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England's Regional Renewable Energy Targets: Progress Report

Data sources and contributors

BWEA wishes to thank:

- East Midlands Regional Assembly
- Envirolink North West
- Future Energy Yorkshire
- North East Regional Information Partnership
- Regen SW
- Renewables East
- REstats
- Thames Valley ("TV") Energy

Executive summary

BWEA has compiled a detailed review of the state of progress towards 2010 renewable energy targets adopted by the English regions and the aggregate 'English' target.

- The English regions are very unlikely to meet their onshore renewable energy targets for 2010 on time, as set out within adopted Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS), with the sole exception of London, which represents only one-fiftieth (2.2%) of the all-England target.

- Presently only half (50.5%) of the aggregate onshore RSS target for England has been met - with an estimated 2,302.6 MW of installed renewable capacity, compared to a cumulative RSS target of 4,554.7MW.

- There is an urgent imperative to meet the 2010 target capacity as quickly as possible after 2010, in the event that the targets are not achieved by the 2010 date. The targets were established in order to achieve renewables benefits as quickly as possible. There is a danger that after 2010 the focus will shift to 2020 targets, whereas the pressure to achieve 2010 targets as quickly as possible should if anything increase in order to make good the shortfall, and prepare the way for meeting more ambitious 2020 targets on time.

- The best performing regions in respect of current progress (installed capacity) towards their adopted 2010 renewable energy targets, are London (118.2%), the East Midlands (70.0%) and the South East (84%), although it is noted that these regions also represent the lower end of the range of targets, and do not have the greatest installed renewables capacity compared to the other regions.

- With respect to the indicative onshore wind energy targets [1] that are adopted by five of the regions, current progress is universally poor. Even with an optimistic assumption that all projects currently with planning permission are commissioned by the end of 2010, the onshore wind element of regional renewable energy targets (aggregate of the individual onshore wind targets) will be missed by 45%.

- The best performing regions with respect to consented onshore wind capacity in the period April 2006-April 2009 are Yorkshire & Humber (92.4MW) and the North East (77.98MW); these two regions also have the highest overall consented onshore wind capacity to date.

- The worst-performing regions with respect to consented onshore wind capacity, and especially with regard to their significant regional target requirements and potential resource, are the North West, East of England and South West with only 13.45MW, 16.8MW and 56.2MW consented in the period April 2006-April 2009.

- Locally submitted applications take on average 14 months to be determined by local planning authorities (compared to the target period of 16 weeks), whereas 75% of all other types of major development applications are determined in 13 weeks. For those applications that are eventually determined at appeal, the average decision time is 26 months.

- The findings in BWEA's report suggest that there is a divergence between the Government Renewable Energy and Climate Change Planning Policy and what is actually happening on the ground at the local planning level. It is accepted that there are potentially a number of factors causing this, such as: complex stakeholder engagement, a lack of resources/ training, complex planning considerations for some sites, and some applications lacking the appropriate level of information, but the root cause remains the malfunctioning local planning system.

- With respect to the wider UK 2010 target, Scotland and Northern Ireland's renewables capacity has bolstered the poor performance of England and Wales. Both England and Wales must significantly step up their delivery of renewable energy capacity in order not only to meet their own targets, but to make a larger contribution to overall UK targets, which will be essential in meeting more ambitious 2020 UK targets.

- UK 2020 targets will require regional renewable energy targets to be revised upwards significantly if the UK is to provide around 35% of its electricity from renewable sources, and maximise the opportunities presented by the best wind resource in Europe.

- Without joint action from all stakeholders, cumulative refusals, long decision times and other delays will otherwise continue to contribute towards the collective failure to meet regional and national targets. In addition to the impact that this would have on securing energy supplies, delivering binding renewable energy targets and tackling climate change, this failure would also represent a significant lost opportunity with respect to jobs and investment in the UK economy.

1. Only 5 regions have indicative technology targets, the onshore wind element of which has been summed to create an aggregate onshore wind target.

Introduction

BWEA is the trade body for the UK wind and marine renewables industries. Formed in 1978, and with over 500 corporate members, BWEA is the leading renewable energy trade association in the UK.

This is the first annual report from the BWEA on progress towards renewable energy targets adopted by the English regions. Importantly and uniquely, this report reviews the aggregate of these targets.

"The Government's June 2008 Renewable Energy Strategy consultation document indicates a requirement for approximately 14GW of onshore wind for the UK by 2020, from a starting position of 3GW at present."

