

**AYRSHIRE JOINT STRUCTURE PLAN AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
3 DECEMBER 2004**

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**Renewable Energy - Commercial Windfarms in Ayrshire**

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To advise the Committee on recent commercial wind farm proposals within Ayrshire.

BACKGROUND

- 2 The Committee will recall the Scottish Executive is committed to working toward 40% of Scottish Electricity being generated from renewable sources by 2020. This target is driven by a need to reduce carbon emissions and to address climate change issues. The use of renewable sources of energy also creates greater diversity and energy mix, which are important as fossil fuels deplete and uncertainties exist over the source of future energy supplies. As part of the commitment NPPG6 "Renewable Energy Development" sets out guidance on the planning for renewable energy in Scotland. A key component of this guidance is the need for development plans to provide a positive framework toward renewable energy development. The Executive has recently given a commitment as a response to a recent report by the Enterprise & Culture Committee of the Parliament to undertake of review of this guidance in the 2005/06 period.

STRUCTURE PLAN POLICY

- 3 The current Structure Plan seeks to stimulate the development of renewable energy within Ayrshire and sets criteria against which proposals will be judged. This policy, however, does not explicitly identify areas of preference nor does it clearly identify areas that could be sensitive to cumulative impacts. Since the approval of the current Structure Plan the scale of commercial proposals at an advanced stage has increased significantly. In contrast the number of community based facilities of a domestic scale, typically 7- 11 metres in height has been few.

CURRENT PROPOSALS

- 4 As Table 1 & Diagram 1 illustrate there are currently two operational windfarms at Hare Hill, New Cumnock and Busbie/Haupland Muir, Ardrossan.

Proposals at Hadyard Hill, Carrick South Ayrshire (52 turbines) and Wardlaw Wood, Dalry (6 turbines) have been granted consent. Proposals being promoted and which are at advanced stages include a major windfarm at Whitelee Forest (140 turbines, part in East Ayrshire), Kyle Forest, East Ayrshire (110 turbines), Ladyland Moor, North Ayrshire (56 Turbines) Outerwards, North Ayrshire (44 Turbines). Applications are currently being considered for Kelburn (19 Turbines), North Ayrshire and Afton Water (27 turbines). These proposals cover some 26,000ha and would if approved contribute 1300 Mw. If approved their zone of visual influence would extend over much of Ayrshire. Whilst the Consultative Draft has promoted the concept of preferred areas the Committee should note that these proposals (including the larger proposals dealt with under s36 legislation) will require to be considered within the context of current Structure Plan policy.

## CONCLUSION

- 5 Whilst it is recognised that Ayrshire does have the potential to generate energy from a wide range of renewable sources it is also recognised that the form and scale of current proposals does raise a number of issues. These have been highlighted in responses during the consultation period to the Structure Plan and include conflict with economic, community and environmental interests. Consideration on what further steps can be taken to promote renewable energy whilst ensuring economic, environmental, and community interests are adequately safeguarded is the subject of work being undertaken jointly by the councils in Ayrshire as part of the preparation of the replacement Structure Plan.

## RECOMMENDATION

- 6 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

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 Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Committee

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Note: Larger scale map available on day of Committee

**Table 1 - Ayrshire Windfarm Proposals\***

<b>Id</b>	<b>Stage</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Turbines</b>	<b>Mw</b>	<b>Company</b>
1	Applications (including E/S stage)	Whitelee Forest	140	332	Scottish Power
2	Applications (including E/S stage)	Benquhat	6	12	Natural Power
3	Applications (including E/S stage)	Chalmerston	25	50	Scottish Coal
4	Approved/Operational	Harehill	20	13	Scottish Power
5	Scoping	Kyle (S)	66	132	Amec
6	Scoping	Kyle (N)	34	68	Amec
7	Scoping	Afton Water	27	74	E.O.N.
8	Scoping	Dersalloch Hill	35	70	CRE Energy Ltd
9	Approved/Under Construction	Hadyard Hill	53	139	Scottish & Southern Energy
10	Potential Site	Benan Hill	14	0	Morio Sato
11	Potential Site	Beneraird Moorland	25	0	Energy Unlimited
12	Scoping	Mark's Hill	50	100	Entec UK Limited
13	Approved/Operational	Ardrossan Wind Farm	12	24	Airtricity
14	Refused	Hunterston Wind Farm	13	26	Scottish Power
15	Approved	Wardlaw Wood Wind Farm	6	12	Community Wind
16	Withdrawn	Ardeer Wind and Hydrogen	29	26	Scottish Power
17	Scoping	Outerwards Wind Farm	44	123	Scottish & Southern Energy
18	Scoping	Hunterston Wind and Hydrogen	56	95	Hunterston Hydro
19	Applications (including E/S stage)	Kelburn Estate Wind Farm	19	38	Renewable Energy Systems

