Response to Govt consultation on Onshore Wind

Dear Jane,

Many thanks for submitting feedback to the consultation – your submission will be logged and reflected in the Government response.

Kind regards,

Onshore Wind Team

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| Background pattern  Description automatically generated with medium confidence | Onshore Wind TeamRenewable Electricity Directorateonshorewind@beis.gov.ukDepartment for Energy Security & Net Zero1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET[www.gov.uk/beis](http://www.gov.uk/beis) | <https://www.twitter.com/energygovuk>  |

**From:** Jane Markham <parishclerk@draughton.org>
**Sent:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 11:39 AM
**To:** BEIS Onshore Wind <onshorewind@beis.gov.uk>
**Subject:** Consultation - Developing Local Partnerships for Onshore Wind in England

Hello

Draughton Parish Council, a small village community in North Yorkshire which is currently working on a green energy project involving the possible installation of a community-owned wind turbine, would like to submit comments to this consultation as follows:

**Engagement**

Community buy-in for wind turbine installations in the local area can be achieved by means of effective community engagement.  Most people are fully aware of the need to generate renewable energy and local public opinion will not necessarily be resistant to development.  However, the Council believes that planning guidance should specifically  ensure that communities can be involved direct in proposals for such onshore wind installations.  We agree that best practice engagement guidelines should be strengthened.  This can be done by means of imposing a duty on developers to hold face-to-face meetings in community venues, and by the requirement for developers to publicise proposals in the form of written notices, provided in paper form (delivered to all houses) as well as by means of social media, emails and websites.  We suggest that the main barriers to engagement between developers and local communities are, currently, the lack of effort developers put into consulting local people.  There are no sanctions for developers who simply choose not to participate in community engagement.

We also believe that the Government should increase efforts to build awareness generally of climate change and its effects, and offer/provide further support to local communities who are doing something about it.

**Community benefits**

The Council agrees that the system should be updated and redesigned so that the financial benefits for host communities are increased and made more widely available through a variety of means, including bill discounts.

More than this, it is vitally important that communities which are actively trying to set up onshore schemes themselves should be encouraged, with barriers (eg current restrictions and limitations on the availability of grid connections) removed.  Communities should be incentivised to work on their own local schemes; one way of doing this is by overhauling the electricity supply networks to enable communities which are installing local onshore generators themselves to keep and use the locally-produced electricity for the local energy needs of individual houses within the community (where currently there is no option but to export locally-generated green energy to the National Grid, unless a private wire network is set up for a limited number of customers).

I hope our comments may be taken into account as part of this consultation.

Thank you.

Kind regards

Jane Markham

Clerk to the Council