

Moravian Women's Association
Home and Overseas Paper – April 2013

Wind power

Blow me down

The North wind blew on Monday
As the East wind got the flu
The West wind blew on Tuesday
As the South wind never knew

The North East wind had Wednesday
As the South West wasn't chuffed
The North West blew on Thursday
As the South East hardly puffed

The East and West blew Friday
As the others had a rest
The North and South blew Saturday
As the weekends were the best

The lot of them had Sunday
As the winds turned into storm
The whole of them had Monday off
As the week got back to norm

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Rambling Riddles & Rhymes

This poem seems to capture how we have been at the mercy of what seems like one of the worst winters for cold, wet, windy weather we have had for a long time.

In the UK we now have wind farms, both on land, and offshore. While those on land are most obvious and cause most controversy, the offshore Walney Wind Farm produces 367 megawatts and the Thanet Offshore Wind Project 300 megawatts. The London Array in the Thames estuary (630 megawatts) which opened in March 2013, is the largest wind farm in the world, and when complete, it will cover 90 square miles. Its 175 turbines will be capable of generating enough energy to power nearly half a million homes – two thirds of the homes in Kent, and reduce CO₂ emissions by over 900,000 tonnes a year.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds have objected to the London Array as it will disturb estuary birds, but apart from the RSPB, there are not many complaints about offshore wind farms. Most objections are to wind farms on land:

ADVANTAGES OF WIND POWER:

- 1.** The wind is free and with modern technology it can be captured efficiently.
- 2.** Once the wind turbine is built, the energy it produces does not cause green house gases or other pollutants.
- 3.** Although wind turbines can be very tall, each takes up only a small plot of land. This means that the land below can still be used. This is especially the case in agricultural areas as farming can still continue.
- 4.** Many people find wind farms an interesting feature of the landscape. They are no more unsightly than pylons carrying electricity and telephone wires.
- 5.** Remote areas that are not connected to the electricity power grid can use wind turbines to produce their own supply of electricity.
- 6.** Wind turbines have a role to play in both the developed and third world.
- 7.** Wind turbines are available in a range of sizes which means a vast range of people and businesses can use them. Single households to small towns and villages can make good use of range of wind turbines available today.

DISADVANTAGES OF WIND POWER:

- 1.** The strength of the wind is not constant and it varies from zero to storm force. This means that wind turbines do not produce the same amount of electricity all the time. There will be times when they produce no electricity at all.
- 2.** Many people feel that the countryside should be left untouched, without these large structures being built. The landscape should left in its natural form for everyone to enjoy.
- 3.** Large wind turbines are noisy. Each one can generate the same level of noise as a family car travelling at 70 mph.
- 4.** Many people see large wind turbines as unsightly structures and not pleasant or interesting to look at. They disfigure the countryside and are generally ugly.
- 5.** When wind turbines are being manufactured some pollution is produced. Therefore wind power does produce some pollution.
- 6.** Large wind farms are needed to provide entire communities with enough electricity.

It is easy to see why people who chose to live in unspoilt countryside would strongly object to a wind farm being built near them – not least because it will depress property prices. But those same people also want electric light, internet, telephones, and heating. People who live in cities are used to lamp posts, phone boxes, and traffic noise. If every city street had small turbines on lamp posts, would we really notice them after a while?

Naomi Hancock