

Wind Farm Letter - Ideas

(Please see "Isle of Skye Wind farm Fact Sheet" (below) for detailed figures and ideas to add to your letter etc.)

NB. You need to include name, address, post code and a phone number on letters to the press and elected members

You don't need to include all of these points, and letters should be written in your own style so we are not using a "standard" objection/letter which tend to have less impact.

1. The 30 turbines at the two existing Wind Farms at Edinbane and Ben Aketil already produce more than 10 times the electricity needed to power the whole of Skye.
2. These existing turbines are 100m high.
3. There are proposals for 144 new turbines on Skye, up to 200m in height at 9 wind farms (7 new farms and repowering Edinbane and Ben Aketil)
4. These turbines all due to be built to link up to the new SSEN Skye Reinforcement power line scheduled for 2028. This power line only necessary for these new wind farms and will cause huge environmental damage itself.
5. Wind farms will cause massive environmental damage to peat land, wildlife, forest, water courses. Wind turbines release large quantities of highly toxic microplastics into the environment due to wear and tear.
6. Will cause years of traffic chaos as giant blades, towers, concrete etc transported across Skye.
7. Massive visual and noise impact for those who live near the new farms and devalue property.
8. Red airplane warning lights on the top of 200m high turbines will destroy Skye's dark skies.
9. Unquantifiable damage to tourist industry
10. Skye becoming characterised as an area of Wind Farm development...leading potentially to many more in years to come.
11. Wind Farm developers owned by overseas companies so profits do not even stay in the UK/ Scotland.
12. Community benefit payments from the developers are tiny - £5000 per MW - where figures show community owned turbines can return £170,000 per MW (and sometimes much more).
13. Community "Consultation" events are a box ticking exercise. Poorly advertised and attended.

Suggest we ask for:

1. A freeze on any further large scale privately owned wind farms in the region, beyond those already having planning consent.
2. A funded programme of support and loans to enable communities to build and own their own small scale wind farms which would return far more income for local people and projects.
3. Proposals for repowering at Edinbane and Ben Aketil should be limited to replacing existing turbines at end of life with the same number and the same size. Email Addresses:

Email Contact/Lobby List

MP

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MSP for Skye and Lochaber:

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Press:

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Press & Journal: pj.letters@ajl.co.uk

Radio Skye: adam@radioskye.com

NB: include your name, address and telephone number on letters and emails.

Planning:

The Energy Consents Unit of the Scottish Government determines planning applications for Wind Farms of over 50MW capacity (including most of the new applications and

repowerings on Skye). Also will determine the planning application for the Skye Reinforcement power line.

To view documents, and make a comment or objection on the planning application for particular wind farm or power line visit www.energyconsents.scot and then use the search function to find the application. Objections can be made to the ECU by emailing them at Econsents_Admin@gov.scot. - quoting the name of the development and the ECU reference number...or you can create an account with the ECU and then fill in the representation form online.

The Highland Council would decide planning applications on “smaller” Wind Farms (less than 50MW) such as Ben Sca, and the original Edinbane and Ben Aketil. They are a Consultee on larger developments so could register an objection with the Energy Consent Unit for any of the large wind farms proposed.

You can search for planning applications and documents and sign up for an account to make comments and objections here:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/180/planning_-_applications_warrants_and_certificates/143/planning_permission/4

You can object to the Highland Council by emailing epanning@highland.gov.uk

Skye Wind Farm Fact Sheet

Right now we have:

18 turbines approx 100m high at Edinbane Wind Farm

12 turbines approx 100m high at Ben Aketil and smaller turbines elsewhere on the island.

Figures from thewindpower.net show that 2-3 of these turbines would power the whole of Skye.

We already produce 10 times the power that Skye needs.

Current wind farm proposals for Skye:

1. Edinbane repowering. Replace 18 turbines at 100m with 19 turbines at 200m height.
2. Ben Aketil repowering. Replace 12 turbines at 100m with 9 at 200m height.
3. Glen Ullinish. 11 turbines 150m high with planning consent.
4. Glen Ullinish 2. Seeking planning permission for 47 turbines 200m high
5. Ben Sca. 9 turbines approx 150m high with planning consent.
6. Balmeanach. Seeking planning for 10 turbines 150m high.
7. Waternish. Seeking planning permission for 15 turbines 200m high.
8. Breakish. Seeking planning permission for 19 turbines 200m high.
9. Benn Mheadhonach. Seeking planning permission for 5 turbines 150m high.

We face proposals for 144 new turbines between 150 to 200m high - all scheduled to connect to the new SSEN Skye Reinforcement power line in approx 2028. 109 at 200m high, and 35 at 150m high are proposed.

The Skye Bridge is 35m high at highest point.

Without the new wind farms there would be no need for the Skye Reinforcement power line and all the new pylons across the mainland and Skye.

Once work begins there will be ongoing implications for road traffic on Skye as blades and towers are enormous and need to be transported across the island, either from Kyle or from a possible new purpose built "jetty" on the west coast. The blades for a 200m high turbine are 76m long (the length of three swimming pools).

There are approximately 4000 tonnes of concrete and steel in every wind turbine base. Old bases are to be left in the ground when new turbines are built. Over 300,000 tonnes of concrete to be transported to site, mixed and poured for 144 new turbines.

33km of road and tracks to be laid at Breakish site.

The proposed wind farms will lead to destruction of grade 1 peat land and woodland. Destruction and damage of habitats of rare and protected species including Golden Eagles, White tailed Eagles, Merlin, Hen Harriers, Red Throated Divers. Large quantities of toxic microplastics are released from the turbine blades due to erosion.

Bird kill from collisions with turbines once commissioned.

Contamination of burns. Despite protests, 3 turbines at Glen Ullinish still proposed to be built within a defined water catchment area for drinking water supply.

Estimated 25 year life time profits for Ben Aketil are £87.5 million. This is just less than £300,000 per turbine per annum. Of this profit only £1,125,000 will be paid out in community benefits over 25 years (1.3% of the profit).

The developers of the current wind farms pay £5000 per megawatt to “the community”....this has been industry standard since 2011.

Glen Ullinish 2 proposing £7000 per megawatt but still tiny amount when figures from community owned turbines in Tiree (Outer Hebrides) show a return of £170,000 per megawatt. On Westray the community owned turbine returns £299,000 per MW.

Edinbane Community Company gets approx £70,000 a year from Edinbane wind farm. This is based on an index linked figure of £2000 per MW agreed at the time of commissioning.