

Ten Easy Ways to Help the Campaign

Issue 1 14 Oct 2011

Here are ten things that ordinary people can do to help the campaign against the windfarms and pylons. They are not in any particular order and you can do any or all of them. They are very straightforward and we are not asking people to lie down in front of bulldozers (at least not yet). All the details and references you need are at the end.

1. **Support fund raising events.** Money is needed to support the campaign and to fund legal representation at the public enquiries. You can donate directly through the Montgomeryshire Against Pylons (MAP) and National Opposition to Windfarms (NOW) websites but why not enjoy yourself at the same time. This summer and autumn there have been a Hog Roast, an Art Exhibition with workshops and The Sustainable Life Festival with great music and entertainment. Details of future events can be found on the MAP website.
2. **Volunteer.** From time to time there are calls for volunteers to help out at fund raising events and other activities. If you have a couple of hours, half a day or a day to spare then please muck in and you'll meet a great bunch of people. Volunteers are also needed to put up posters, deliver flyers and distribute newsletters in your local area.
3. **Write to your representatives.** We are lucky that most of our local politicians are right behind us and their job is to promote our cause in Westminster, County Hall and The Welsh Assembly. But they need ammunition. If you object to the windfarms and pylons then write and tell them and tell them why. More importantly, if you have a specific problem then tell them. For example if you have a business which is likely to be harmed or if it has already been harmed. Perhaps you are relying on the value of your house to support yourself in old age. You can write or email but either way remember to include your full name and address. If you are a constituent then they will reply, usually by writing.
4. **Write to the Powys and Shropshire Council planning departments with your views.** Powys has planning responsibility for windfarms of less than 50MW and is a statutory consultee to DECC for windfarms over 50MW. Neither council has planning responsibility for powerlines from windfarms to the hub or the 400kv steel pylon line from the hub but they can make representations to the UK Infrastructure Planning Unit that is the deciding body with the Secretary of State. Both councils have indicated that they want to hear our views. So please write to them.
5. **Write to National Grid.** Tell National Grid your worries about the pylons. If you have a specific problem then tell them and ask them what they will do about it. For example, if your water supply comes from a borehole will it be affected if they have to install deep foundations for a pylon near it and if so what would they do about it? Always try to phrase your letter so that they have to find some information and then reply to you. You can email or write but writing is better. Remember that with National Grid delay is good. If you write to National Grid then also send a copy to your MP. It is also worth copying your letters and e-mails to David Jones Secretary of State for Wales and to your MEP.
6. **Write to Scottish Power** who will be constructing most of the power lines from windfarms to the hub. Comments as for National Grid.

7. **Write to relevant government departments.** You can write to Ed Davey at The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), George Osborne at The Treasury, David Jones at the Wales Office and even David Cameron about your worries. For example, you might be concerned that your electricity bills are rapidly increasing due to windfarm subsidies. What does David Cameron think about the industrialisation of a countryside that he only recently said we should put a high value on? If you have questions like these then write and send a copy to your MP. We cannot let them say that they didn't know or that we didn't care.
8. **Respond to DECC Consultations.** There are two in progress at the moment. One on Community Benefits (bribes) and another on windfarm subsidies. We can make it clear that we do not have a price as far as bribery is concerned and we know that a key to defeating the windfarms is to have the subsidies drastically cut. It has already been cut by 10%. We want it cut to zero so please take part in these public consultations. The consultation on Part B ends on 15th Nov 2012.
9. **Support and join nationwide campaigns against windfarms.** Similar fights to ours are raging up and down the country. With the government's reliance on wind power to meet its renewable energy targets they have to erect 10 large turbines every day for the next 8 years. (They won't meet that target of course but that's not the point). So the clamour is only going to get louder. There are two important national campaigns. One is the National Opposition to Windfarms (NOW) and the other is by Chris Heaton Harris MP who is a staunch opponent of windfarms and a supporter of NOW. Details below.
10. **Respond to windfarm planning applications.** This applies as much to Shropshire folk as it does to the people in Mid Wales because the windfarms in Wales affect North Shropshire by increasing the risk of flooding and also because of the need for a new powerline. So the people of Shropshire have a particular right to object to these applications and in fact anyone in the country can object. Conservation of Upland Powys (CUP) have an excellent website where you can see the status of all current windfarm applications in Mid-Wales and also photos of the locations. This website is at www.midwaleswind.co.uk

10A. Spread the Word. Ok, I know I said ten but I forgot this one so let's call it 10A and it is, perhaps, the most important item on the list and also the easiest to do. Tell your family and friends, especially if they live outside the area. Many people think that it is not their problem because it doesn't affect them but as you can see from the figures in item 9, it may not now but it might very well do so in the near future. We need to boost our numbers so spread the word.

Resources

General points

When writing or emailing please include your name and address. Be forthright but polite.
Anonymous or abusive communications carry no weight.

It is better to write a letter rather than email especially when you are writing to a prominent person such as David Cameron or George Osborne.