The UK has a target to source at least 10% of its electricity supplies from renewable energy sources by 2010, to help deliver key Government policy objectives on climate change and energy security. The 2010 target is also a key milestone on the way to the far more challenging targets that the UK Government has committed the UK to for 2020, in the light of the associated '20-20-20' EU Directive; 20% renewable energy provision and 20% greenhouse gas reductions by 2020. Given that renewable heat and transport are starting from such a low base, it is widely anticipated that in order to meet the UK 2020 target, renewable electricity will need to supply at least 35% of UK requirements.

The Government's June 2008 Renewable Energy Strategy consultation document indicates a requirement for approximately 14GW of onshore wind for the UK by 2020, from a starting position of 3GW at present - clearly a significant challenge that requires major contributions from all four constituent parts of the UK.

"Even with an optimistic assumption that all projects currently with planning permission are commissioned by the end of 2010, the onshore wind element of regional renewable energy targets will be missed by 45%."

The intention of this report is to provide up-to-date information on progress towards meeting the 2010 regional renewable energy targets, and the aggregate of these - which represents England's expected 2010 renewable energy contribution. The report therefore responds to guidance within Planning Policy Statement 22-Renewable Energy ('PPS22') in respect of regional targets;

"Targets should be set for achievement by 2010 and by 2020. Progress towards achieving these targets should be monitored by regional planning bodies. Targets should be reviewed on a regular basis…"

The report also seeks to set out recommendations for improved progress in the delivery of English regional targets.

Even with an optimistic assumption that all projects currently with planning permission are commissioned by the end of 2010, the onshore wind element of regional renewable energy targets (aggregate of the individual onshore wind targets) will be missed by 45%.

Data collection

The data used in this report has been gathered from a variety of sources in order to provide the best possible, up-to-date figure for current installed capacity of renewable energy in England (April 2009). A full list of contributors and data sources is provided at the end of the document.

Only onshore renewable energy capacity has been included, given that the core components of offshore technologies do not fall under the consenting regime of the land use planning system; in adherence to PPS22 offshore capacity must not be counted against onshore targets and should not form part of regional renewable energy targets, set out within RSS documents.

BWEA has used all reasonable efforts to compile the information presented in this report. Guidance set out in PPS22 states that progress towards meeting renewable energy targets should be monitored by regional planning bodies; however a key finding was that it is difficult to obtain up to date information in a format that sets out current operational capacity against progression towards targets, with most sources providing data at least six months to a year in arrears.

Indeed, BWEA's own database and project information from member companies, remains the most accurate source of data on installed and consented wind energy capacity.

Key Findings: Progress towards English renewable energy targets

BWEA has compiled data on the current installed capacity of renewable energy in each of the English regions. The graphs and tables below illustrate installed renewable energy capacity, and progress towards targets for the English regions in April 2009. Table 1 and Charts 1 and 2 below set out overall English regional renewable energy targets against current progress.

Table 1: 2010 RSS onshore renewable energy targets against the current regional capacity (MW)

Region	SE	SW	EE	EM	WM	YH	NE	NW	Lon	All-England
Adopted Regional 2010 Renewable Energy (RE) target (MW)	420	611	820	337	408 [2]	468	454	937	99	**4,554**
Current installed RE (MW)	352.8	190	428.8	236	183	183	175	437	117	**2,302.6**
Percentage of 2010 target achieved	84%	31.1%	51.8%	70%	44.9%	39.1%	38.5%	46.6%	118.2%	**50.5%**

Chart 1: Onshore 2010 over all renewable energy target for England against installed renewable energy capacity (MW)

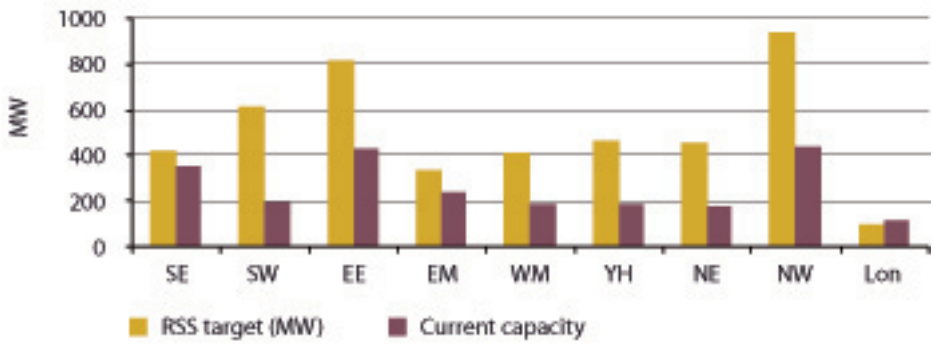
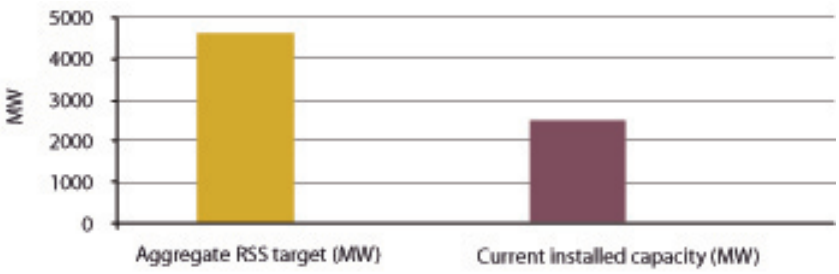


