

Chapter 7: Energy and Communications

7.5 Wind Energy

We note **EC 011** and **EC 016** suggest the following amendments:

EC 011 - *Encourage wind energy developments in suitable locations in an environmentally sustainable manner whilst having regard to Government policy and the County Wind Energy Strategy.*

Amendment: EC 011 - *Consider wind energy developments in suitable locations in an environmentally sustainable manner whilst having regard to Government policy, the County Wind Energy Strategy and the EU and national target of 30% of land for biodiversity.*

EC 016 - *Require comprehensive winter and summer bird and wildlife surveys for all proposed wind farms sites, so that impacts on wildlife can be fully assessed and evaluated and so that appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures can be considered, to include for example removal or repositioning of turbines, introducing one black painted rotor blade (to reduce motion smear and reduce incident of collision) or the provision of technologies that help minimize harm to birds and other wildlife.*

Amendment: EC 016 - *Require comprehensive winter and summer bird and wildlife surveys for all proposed wind farms sites, as set out in EIA and other relevant legislation. Post-construction bird surveys should be included as a condition of planning for any consented developments to permit before and after impacts to be assessed. Turbine design and adaptation should use the best available technology to minimise harm to birds and other wildlife.*

- **Reason:** While black-painted rotor blades may mitigate collision damage for some species and under some conditions there may be more effective devices available in the future. Wind farm developers should not rely on one mitigation factor alone that may not be effective for the sensitive target species (e.g. Curlew, Lapwing)

Additional comments:

It will be a time-critical missed opportunity if specific projects and plans are not identified locally to address climate mitigation measures.

Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) are empowered communities at the centre of our sustainable energy transition and are well placed to drive some of these measures. We would like to see a specific commitment from KCC to collaborate with the SECs.

However, while each individual SEC will have their own unique projects, there will be a huge crossover of similar plans and projects which could be addressed as a network.

We propose the following to be researched and included in draft:

- Electric vehicles/bikes and charge points. The introduction of this type of transport will help in reducing emissions, alleviate traffic from heavily traffic areas and encourage people to get involved in alternative transport.
- More charge points within the town and outside in villages as better EV infrastructure allows for greater take up in non-fossil fuel powered vehicles

Lights:

- Any urban street, road and motorway lights to be switched off/or on sensors between midnight and 5 or 6am the following morning to prevent light pollution. There is no need to have lights, especially pedestrian lights, on all night.
- The same measures to be taken for all public, state-owned and private commercial and industrial buildings & monuments which are unnecessarily lit up all night.
- Urban street lights to be of low lux readings, and be of a sensory installation as in Copenhagen, Denmark, in order to save energy consumption and decrease light pollution.
- Motorway lights should be generated by wind turbines driven by the wind created by passing cars, or from solar panels, as already in existence in the UK
 - <https://www.altenergymag.com/article/2019/05/top-article-from-2019-traffic-powered-wind-turbines/31030>
- The same light/energy production can and should be extended to train and railway tracks as is already in practice in some countries in the EU, such as Spain and Germany.
- That KCC pilot use of dog stool to power lights in areas of high dog fouling, for example:
 - <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jan/01/stools-to-fuels-street-lamp-runs-on-dog-poo-bio-energy-waste->

7.12.7 Peatlands

- Text should include reference to West Kildare Just Transition Plan 2022.

We note **EC P17** and suggest the following amendment:

EC P17: *Support the preparation of a comprehensive “after use” framework plan for the industrial peatlands and associated workshops, office buildings, industrial sites and power stations in Kildare, acknowledging the significant contribution that these expansive lands make towards the special landscape of the Bog of Allen*

Amendment: EC P17: Support the preparation of a comprehensive “after use” framework plan for the industrial peatlands and associated workshops, office buildings, industrial sites and power stations in Kildare, acknowledging the significant contribution that these expansive lands make towards the special landscape of the Bog of Allen and **Insert** its potential to further the growth of tourism to the County.

We note **EC O51** and **EC O55** suggest the following amendments:

EC O51: *Support Bord na Mona in the preparation of a long-term strategic plan for the former industrial peatlands.*

Amendment: EC O51: Support Bord na Mona, the local communities, and other key stakeholders in the preparation of a long-term strategic plan for the former industrial peatlands.

EC054: *Require an Ecological Impact to be carried out and submitted with any planning application for energy infrastructure projects (e.g., wind and solar developments) on bog / peatlands (including former cut-away bogs).*

Amendment: EC054: Require an Ecological Impact and Landscape Assessment to be carried out and submitted with any planning application for energy infrastructure projects (e.g., wind and solar developments) on bog / peatlands (including former cut-away bogs).