed by one pass of a nail file; it amounts to about one tenth of a millimetre on this scale. (This assumes that wind turbines do actually reduce CO2 emissions,

taking into account their manufacture and the vast quantities of energy intensive concrete required to install them; I have no figures on this so I will refrain from further comment on this aspect of the argument).

Certainly every little helps, but no-one should be in any doubt about the arithmetic. If the Welsh government goes ahead with its latest schemes, our superb landscapes would be sacrificed for almost no gain at all, except for those who stand to make a great deal of money out of the rape of priceless Welsh landscapes and the ruin of many who live among them.

This information has been published in one of our local papers and I am taking steps to ensure that as many people as possible will be made aware of it.

Calculation:

UK produces about 1% of global CO2 emissions (Source: BBC)

Of that 1%, about one fifth is from power stations. ([gov.uk](http://gov.uk))

So, UK emissions from power stations: 0.2% of global.

About 50% of UK electricity produced by fossil fuels (2017 figure, [gov.uk](http://gov.uk))

Average UK demand: 35GW, of which half is from fossil fuels, ie. **17.5GW**

Using example of 1000 x 2MW wind turbines:

1000 x 2MW turbines give installed capacity of 2GW.

Capacity factor for onshore wind is about 27% ([gov.uk](http://gov.uk)), giving average output from 1000 turbines of **0.54GW**.

0.54 divided by 17.5 is 0.03

From line 3 above, UK emissions from power stations: 0.2% of global.

0.03 X 0.2 gives 0.006. Therefore, 1000 turbines will reduce global emissions by 0.006%.

Richard Martin