Chart 2: Onshore 2010 aggregate renewable energy target for England against installed renewable energy capacity (MW)



2. The regional renewable energy target is defined as 5% of electricity supplied; BWEA has estimated this to require 408MW of capacity derived from 2007 regional electricity requirements ("Energy Trends", December 2008), assuming 2% compound energy demand growth for three years until 2010 and 40% average renewable energy capacity factor (for all technologies).

Progress towards onshore wind targets

Five of the English regions have identified indicative technology targets as part of their RSS regional renewable energy targets, including indicative targets for onshore wind. These targets illustrate how much onshore wind capacity is expected to be delivered in each of these regions by 2010. Table 2 (below) and Charts 3 and 4 give the indicative targets, and current progress towards meeting them (operational capacity).

Chart 3: 2010 RSS onshore wind targets against installed regional capacity (MW)

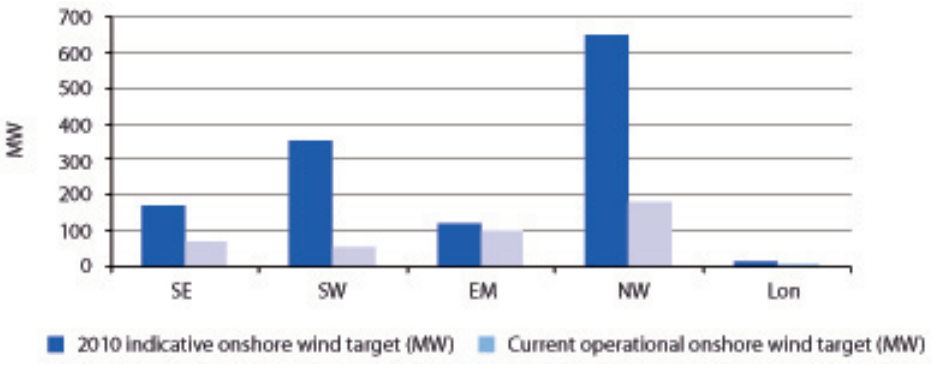


Chart 4: 2010 RSS aggregate English onshore wind targets against installed capacity (MW)

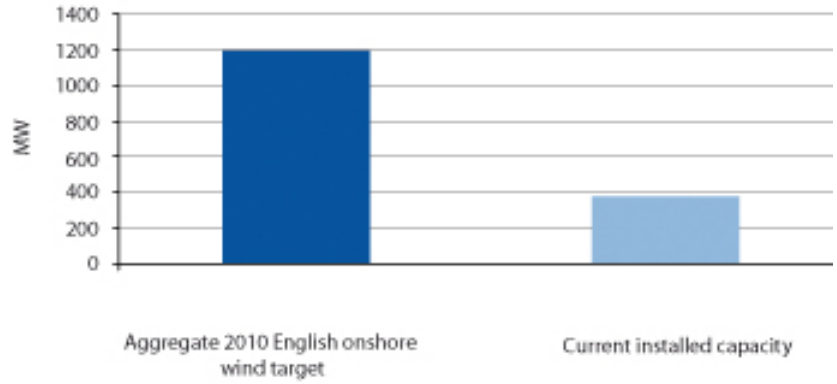


Table 2: Regional onshore wind targets and progress (5 Regions)

Region	SE	SW	EM	NW	Lon	**Aggregate**
Adopted RSS 2010 onshore wind target	170	354.5	122	648	15	**1309.5**
Current installed onshore wind (MW)	68.3	54.4	101.8	180.2	3.6	**408.3**
Percentage of 2010 onshore wind target achieved	40.2%	15.3%	83.4%	27.8%	24.0%	**31.2%**
Onshore wind under construction and approved but not yet built(MW)	26.7	144.3	118.4	22.5	0	**311.9**
Optimistic 2010 installed capacity (MW)	95.0	198.7	220.2	202.7	3.6	**720.2**
Percentage of 2010 onshore wind target achieved (optimistic scenario)	55.9%	56.1%	180.5%	31.3%	24.0%	**55%**
Conservative 2010 installed capacity (MW)	68.3	54.4	101.8	180.2	3.6	**408.3**
Percentage of 2010 onshore wind target achieved (conservative scenario)	40.2%	15.3%	83.4%	27.8	24%	**31.2%**

