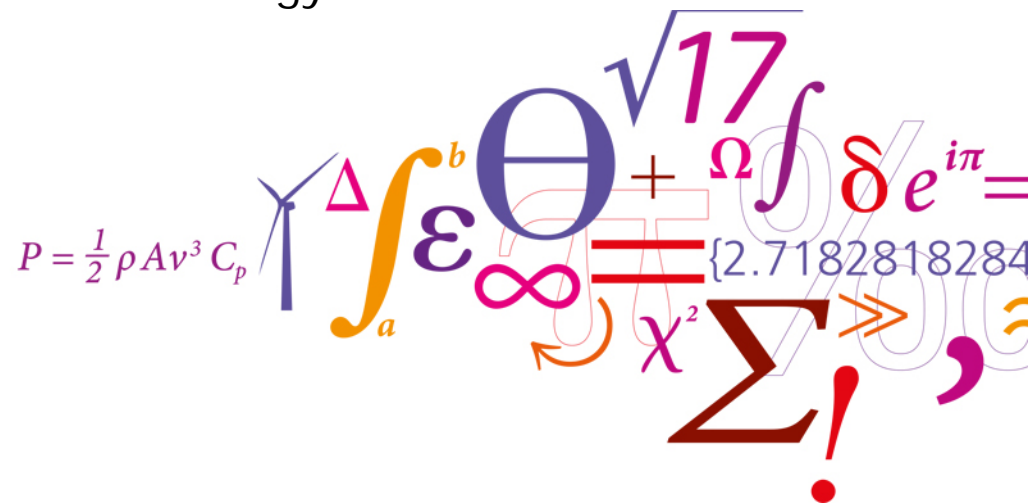


Challenges for wind farm developers

Insights from Ireland and Scotland

David Rudolph, DTU Wind Energy

Presented by Niels-Erik Clausen, DTU Wind Energy



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Content & background

- Developer challenges in Ireland and Scotland
- Site selection & community benefits
- Learning points for Denmark
- 12 interviews Nov/Dec 2016

<i>Interview</i>	<i>Location</i>
<i>Ireland</i>	
Coillte	Dun Laoghaire
Bord na Mona	Newbridge
Energy Insights Ireland / IWEA	Dublin
Journalist, Irish Independent	Dublin
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	Dublin
ABO Wind	Dublin
Tipperary County Council	via telephone
SSE	Belfast
<i>Scotland</i>	
Local Energy Scotland	Inverness
Scottish Land & Estates	Musselburgh
Muirhall Energy	Carnwath, Lanarkshire
RES	Glasgow

Main challenges & context

- Ireland

- Local acceptance has changed
 - Rational dialogue about merits of wind power is missing
 - Debates about selling electricity to UK has changed the public discourse
 - 'Militant' local and national opposition
- Depleting sites – 'low hanging fruits are gone'
 - More difficult for most developers to acquire sites; closer to people
 - Two semi state-owned companies have a competitive advantage of access to state land
- Legal challenges
 - 'suing culture': developers 'expect' to be sued by opponents at some point which prolongs the process and moves the project to the national planning board
- Uncertain political situation
 - Brexit and Trump - strong economic relations to both the UK and US
 - American High-Tech companies are crucial lobbyists and consumers of renewables, which may be called 'home'



Main challenges & context

- **Scotland**

- Absent subsidies vs. benefit-sharing expectations

- Phasing out of subsidies for onshore wind by UK Govt. (energy policy)
 - Benefit-sharing expected by Scottish Government (planning recommendation)
 - Economic pressure for commercial developers

- Grid connection

- Grid connection costs in remote areas are substantial financial consideration
 - Preference for areas with existing infrastructures

- Valuable landscapes

- Landscape as a determining factor institutionalised through Scottish Natural Heritage as a statutory consultancy (have to be consulted by developer)

- Competition

- Increasing competition between developers for sites
 - Best sites taken
 - Public engagement fatigue in some areas

Site selection and access to land

- **Ireland**

- Site selection is determined by municipal plans (3 categories: areas *excluded*, *considered* or *preferred* for wind energy)
- Plans are created by planners and consultations with local experts and public
- Developers work within predefined areas
- Developers regard municipal zoning as high-level and reliable (good thing)

- **Scotland**

- Developers pick sites and apply to local planning authorities (<50 MW Munic; > 50 MW Government)
- Negotiation with landowners - but estates are less fragmented than in DK
- Developers emphasise local knowledge and early community involvement in finding suitable locations and determining project layout
- Projects are often bigger than in DK, which leaves more influence to people in shaping project outcome (larger flexibility)

Community benefits



- **Ireland**

- No legal requirements
- Idea of benefit-sharing and community gain at the very beginning
- Large and state-owned developers have ambitious plans for community benefit packages to attach local communities to projects and respond to resistance

- **Scotland**

- Benefit-sharing as an ideological premise to distribute wealth from harnessing a national / public resource
- Participation of communities in renewables to boost social and economic resilience (e.g. Community Empowerment Act, Land Reform Act, Local Energy Scotland)
- Governmental support for community-led projects and recommendation for community benefit packages

Learning points for Denmark?

- Clear municipal planning and early community engagement can help mitigate early conflict potential and increase transparency
- Voluntary community benefit schemes are more diverse and allow for more flexibility to take account of local particularities, needs and community interests and preferences
- community benefit schemes mainly target the wider community and the collective good rather than favouring financially potent individuals who can buy co-ownership shares
- Wind resources are no longer a primary criteria for selecting sites

Questions?



David Rudolph
dpru@dtu.dk