

Release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere is one of the major causes of global warming. The majority of this carbon dioxide is derived from burning fossil fuels. One way of reducing our carbon dioxide emissions is through the use of renewable energy like wind, wave, hydro-electric, tidal or solar power.

Northern Scotland leads the UK in its provision of renewable energy. The Glenlivet, Ballindalloch and Dufftown area already generates more than enough electricity from renewable sources for both residents and visitors alike.

Plans for a large scale wind farm with 71 turbines on the Glenfiddich hills are currently being finalised. The proposed site is less than a mile and a half from the edge of the Cairngorms National Park.

The Glenfiddich hills are dominated by peat blanket bogs that have formed since the last ice age. Peat bogs store up to three times as much carbon as tropical rainforests. They are our most significant long term store of carbon in the UK.

Damage to peat deposits caused by turbine installations can increase carbon dioxide emissions by many 1000's of tonnes, reducing the environmental benefits of wind power by up to 64%. (New Scientist, 08 July 2006)

Thinking about the landscape

In general do you value landscapes of outstanding natural beauty?

Yes No Not sure

Do you think that the landscapes of Glenlivet and Glenfiddich are a key tourism asset for the area?

Yes No Not sure

Would the presence of a large scale wind farm on the edge of the Cairngorms National Park, and visible from many of the local footpaths and cycle routes, spoil your enjoyment of the area?

Yes No Not sure

Would it affect your decision to revisit the area?

I would visit the area again
 I would not visit the area again
 Not sure

Thinking about the environment

In general do you support the use of renewable energy as a way of reducing carbon dioxide emissions and global warming?

Yes No Not sure

Do you think that Glenfiddich is a suitable location for a wind farm given the potential impact of carbon dioxide released from the peat?

Yes No Not sure

Would the presence of the proposed wind farm change this areas' appeal as a "green" tourist destination for you?

It would increase the area's appeal
 It would reduce the area's appeal
 It would have no effect