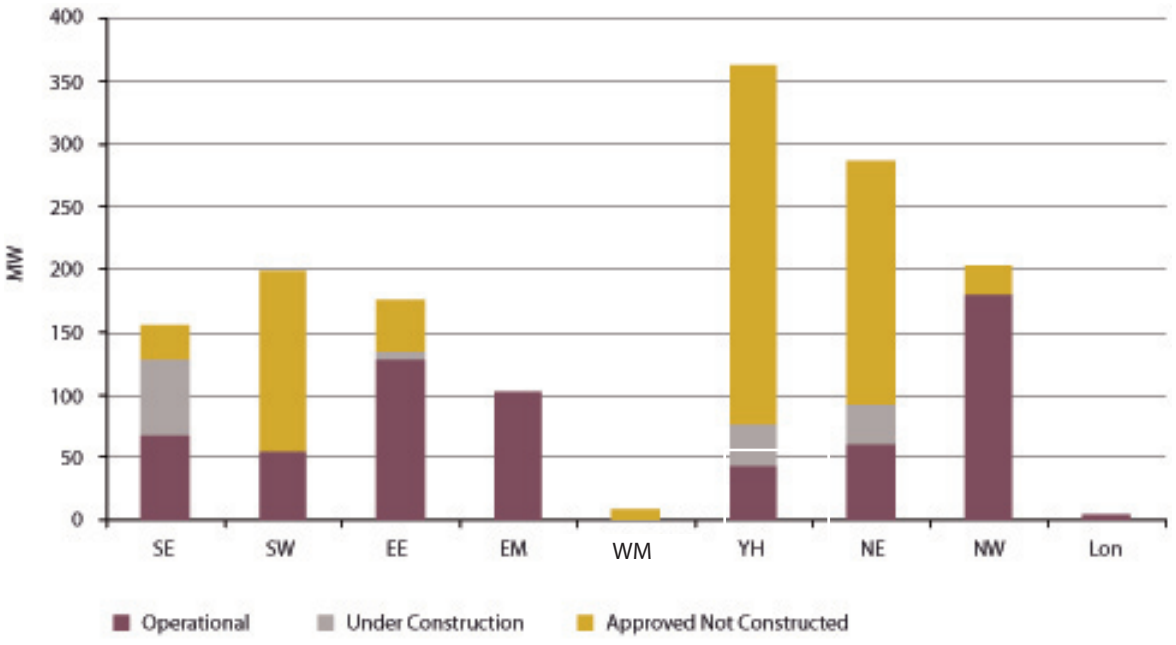
Regional onshore wind capacity status

The performance of the English regions in terms of the delivery of onshore wind capacity can also be considered in the context of the current operational capacity and the capacity that has been consented to date which is currently under construction or not yet built. Table 3 and Chart 5 below set out current regional onshore wind capacity by operational status.

Table 3: Regional Onshore Wind Capacity and Planning status April 2009

Region	SE	SW	EE	EM	WM	YH	NE	NW	Lon	Total
Current operational onshore wind (MW)	68.3	54.4	127.65	101.8	0	43.2	59.8	180.2	3.6	638.8
Onshore wind under construction or approved but not yet built (MW)	26.7	144.3	42.2	118.4	9.2	319.4	227	22.5	0	909.5
Onshore wind capacity in planning (MW)	15.5	176.1	162.8	210	33.3	249.5	359.7	175.9	2	1,384.8

Chart 5: Onshore wind capacity by status (MW)



Regional Performance: consents delivery

Planning approval rates vary significantly across the regions, and ultimately affect the delivery of onshore wind capacity. Table 4 and Table 5 give data for the capacity determined by both local planning authorities and at appeal between April 2006 and April 2009, and approval rates for this capacity.

"This indicates some failing in the local planning system, given that the large proportion of decisions (40% of capacity) are issued via the appeal process due to local non-determination or refusal, and the fact that almost half the capacity (44%) decided at appeal goes on to be consented."

Most onshore wind farms are the subject of applications under the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) and fail to be determined in the first instance by the relevant local planning authority. In the event that an application is refused, the applicant can appeal against refusal and seek determination by the Secretary of State or a Planning Inspector on his/her behalf. In the event that the local planning authority does not make a decision within the statutory period of 16 weeks, the applicant may also appeal against this non-determination, and seek a decision at appeal (in practice, developers will leave the application with the planning authority for longer than 16 weeks in the hope of getting a local decision, but often the delay becomes so long that an appeal against non-determination is the only means to secure a decision).

