

Rosemary Cooper's submission to the public enquiry on wind farms in Powys.

## 1. Technology.

After researching the subject on the Internet, I cannot find any credible evidence against the points listed below.

Turbines generate mast wake turbulence, which mobilises mould spores, particles of decayed animal remains and more, causing health problems for anyone exposed to them.

They are very high-maintenance. Blades frequently break or catch fire, yet cannot be recycled because the fumes they emit when burnt are extremely poisonous. Particles lodge permanently in people's lungs.

In freezing snowy weather there is often no wind at all, yet turbines cannot store electricity. They actually **consume** electricity to prevent the blades from freezing. They will stand idle more often as our weather becomes increasingly unpredictable.

After 20 years of windfarms, Denmark has been unable to switch off even one fossil fuel back-up station because turbines generate less than 20% of the electricity needed.

This could be only 1% more than the energy used to make, transport and replace them, so they scarcely help us meet our obligations to reduce carbon emissions by 2020.

The problem is that we've signed up to this target without having developed good technology to meet it, so blunder into using this flawed alternative. It will speedily be overtaken by something better, so we'll be diverting lottery money from worthy causes to remove redundant excrescences blighting our finest countryside.

I understand that better solutions are less developed, but since we are forever being told about a shortage of money, we can hardly afford to waste so many millions on something so ineffective instead of investing it wisely on developing more efficient solutions.

People have knee-jerk reactions; while wind is confused with 'green', nuclear is **Bad!** If we get past first impressions, earthquakes happen where the earth's tectonic plates meet; Japan lies in such an area; Britain does not, hence the Japanese disaster could not be repeated here. Thorium is much safer than Uranium.

I quote from an article in the Telegraph by Ambrose Evans-Pritchard.

*(From [http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/comment/ambroseevans\\_pritchard/8393984/Safe-nuclear-does-exist-and-China-is-leading-the-way-with-thorium.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/comment/ambroseevans_pritchard/8393984/Safe-nuclear-does-exist-and-China-is-leading-the-way-with-thorium.html) ).*

“It has a higher neutron yield than uranium, a better fission rating, longer fuel cycles, and does not require the extra cost of isotope separation. It was not developed in the past because thorium does not produce plutonium for bombs. As a happy bonus, it can burn up plutonium and toxic waste from old reactors, reducing radio-toxicity and acting as an eco-cleaner.”

Can we afford not to invest in thorium?

New power stations can be sited where they can utilise the existing National Grid connections. Wind power requires many new lines of pylons, driving up expense and visual objections.

## 2. Environmental Concerns.

People can die of fuel poverty, yet wind energy pushes up everyone's electricity bills to pay massive subsidies to foreign companies, who smother our otherwise wonderful landscapes with inefficient eyesores. Our towns and superb countryside are fouled up as access roads are widened for huge blades to be transported.

Wind farms do **nothing** for the economy of the areas where they are sited. The staff are a few technicians who come in from outside. Wind farms are usually in areas where the local economy depends on tourism, but for every one person who comes to look at turbines, ten stay away, so local people find their economy slumps. Public transport in such areas is poor, so these people, who become unable to sell their homes, have to drive long distances to find work – generating carbon emissions – while people who would otherwise holiday at home fly – yes, fly – abroad instead!

In spite of claims that turbines are now quieter, the noise has been likened to a brick wrapped in a towel inside a tumble drier. It can be so bad that doctors tell so-called 'nimbies' to sleep out of earshot, though that can entail leaving home most nights to sleep in sheds or caravans without electricity. Flicker, experienced whenever the sun is behind working turbines, can cause headaches and nausea.

Wildlife such as the golden plover and curlew need open high ground to survive and are noticeably scarcer in the square miles surrounding each turbine.

Thousands like me cannot find one credible reason for building more windfarms. We are certain they are built because money changes hands in high places, so a very few get rich out of them. The problems with solar panels appear to lie in funding, not technology. If the money was spent instead on providing every home and small business with free solar panels, we could generate our own electricity!

744 words.