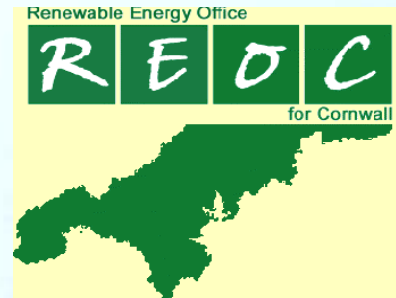


# Why Choose Renewable Energy in Cornwall?



REOC 2008

Renewable energy ([insert hyper link to “why we need renewable energy” presentation in reports and publications](#)) offers many benefits over conventional energy generation. The most important are described below.



**APEX**  
WIND ENERGY

Picture by Simon Burt. 07.06.2001.  
Gaia Energy Centre.

➤ **Reducing the impacts of climate change:**

By using renewable energy power and heat can be generated with little or no production of carbon dioxide. For more information on the predictions and impacts of climate change follow the Climate Change [\(insert hyperlink to climate change pdf\)](#) link.

➤ **Reducing local environmental impacts:**

The environmental effects of renewable energy generation are much less than from fossil fuel or nuclear generation. Efficiently designed renewable energy projects produce no or low levels of air pollution and wastewater, unlike fossil power production. There is no risk of catastrophic accidents or long lasting waste problems as there is with nuclear power.

In March 2006 it was announced that the costs of cleaning up our existing nuclear power stations will top £70bn, making the alternatives look far more attractive. £70bn could buy 35,000 large scale 2 mW wind turbines if you assume a cost of £1000 per kW of rated turbine output. One two megawatt machine costs £2,000,000. The output of a 2MW turbine is 3.5 million kWhs (Kilo Watt Hours) a year according to Ecotricity. So 35,000 turbines would produce 122.5 billion kWhs a year. This is over a third of total UK energy demand. Thus providing a much more environmentally friendly and sustainable option compared to nuclear.



➤ **Being more self-sufficient:**

Renewable energy can be used for a range of needs, from powering farm vehicles to providing energy for a whole town. It can be used to make a building/industrial estate self-sufficient in energy or decrease the reliance of the South West on energy imports.



The urgent issue of Peak Oil ([insert hyperlink to Peak Oil pdf](#)) most of the worlds oils reserves are now at or have already reached Peak Oil production) will mean a reduced supply (and continually rising price) of fuel in Cornwall. By introducing more renewable energy techniques, Cornwall will be able to wean itself off the dependency on ever decreasing stocks of oil and mitigate the rising fuel prices.

A greater uptake of Renewable energy in Cornwall will not only reduce dependency on non-renewable fossil fuels by producing a sustainable supply of power but will also greatly

reduce the impact on the environment

➤ **Creating new business and jobs:**

There are already over 8,000 jobs sustained in the renewable energy industry in the UK (DTI Renewable Supply Chain Gap Analysis, 2004). In the South West there are approximately 200 businesses and other organisations operating in renewable energy, employing over 1,100 people in the sector and contributing an estimated £34 million to the economy. As renewable energy is a more decentralized method of energy production, it tends to generate employment over a wider area, benefiting a wider range of communities and businesses. Renewable energy employs more people per unit of generating capacity than conventional energy production. By 2020 over 35,000 jobs are expected to be created in the UK from the growth of the renewable energy sector. The total contribution to the South West economy from renewables could be as much as £183 million by 2010 and £517 million by 2020 (The Economic Contribution of the Renewable Energy Sector to the South West, 2005).

Maria McCaffery, BWEA CEO:

*“Without renewable energy, there will be no alternative to increasing UK dependency on carbon-generating gas imports from the former Soviet republics once existing UK nuclear and conventional power stations retire over the next few years. New nuclear generation will simply take too long to build to bridge the ‘energy gap.’”*