Table 4 and Chart 6 therefore also illustrate the relative proportion of consents within the period April 2006 to April 2009 that are delivered by local authorities as a percentage of the total number of decisions issued within that period (i.e. both LPA and Appeal decisions). The relative proportion of consents between April 2006 and April 2009 issued by local authorities makes up just over one third (36%) of all decided applications, compared to a quarter (24%) of total decisions which are refused.

This indicates some failing in the local planning system, given that the largest proportion of decisions (40% of capacity) is issued via the appeal process due to local non-determination or refusal,almost half of which (44%) go on to be consented at appeal.

Between April 2006-April 2009 the average decision time for applications decided by LPA's was 14 months. For applications that are refused by LPA's and eventually go on to appeal, the average decision time is 26 months, with an average approval rate for both appeals and local authority determined applications of 17.2 months.

"For applications that are refused by LPA's and eventually go on to appeal, the average decision time is 26 months."

Here also it is the case that the wind energy industry suffers disproportionately, with much longer decision times compared to all other types of major applications; of which three quarters are determined in 13 weeks.

Table 4: Total decisions by both LPA and at appeal April 06-April 09 (MW)

Region	SE	SW	EE	EM	WM	YH	NE	NW	Lon	**Total/ av**
Total decisions by both LPA and at appeal April 06-April 09 (MW)	54.15	136.5	102.7	152.95	22	184.3	184.3	61.35	0	**894.3**
Decided by LPA (MW)	29.3	87.9	52.7	86.45	10	130.3	97.31	43.35	0	**537.3**
Decided by Appeal (MW)	24.85	48.6	50	66.5	12	54	83	18	0	**356.95**
Approved by LPA (MW)	10	56.2	16.8	44.45	9.2	92.4	77.98	13.45	0	**320.5**
Refused by LPA (MW)	19.3	31.7	35.9	42	0.8	37.9	19.33	29.9	0	**216.8**
Approved at appeal (MW)	14.85	22	18	10	0	54	35	2	0	**155.85**
Refused at appeal (MW)	10	26.6	32	56.5	12	0	48	16	0	**201.1**
LPA approval rate by MW	34%	64%	32%	51%	92%	71%	80%	31%	-	**60%**
Proportion of decisions consented by LPA's April 2006 – April 2009 (% MW)	18%	41%	16%	30%	42%	50%	43%	22%	0	**36%**

Table 5: Total decisions by both LPA and at appeal April 06-April 09 (Number of Projects)

Region	SE	SW	EE	EM	WM	YH	NE	NW	Lon	**Total/ av**
Total decisions by both LPA and appeal April 06-April 09 (no. of windfarms)	7	17	12	14	3	15	15	10	0	**93**
Decided by LPA (no. of windfarms)	4	10	7	10	2	13	11	7	0	**64**
Decided by Appeal [3](no. of windfarms)	3	7	5	4	1	2	4	3	0	**29**
Approved by LPA (no. of windfarms)	1	6	4	6	1	9	6	2	0	35
Refused by LPA (no. of windfarms)	3	4	3	4	1	4	5	5	-	29
Approved at appeal (no. of windfarms)	2	2	4	1	0	2	2	1	0	14
Refused at appeal (no. of windfarms)	1	5	1	3	1	0	2	2	0	15
LPA approval rate by no. of schemes	25%	60%	57%	60%	50%	69%	55%	29%	-	55%
Proportion of decisions consented by LPA's April 2006 – April 2009 (% no. of windfarms)	14%	35%	33%	43%	33%	60%	40%	20%	0	38%

3. Excluding Section 36 appeals

Chart 6: Local planning Authority approvals against total decided applications April 2006- April 2009 (MW)