Source: East, North and South Ayrshire Councils

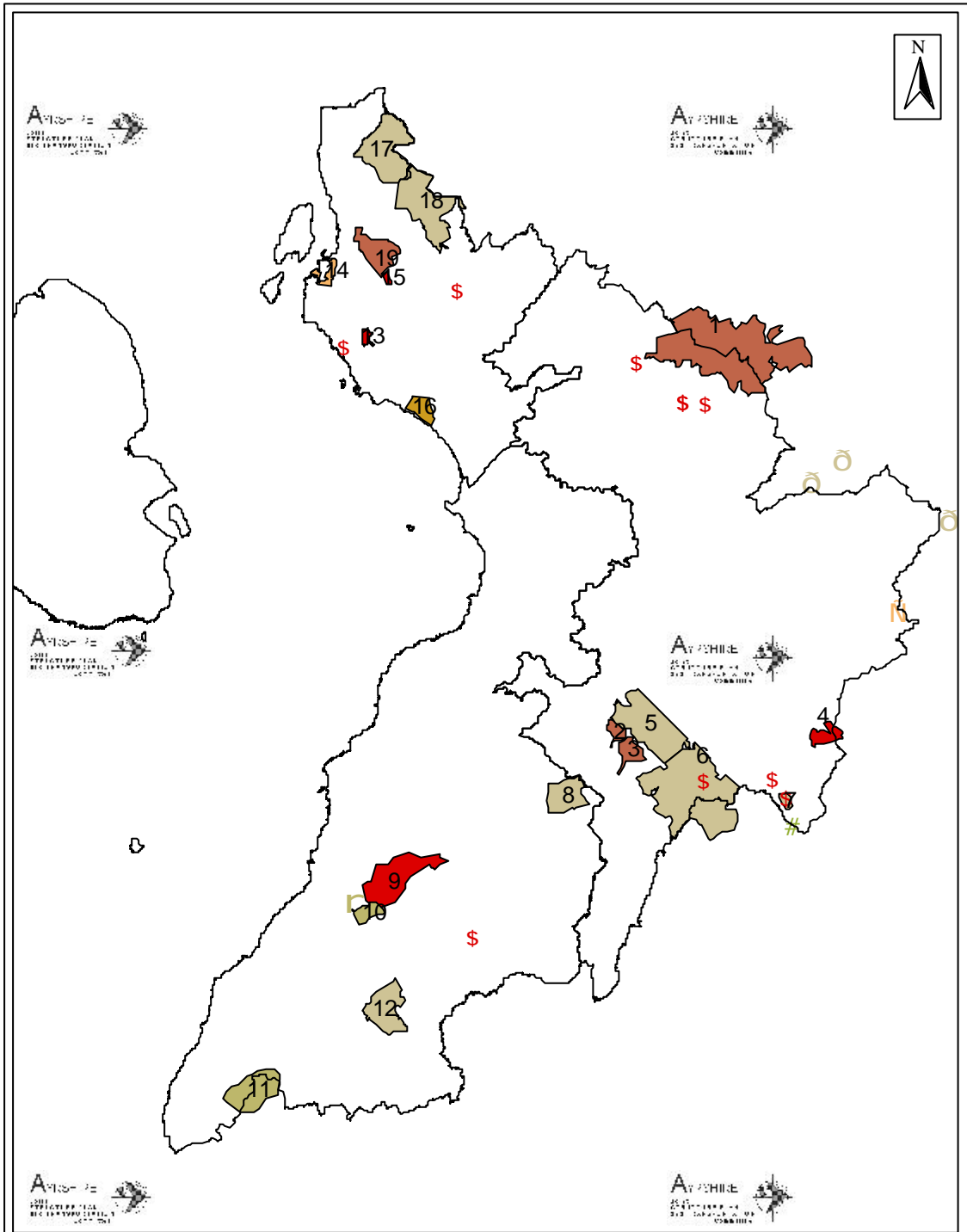
\*Schemes in Public Domain

**Table 2 - Anemometers & Proposals Adjoining Ayrshire**

<b>Id</b>	<b>Stage</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Turbines</b>	<b>Mw</b>	<b>Company</b>
1	Applications (including E/S stage)	Windy Standard	36	0	National Wind Power
2	Scoping	Bankend	0	0	
3	Scoping	Dungavel	25	0	
4	Scoping	Spireslack	20	61	Scottish Coal
5	Anemometer Applications		0	0	
6	Anemometer Applications		0	0	
7	Anemometer Applications		0	0	
8	Refused	Penbreck & Carmacoup Forest	18	0	
9	Anemometer Applications	Afton Water	0	0	
10	Anemometer Applications		0	0	
11	Anemometer Applications	Kyle (S)	0	0	
12	Anemometer Applications	Kyle (N)	0	0	
13	Potential Site	Craigenreoch	0	0	CRE Energy Ltd
14	Anemometer Applications	Clyde Muirshiel	0	0	
15	Anemometer Applications	Fairlie	0	0	
16	Anemometer Applications	Kilbirnie	0	0	

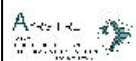
Source: East, North and South Ayrshire Councils

**Diagram 1- Map Commercial Windfarms in Ayrshire**



**Commercial Windfarms in Ayrshire**

Scale 1:475000



Produced by AJSP&TC  
Date : 24 November 2004

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**Commercial Windfarms in Ayrshire**

Anemometer s. & Proposals Adjoining Ayrshire		Ayrshire Wind farm Proposals	
\$	Anemometer Applications	Dark Red	Applications (including EIS stage)
#	Applications (including EIS stage)	Light Red	Approved
P	Potential Site	Yellow	Potential Site
N	Refused	Light Green	Refused
O	Scoping	Dark Green	Scoping
		Dark Green	Withdrawn