British Wind Energy Association

What is the BWEA?

The **BWEA** is at the heart of the wind energy industry in the UK. Formed more than 20 years ago, the organisation has now expanded to become the trade and professional association for the industry. As the largest of the renewable energy trade associations, with more than 120 companies and hundreds of individuals in membership, the **BWEA** is uniquely placed to consolidate and extend wind power in and around the UK.

Wind power is the fastest growing energy source worldwide, a trend which has continued for four years running. As fossil fuel reserves diminish and concern increases over climate change, the value of renewable energy as a future power source is increasingly being recognised. Countries around the world have set targets on the generation of electricity from renewable sources; in the UK this is set at 10% of the total electricity supply by 2010.

Wind power currently meets the needs of over a quarter of a million households in Britain, a mere 0.25% of the total supply. This is a small fraction of what could be achieved – Britain is the windiest country in Europe with over 40% of the total resource sweeping over the country. Wind power is one of the most technically advanced and cheapest of the renewable energies; it is a key component of Government strategy to meet targets on green electricity and reductions in carbon dioxide emissions.

We need a radical shake up in the way we use energy and we need to generate energy in new, sustainable ways.
Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott announcing the Climate Change Programme, March 2000

Who is the BWEA?

Members of the **BWEA** range from the largest international corporations to ordinary members of the public, united in a commitment to seeing the UK's vast wind resource better harnessed in the production of electricity. The association takes an active interest in all issues affecting the industry from financing and planning to lobbying, publicity and education.

BWEA has a professional staff of four, who, together with consultants and advisors, co-ordinate information and intelligence on every aspect of wind energy in the UK. These specialists work closely with experts in member companies to provide the highest levels of information to Government, regional bodies and local authorities throughout the UK. Information provided by the Association on behalf of the industry is also made available to the public and media and is published at **www.bwea.com** along with a range of frequently updated factsheets.

Membership is open to all companies and individuals with an interest in wind energy in the UK. The **BWEA** is committed to supporting the continuing development of the wind energy industry, not least because wind is a clean, abundant and entirely renewable source of energy.

I cannot over-emphasise that improved energy efficiency, and growth in renewable energy are not alternatives – we need to pursue both issues vigorously.
Environment Minister Michael Meacher speaking at the 21st annual BWEA conference, September 1999

THE BRITISH WIND ENERGY ASSOCIATION

The British Wind Energy Association firmly believes that Britain is poised on brink of a new energy epoch. The 21st century will almost certainly be the age of renewables, just as the 20th century was the age of fossil fuels. The last two decades of the old millennium saw a change in the way that electricity was generated, as oil supplies dwindled and the use of coal was constrained. This change will continue, and wind will be one of the most important technologies in fuelling it. The targets have been set; the **BWEA** is committed to helping to meet them.

For further information visit our website **www.bwea.com**

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What does BWEA do?

In 1999, the BWEA:

- Published the first images of how Britain's offshore wind farms might look
- Presented evidence to the House of Lords' Select Committee on The European Communities *Electricity from Renewables* report
- Lobbied successfully for renewable energy to be exempt from the new climate change levy on electricity supplied to business
- Sponsored a joint industry and NGO proposal through the Green Alliance for ongoing support for renewables in response to the Government's consultation *New and renewable energy – prospects for the 21st century*
- Briefed three Ministers, together with several MPs and MSPs
- Drafted new Health and Safety guidelines for wind farms
- Supported the Confederation of Renewable Energy Associations with staff and office resources
- Organised the 'biggest yet' annual conference – our 21st, in Cambridge
- Operated third-party contracts for ETSU and the EU
- Gave national and regional TV and radio interviews and provided dozens of articles and countless quotes for newspapers and magazines
- Ran three seminars on planning, a workshop on green trading and held regular fora for prospective offshore developers
- Actively participated in the establishment of OWEN, the offshore wind energy network
- Established a stakeholder dialogue process with organisations interested in the most appropriate development of offshore wind farms

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BWEA corporate members at June 2000.