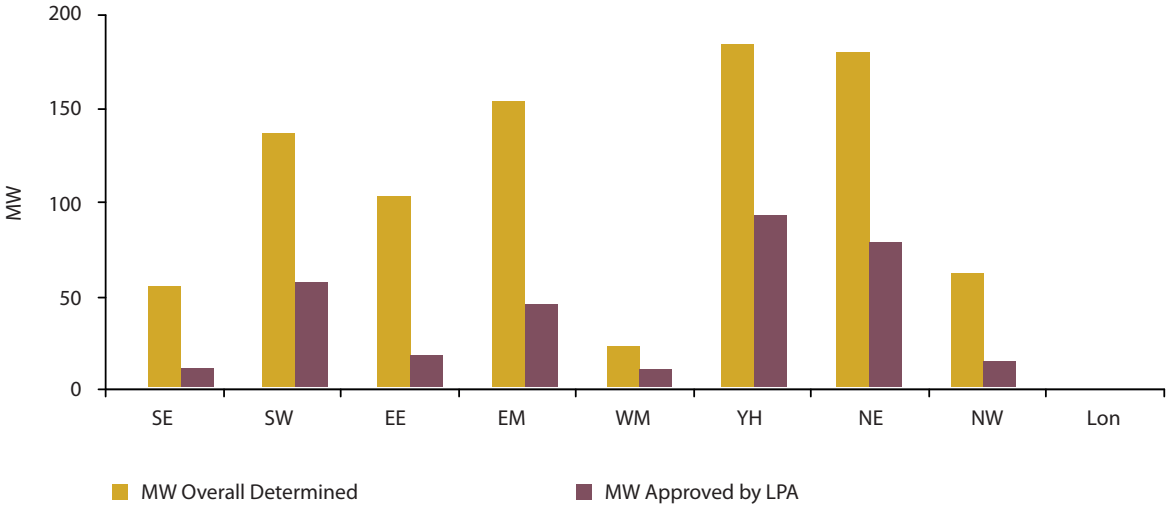
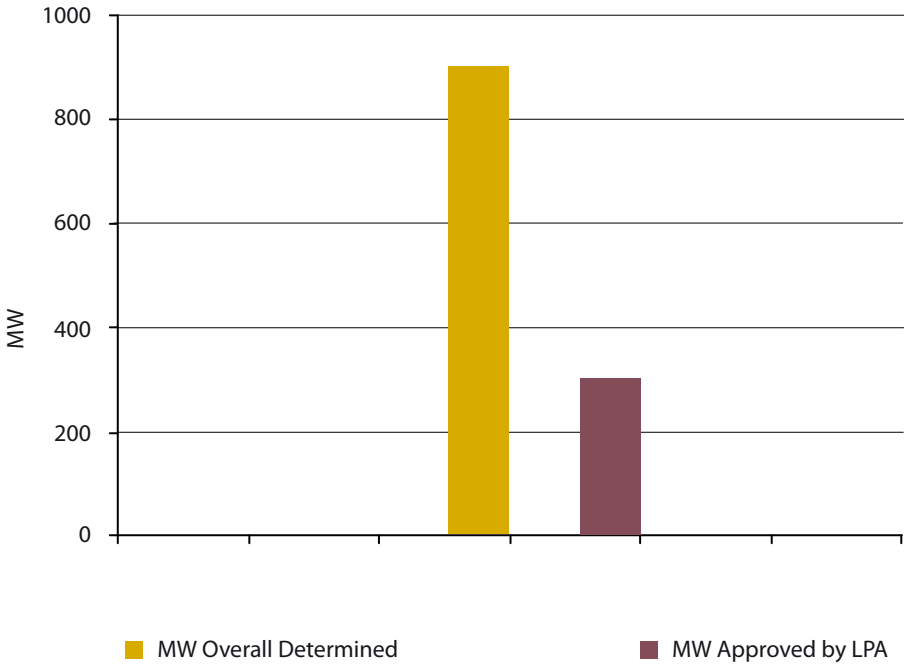


Chart 7: Aggregate local planning authority approvals against total decided applications April 2006- April 2009 (MW)



England in the UK context

If the performance of the English regions in Table 1 is considered in the wider UK context, it is clear that there is an imbalance in the delivery of renewables across the UK. For example, Scotland has already exceeded its 2010 renewable energy target of 18% of electricity to come from renewables - with 25% of supply coming from renewables at present, equating to approximately 3,000MW installed capacity.[4] Northern Ireland has a target for 12% of electricity to come from renewables by 2012, equating to approximately 870MW, and at present has approximately 580MW [5] of installed renewable energy capacity. Almost the entire remainder of its 2012 target will be met via wind energy alone assuming onshore wind projects currently consented are built by 2012.

"In England the cumulative RSS renewable energy targets of the English regions, amounting to 4,554MW, will also be missed by a wide margin with an estimated 2,303MW of renewables capacity currently installed. "

Conversely, Wales will fall significantly short of its 2010 target for 4TWh of electricity per annum to come from renewables, equivalent to approximately 1500MW installed capacity. This includes a target for an additional 800MW of onshore wind capacity (beyond 2005), and also 200MW for offshore wind and other renewables. To date only an additional 100MW of onshore wind has become operational since 2005, and in August 2008 the total installed renewable energy capacity in Wales was 390MW[6] – just over 25% of the 2010 target.

"With respect to the UK 2010 renewable energy target, Scotland and Northern Ireland's renewables capacity has bolstered the poor performance of England and Wales to date."

Similarly in England the cumulative RSS renewable energy targets of the English regions, amounting to 4,554MW, will also be missed by a wide margin with an estimated 2,303MW of renewables capacity currently installed.

With respect to the UK 2010 renewable energy target, Scotland and Northern Ireland's renewables capacity has bolstered the poor performance of England and Wales to date.

