

JUNE

Power-Gen Europe 2011

June 7-9
Milan, Italy
E. eisha.cooke@aspectuspr.com
powergeneurope.com

Scottish Renewables Onshore Wind

June 16
Glasgow, Scotland, UK
E. olivia@scottishrenewables.com
scottishrenewables.com

RenewableUK Offshore Wind

June 29-30
Liverpool, England, UK
E. s.becker@renewable-uk.com
renewable-uk.com

AUGUST

Brazil Windpower 2011

August 31-September 2
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
T. +32 2213 1898
E. Sarah.Bryce@gwec.net
brazilwindpower.org

SEPTEMBER

Eolica Expo Mediterranean

September 14-16, Rome, Italy
T. +39 026 630 6866
E. info@zeroemissionrome.eu
zeroemissionrome.eu

Windaba 2011

September 27-29
Cape Town, South Africa
windaba.co.za

OCTOBER

CanWEA 2011

October 3-6, Vancouver, Canada
T. +1 613 234 8716
E. wwilllett@canwea.ca
canwea2011.ca

IWEA Autumn Conference

October 6, Killarney, Ireland
E. irene@iwea.com
iwea.com

AWEA Offshore Windpower 2011

October 11-13, Baltimore, MD, US

E. windmail@awea.org
offshorewindexpo.org

China Wind Power 2011

October 19-21, Beijing, China
T. +32 2213 1898
E. Sarah.Bryce@gwec.net
chinawind.org.cn

The Carbon Show

October 20-21, London, England, UK
T. +44 20 8267 4187
E. zoe.ingle@haymarket.com
thecarbonshow.com

1st International Workshop on Integration of Solar Power into Power Systems

October 24, Aarhus, Denmark,
solarintegrationworkshop.org

RenewableUK 2011

October 25-27, Manchester, England, UK
E. renewableuk@tenalps.com
renewable-uk.com

International Workshop on Large-Scale Integration of Wind**Power into Power Systems**

October 25-26, Aarhus, Denmark
windintegrationworkshop.org

NOVEMBER

AWEA Wind Energy Fall Symposium 2011

November 2-4, Carlsbad, CA, US
E. windmail@awea.org
awea.org/ge.cfm

European Offshore 2011

November 29-December 1
Amsterdam, Netherlands
E. events@awea.org
offshorewind2011.info/

APRIL

EWEA 2012

April 16-19, Copenhagen, Denmark
E. sanna.heinonen@awea.org
ewea.org

To list your event in Windpower Monthly's events diary, contact eliza.bailey@haymarket.com

LETTERS

Why do people oppose wind development?

Wind power development is often affected by local opposition. It seems odd that businesses that try to bring clean energy and preserve the environment are frequently faced with disapproval from local communities. We talk about the necessary changes in our lifestyles in order to save the planet, yet when a practical solution is proposed we often seem to be against it. Why do people support clean energy in theory yet fight against wind farm development?

The answer lies in physical proximity. Most people support the initiative of clean renewable energy as long as it doesn't affect them personally. If you were to ask ten Americans on the street about the issue, it is likely that most would tell you they support the idea but would not want a wind farm in their backyard.



Al Maiorino

The most common criticisms of wind development include:

- **Traffic and noise during construction** Usually, communities fear that the construction of a wind farm would create high levels of noise and pollution. Increased traffic, especially with heavy trucks, cranes and other machinery, is another concern.
- **Noise from turbines** Every single wind farm has to address

the issue of noise created by its working turbines. Most people fear medical dangers associated with such noise. Various groups that oppose wind development claim that headaches, sleep disorders and even night terrors can be results of living near a wind farm.

- **Endangered wildlife** Communities faced with proposed wind farms usually have legitimate concerns about the effects on the wildlife living both above and below ground.
- **Obstructed views** While some may enjoy the calm and serene views of wind turbines, many people find them unappealing. The landscape is always a big part of a community's lifestyle. In addition, it plays into the value of one's property. People often fear the interference with their lifestyles and property

depreciation as a result of neighboring a wind farm. The bottom line is that wind or any other renewable energy developer should educate their public. The idea of saving the planet by producing and consuming clean renewable energy seems to appeal to most people. Unfortunately, nobody wants to "sacrifice" their backyard. It is necessary to make the public understand the immeasurable benefits to the environment of developing wind energy. We need to make local communities realise that allowing a wind farm in their neighborhood is not a sacrifice, but rather a step towards a better, cleaner world. *Al Maiorino, president of Public Strategy Group, Boston, MA, US*

Please send any letters and comments to editorial@windpowermonthly.com