SUBMISSION FROM MARY SCOTT AND HERBERT EPPEL

Our views regarding Scotland's Green Energy Targets for consultation

Here are our responses regarding the government's consultation on targets for green energy.

We are very much in favour of appropriately sited wind farms. We are members of the Grampian Pro Wind alliance – see http://GrampianProWind.org.uk/ – which was formed in response to the spread of NIMBYism and general ignorance about energy needs. This is an entirely independent group of volunteers with no funding.

We also wish to inform you that some other groups who have latched onto the anti-wind farm cause, do so without any democratic mandate from their members. The Ramblers are against wind farms but they have never discussed this with their membership. We are both members of the Ramblers and not all Ramblers are against wind farms. The John Muir Trust is similar. John Muir was far sighted and would very likely have been concerned about climate change enough to be in favour of wind farms.

It is claimed that wind farms will put off tourists, but there is very little actual evidence for this. It is only a matter of opinion to assume that visitors want Scotland to remain as if in a museum piece, cast forever outwith the progress of time. Wind farm developers with imagination can include visitor attractions as part of their schemes. Wind farms would never be given permission to be built in the most scenic parts of Scotland anyway. The national park status of the Cairngorms etc protects these places with if anything, too much vigilance in our view.

It is easy to be against new developments, but it requires more thought to provide effective solutions. To put things in perspective we face an energy crisis and we need to get our electricity from sources that won't increase greenhouse gas emissions. There is no single easy or perfect solution available, nor can energy efficiency alone solve the problem. We need a range of measures of which on-shore wind is a part.

Mary Scott and Herbert Eppel
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