However this is not an acceptable situation, and both England and Wales need to significantly step up their delivery of renewable energy capacity in order not only to meet their own targets, but to make a larger contribution to overall UK targets, which is absolutely essential in meeting more ambitious 2020 UK targets.

4. http://www.scottishrenewables.com/
5. Action Renewables
6. http://www.restats.org.uk/2010_target/LUC_QPR/Aug2008/Q10%20UK%20Summary.pdf

Discussion

It is clear from the information available that all English regions, with the exception of London and the South East, are significantly behind schedule in respect of their adopted 2010 renewable energy targets, with cumulatively just 2,303MW out of a target 4,554MW or 50.5% achieved. Given the short period of time remaining between now and the end of 2010, it must be concluded that most regions will miss their respective renewable energy targets by a wide margin; this sounds a serious warning signal for delivery of the far more challenging 2020 targets that are required to meet the overall UK 2020 target.

"Most regions will miss their respective renewable energy targets by a wide margin."

Turning specifically to onshore wind, and using the BWEA's UK Wind Energy Database ('UKWED'), the situation is not much better. If we assume that the 2010 situation is likely to be best represented by those projects either operating or already under construction, the illustrative 'England' target (aggregate of five RSS onshore wind targets) would be missed by two thirds; i.e. only 1 in 3 of the required target MWs would be operational by 2010 (defined as electricity supplied), for those five regions that have set out an indicative onshore wind target. Furthermore, no individual region will have met its own target in this scenario.

"Overall the average approval time for both appeals and local authority determined applications is 17.2 months."

Despite a generally supportive central Government policy context for renewable and wind energy projects, 2010 renewable energy targets in the English regions and the English aggregate of these targets will be missed by a substantial margin. It is difficult to speculate on why this may be the case for some technologies, however with respect to onshore wind the local authority planning regime[7] is disconnected from the positive thrust of Government policy. The guidance in the Planning and Climate Change supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1) states that applicants proposing wind farms should expect 'expeditious and sympathetic' treatment from local planning authorities.

However, the reality is that onshore wind farm applications in England take on average fourteen months to be determined by local authorities compared to the 16 week target period, and for those projects that go on to be determined at appeal it takes on average 26 months for a decision to be issued.[8]

Overall the average approval time for both appeals and local authority determined applications is 17.2 months. This gives a more realistic illustration of how long it it might be expected to take for a locally submitted application to recieve a planning decision.

7. Onshore wind projects of over 50MW (typically 20-25 turbines) have been dealt with by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) under section 36 of the Electricity Act; however the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) will shortly take over this role under the Planning Act 2008. Such projects represent a very small proportion of English wind energy projects, both in number and capacity.
8. Between the period April 2006-April 2009

Recommendations

In order to meet the UK 2020 renewable energy target, secure the UK's energy supplies and tackle climate change, BWEA has made recommendations to key component parts of the planning regime where tangible changes and improvements could be made[9] :

Community benefit and engagement

Community Benefit

BWEA believes the Government should share responsibility with the wind energy industry for enhancing community benefits by recognising the presence of renewable energy projects when calculating the distribution of business rates to local councils.

Local communities should be allowed to see the direct, financial benefits of locally-sited energy developments through ring-fenced business rates, in addition to the community benefit contributions that developers already make through Section 106 Planning Obligations.

Community Involvement

Community engagement is a complex process and it is essential that the industry plays it part, ensuring high quality engagement with local communties. BWEA would encourage early dispute resolution and stakeholder dialogue approaches especially when dealing with renewable energy applications, as set out in the 2007 Renewables Advisory Board Public Engagement Protocol[10], endorsed by BWEA.

"Local communities should be allowed to see the direct, financial benefits of locally-sited energy developments"

Consenting Culture

Renewables presumption in favour

BWEA recommends the Government formalises a national presumption in favour for all renewable energy developments.

Decision-making timescales

Accompanying provision of additional local planning authority resource, BWEA invites the Government to require planning authorities to be more effective in deciding applications within the 16 week timescale target set out in national planning policy.

Monitoring consents & targets

In accordance with PPS22, progress to renewable energy targets should be monitored by regional planning bodies, and targets should be reviewed regularly and revised upwards where they are met. BWEA recommends that regional planning bodies take a more proactive role both in the monitoring of progress to targets, and also in taking appropriate action towards shortfalls.

Meaningful contribution

All renewable energy proposals – irrespective of their size - should be recognised as nationally significant for their valuable contribution to the UK's national renewable energy capacity.

Education and resource requirements

Resourcing of Statutory Consultees

BWEA urges the Government to provide greater funding for statutory consultees, in order to ensure that they are able to fulfill their statutory duties in a pro-active, timely and consistent manner, whilst also focusing on pre-application engagement to make much more effective use of staff and financial resources.

