

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: wind energy variation policy  
Date: Friday 3 June 2022 15:56:04

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I have read with interest the documents available on your website in relation to the variation to wind energy policy in the 2018-24 County Development Plan. I note that it is based on a cumulative spatial mapping of data from other expert sources, particularly the CORINE international land-use mapping data.

As an individual layperson, I am not in a position to query this data; however, I would point out that the area allocated to peatland by CORINE in the map used in your study (DCC, 2022, 'Introduction', p. 28) seems more extensive than that identified in the National Peatlands Strategy (NPWS, 2015, Page 006, 'Ireland Peatland Map'). This requires some explanation - perhaps definitional criteria have changed?

In addition, the practice and evidence emerging from Scotland indicates that wind farms can be appropriately managed in ways that also conserve peatlands. A brief document endorsed by a number of UK wildlife charities summarises this:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/positions/climate-change/wind-power-publications/wind-farms-and-peatlands---good-practice.pdf>

I am aware that wind turbines have proved a divisive development locally, but am also supportive of all efforts to turn around rising emissions even at the eleventh hour. I have a couple of practical suggestions to make:

1. Investigate alternative technologies for wind power generation, - not only are some of these safer for birds, they may also be more acceptable to people who find current models too large and too unsightly. See for instance:  
[https://www.engadget.com/2016-11-05-six-innovative-wind-turbine-designs.html?guccounter=1&guce\\_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2x1LnNybS8&guce\\_referrer\\_sig=AQAAAHrHdqWtSu-D5cqt00GSEFDVYJbdErzpHeJw3cfaWr5sAlztZeskKkZsAbvWzUdXSG1Xr4sckG71Eusk9ciZufcgXoDMfPOIAbhB2gN22FTFGFZilw4curtvYIGNicma9LtHix3hOt8ma-TPeKATmBz4C1I09CUnkFu7TdH2jfJ6L](https://www.engadget.com/2016-11-05-six-innovative-wind-turbine-designs.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2x1LnNybS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAHrHdqWtSu-D5cqt00GSEFDVYJbdErzpHeJw3cfaWr5sAlztZeskKkZsAbvWzUdXSG1Xr4sckG71Eusk9ciZufcgXoDMfPOIAbhB2gN22FTFGFZilw4curtvYIGNicma9LtHix3hOt8ma-TPeKATmBz4C1I09CUnkFu7TdH2jfJ6L)

2. Prioritise conservation and restoration of peatlands, not excluding the possibility of this being combined with appropriate windfarm development. This would provide the crucial link between soil management, and the mitigation of climate change and species/biodiversity loss (See Peter Smith, University of Aberdeen, Professor of Soils and Global Change, whose research highlights the interlinked nature of these existential problems facing humans and the planet). The pre-draft Development Plan for 2024 onwards is very thin on policy towards soil and peatlands; yet these are the major resource we possess locally that can play a part in averting planetary heating by ensuring that our bogs again become carbon \_sinks\_ rather than the carbon \_sources\_ that many have already become. Our bogs are our rainforest.

While I am cognisant of the massive social problem that confronts anyone attempting to tackle the issue of degeneration of bogs in this country, I believe that if we do not have a stated plan, then certainly nothing will change for the better. It is essential that a clear plan is formulated as to what \_should\_ be done to restore our bogs and soil quality, and that this is integrated with the other measures proposed in the DCC development plan.

3. At a local level, I would suggest integrating Kinnagoe Bay into the area of 'Exceptionally High Scenic Amenity' that currently runs inland from Inishowen Head over Crockbrack hill towards the source of the Bredagh river. There is no justification for leaving Kinnagoe out of this area, as it is clearly one of the most sought-after scenic locations in Co. Donegal and in Ireland. Scenically, the high wooded cliffs alongside peculiarly golden sand, are almost unique in Ireland. Inclusion would help to allay local and community fears about inappropriate developments of all kinds that might affect this visual amenity.

Barbara Bradby, [REDACTED]

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### Six innovative wind turbine designs | Engadget

By Cat DiStasio The International Energy Association (IEA) announced last week that renewable energy capacity around the globe has eclipsed coal power for the first time ever.

[www.engadget.com](http://www.engadget.com)