Montgomeryshire against Pylons (MAP)

www.montgomeryshireagainstpylons.org

www.facebook.com/MontgomeryshireAP

Conservation of Upland Powys (CUP)

www.midwaleswind.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ConservationofUplandPowys

National Opposition to Windfarms (NOW)

www.nowind.org.uk

Chris Heaton Harris

sites.google.com/site/togetheragainstwind1/

Shropshire Against Pylons

www.facebook.com/shropshireagainstpylons#!/pages/Shropshire-Against-Pylons/142486042555994?fref=ts

or sign on to facebook and search for "Shropshire against pylons"

Members of Parliament

Glyn Davies: Montgomeryshire

Glyn.davies.mp@parliament.uk

Owen Patterson: North Shropshire

patersono@parliament.uk

Phillip Dunne: Ludlow

Philip.dunne.mp@parliament.uk

Daniel Kawczynski: Shrewsbury & Atcham

mail@daniel4shrewsbury.co.uk

You can write to your MP at this address:

(Your MP's name)
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Welsh Assembly Members

The assembly members for Mid and West Wales are:

Rebecca Evans: Rebecca.Evans@wales.gov.uk
Simon Thomas: Simon.Thomas@Wales.gov.uk
Joyce Watson: Joyce.Watson@Wales.gov.uk
William Powell: William.Powell@Wales.gov.uk
Kirsty Williams: Kirsty.Williams@Wales.gov.uk
Rhodri Glyn Thomas: Rhodri.Thomas@Wales.gov.uk
Angela Burns: Angela.Burns@Wales.gov.uk
Elin Jones: Elin.Jones@Wales.gov.uk
Dafydd Elis Thomas: Dafydd.Elis-Thomas@Wales.gov.uk
Keith Davies: Keith.Davies@Wales.gov.uk
Russell George: Russell.George@Wales.gov.uk
Paul Davies: Paul.Davies@Wales.gov.uk

You can write to them at:

(Your assembly members name)
The National Assembly For Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA

Members of the European Parliament

The 7 MEPs for the West Midlands are

Philip Bradbourn: Philip.bradbourn@europarl.europa.eu
Mike Natrass: ukipnatty@hotmail.co.uk
Phil Bennion: phil@philbennion.org
Malcolm Harbour: malcolm.harbour@europarl.europa.eu
Anthea McIntyre: anthea.mcintyre@europarl.europa.eu
Michael Cashman: michaelcashman@phoncoop.coop
Nicole Sinclair: nikki.sinclair@europarl.europa.eu

The 4 MEPs for Wales are

Kay Swinburne: kayswinburnemep@welshconservatives.com
John Bufton: john.bufton@europarl.europa.eu
Derek Vaughan: derek.vaughan@europarl.europa.eu
Jill Evans: jill.evans@europarl.europa.eu

You can write to them at the following Address:

(MEP's name)
European Parliament
Wiertz Straat
B-1047 Brussels
Belgium

Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)

Email for the department: correspondence@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Write:

Ed Davey Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change
Department of Energy & Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

DECC Consultations

Onshore Wind – There are two parts to this consultation - Part A: Community engagement and benefits and Part B: Costs. There are a number of DECC documents which you can download from their website at:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/onwind_cfe/onwind_cfe.aspx

You can email your response to: onshorewind@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Or Write:

Renewables Delivery team
Department of Energy and Climate Change 4th Floor Area A,
3 Whitehall Place,
London
SW1A2AW

Write separate letters or emails for each part of the consultation. Title your letter “Onshore wind call for evidence. Part A Community engagement and benefits” or “Onshore wind call for evidence. Part B Costs”

George Osborne at the Treasury

Email: ministers@hm-treasury.gov.uk or george.osborne.mp@parliament.uk

Write:

Rt Hon George Osborne MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1, Horse Guards Road
London SW1A 2HQ

David Jones Secretary of State for Wales

Email: david.jones.mp@parliament.uk

Write:

David Jones MP Secretary of State for Wales
Wales Office
1 Caspian Point
Caspian Way
Cardiff CF10 4DQ

David Cameron

Email: david.cameron.mp@parliament.uk

Write:

David Cameron
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

National Grid

Website: www.midwalesconnection.com

Email: nationalgrid@midwalesconnection.com

Or :

jeremy.lee@uk.ngrid.com

david.mercer@uk.ngrid.com

Write:

Freepost
National Grid
Mid W Connection

If you write to National Grid then send a copy to the planning inspectorate. (See below)

Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN)

Website: www.spmidwalesconnections.info

Email: enquiries@spmidsalesconnection.info

Write:

Freepost SPMWC

If you write to SPEN then send a copy to the planning inspectorate. (See below)

Shropshire Council Planning

Email: ian.kilby@shropshire.gov.uk

Write:

Ian Kilby
Head of Development Planning
Shropshire County Council
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
Shropshire SY2 6ND

Powys County Council Planning

There is a lot of information on the MAP and the Powys Councils websites regarding specific windfarm applications. You can also find up-to-date information on all applications at www.midwaleswind.co.uk Please take a look.

Website: <http://planning.powys.gov.uk/portal/>

Email: tristan.mabbitt@powys.gov.uk or gwilym.davies@powys.gov.uk

Write:

Tristan Mabbitt or Gwilym Davies
Planning Services
Powys County Council
The Gwalia
Ithon Road
Llandrindod Wells
LD1 6AA

Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC)

Since 1 Apr 2012 the responsibilities of the IPC has been taken over by The Planning Inspectorate. Although they will be at the same address and as far as we know employ the same people. See below.

The Planning Inspectorate

The Planning inspectorate has responsibility for giving permission for so-called nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs). This is the organisation to which National Grid, SPEN and SSE will apply for planning permissions. The Planning Inspectorate will give recommendations to the minister for the Mid-Wales Connection and the larger windfarms. You can write or email them if you think that National Grid, SPEN or SSE have not carried out their duties correctly. For example, if you think that their consultation was flawed or unfair or if the Environmental Impact Assessments were not done correctly. If you write to National Grid, SPEN or SSE then send a copy to the Planning Inspectorate.

Website: <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/>

Email: enquiries@infrastructure.gsi.gov.uk

Write:

The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

For suggestions, to report errors or omissions or simply to comment please email: stevewind@consoft.co.uk