9. For full details, please refer to BWEA's May 2009 Planning Position Paper www.bwea.com

10. http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file38708.pdf

Guidance to Councillors
BWEA urges the Government to provide compulsory training on planning matters to all elected members serving on Planning Committees and encourage planning committees to look favourably on engagement with applicants and intended applicants.

Local Planning Authority Skills and Resources
BWEA urges Government to ensure that additional training will be provided on renewable energy planning policy and technologies and the role of local authorities in delivering of the UK's renewable energy and carbon reduction targets. In particular a 'flying squad' of experts should be made available to all local planning authorities.

"A 'flying squad' of experts should be made available to all local planning authorities."

Planning Inspectorate Resources
Given that 40% of decisions between April 2006 and April 2009 were made at appeal, BWEA urges the government to provide greater resources for the Planning Inspectorate and a more proportionate approach to smaller schemes which could be dealt with through hearings or by written representation. BWEA notes the changes that have been introduced to streamline the process and asks that resources are put in place to facilitate these changes.

Incentives

Financial incentives
BWEA urges DCLG to reform the system of financial rewards for planning delivery of renewable energy capacity, in order to facilitate timely delivery of renewable energy projects.

Encourage competition
BWEA urges DCLG to introduce a target-linked, legal obligation, matched by a financial incentive – at the regional or county level – in order to further incentivise the delivery of renewable energy projects within local authorities.

Industry best practice

Adherence to best practice guidance
BWEA encourages all of its Member's to continue to adopt and follow current best practice, and adhere to local and national planning policy such as: 'The Protocol for Public Engagement with Proposed Wind Energy Developments in England' (RAB 2007), 'Delivering Community Benefits from Wind Energy Developments: A Toolkit' (RAB 2007), 'BWEA Guidelines for Health & Safety in the Wind Energy Industry October 2008', 'PPS22', 'PPS1', local and regional planning policy, and many other guidance documents relating to specific issues. BWEA also encourages its members to submit the appropriate amount of high quality information to accompany an application, as indicated by local planning authorities through pre-application discussions.

BWEA is unable to have a significant impact on non-member wind energy developers, but would urge that current best practice and policy guidance is adhered to and that as much information as possible is made available to accompany applications.

Conclusions

This report has identified that the English regions are at present only halfway towards meeting their 2010 renewable energy targets, and have performed poorly compared to Northern Ireland and Scotland, which have already exceeded their targets.

This is a warning signal which must not be ignored. Even greater emphasis is needed on initiatives to meet the existing 2010 English regional targets as soon as possible, and from there on achieve the legally-binding EU 2020 target, which will require around 35% of the UK's electricity to come from Renewables.

The English regional targets for 2010 are modest requirements when compared with the additional capacity that will be needed by 2020. Therefore, the anticipated failure of the 2010 regional targets on time must not be taken as an argument for reduction in efforts to meet the 2010 targets or to move towards un-ambitious post-2010 renewable energy targets, but should be taken as a signal and learning opportunity for achievement of the current 2010 targets as soon as possible, and to then ensure future 2020 targets are met on time.

The cumulative failure at a regional and therefore all-England level to meet 2010 renewable energy targets can be attributed to a combination of factors including:

- cumulative refusals and long decision times for onshore wind proposals,
- submission of some applications that have very complex planning considerations or lack sufficient accompanying information,
- complex stakeholder engagement,
- delays in statutory consultee responses, and lack of resources/ training.

Turbine manufacturing delays can also sometimes contribute to delays for individual projects, however with over 90 projects, representing over 1,200MW in the English planning system today [11], no blame can be ascribed to a lack of developer activity and investment, despite the obvious risks and delays.

BWEA believes that the recommendations set out above could have a significant positive impact on England's ability to meet its own renewable energy targets, make a better contribution to the overall UK 2020 renewable energy targets, and meet's its responsibilities to take action on climate change and energy security.

Onshore and offshore wind, as the renewable technologies most capable of delivering on a large scale at present, will represent the majority of the new capacity required, placing greater onus on timely and positive planning decisions.

"It is of critical importance that all stakeholders including the Government, local planning authorities, project developers and statutory consultees take action that will speed up the rate of decision making"

It is therefore of critical importance that all stakeholders including the Government, local planning authorities, project developers and statutory consultees take action that will speed up the rate of decision making and improve consenting rates to approve a greater capacity of onshore wind and other onshore renewable technologies. Cumulative refusals and long decision times will otherwise continue to contribute towards the collective failure to meet regional and national targets. In addition to the impact that this would have on securing energy supplies, delivering binding renewable energy targets and tackling climate change, this failure would also represent a significant lost opportunity with respect to jobs and investment in the UK economy.

11. UKWED figures, April 2009

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