

Isle of Skye Wind Farm Fact Sheet

Right now we have:

18 turbines approx 100m high at Edinbane Wind Farm
12 turbines approx 100m high at Ben Aketil and smaller turbines elsewhere on the island.

Figures from thewindpower.net show that 2-3 of these turbines would power the whole of Skye.

We already produce 10 times the power that Skye needs.

Current wind farm proposals for Skye:

1. Edinbane repowering. Replace 18 turbines at 100m with 19 turbines at 200m height.
2. Ben Aketil repowering. Replace 12 turbines at 100m with 9 at 200m height.
3. Glen Ullinish. 11 turbines 150m high with planning consent.
4. Glen Ullinish 2. Seeking planning permission for 47 turbines 200m high
5. Ben Sca. 9 turbines approx 150m high with planning consent.
6. Balmeanach. Seeking planning for 10 turbines 150m high.
7. Waternish. Seeking planning permission for 15 turbines 200m high.
8. Breakish. Seeking planning permission for 19 turbines 200m high.
9. Benn Mheadhonach. Seeking planning permission for 5 turbines 150m high.

We face proposals for 144 new turbines between 150 to 200m high - all scheduled to connect to the new SSEN Skye Reinforcement power line in approx 2028. 109 at 200m high, and 35 at 150m high are proposed.

The Skye Bridge is 35m high at highest point.

Without the new wind farms there would be no need for the Skye Reinforcement power line and all the new pylons across the mainland and Skye.

Once work begins there will be ongoing implications for road traffic on Skye as blades and towers are enormous and need to be transported across the island, either from Kyle or from a possible new purpose built "jetty" on the west coast. The blades for a 200m high turbine are 76m long (the length of three swimming pools).

There are approximately 4000 tonnes of concrete and steel in every wind turbine base. Old bases are to be left in the ground when new turbines are built. Over 300,000 tonnes of concrete to be transported to site, mixed and poured for 144 new turbines.

33km of road and tracks to be laid at Breakish site.

The proposed wind farms will lead to destruction of grade 1 peat land and woodland. Destruction and damage of habitats of rare and protected species including Golden Eagles, White tailed Eagles, Merlin, Hen Harriers, Red Throated Divers.

Bird kill from collisions with turbines once commissioned.

Contamination of burns. Despite protests, 3 turbines at Glen Ullinish still proposed to be built within a defined water catchment area for drinking water supply. Large quantities of toxic microplastics will be released from the blades of the turbines due to erosion.

Estimated 25 year life time profits for Ben Aketil are £87.5 million. This is just less than £300,000 per turbine per annum. Of this profit only £1,125,000 will be paid out in community benefits over 25 years (1.3% of the profit).

The developers of the current wind farms pay £5000 per megawatt to "the community"....this has been industry standard since 2011.

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Glen Ullinish 2 proposing £7000 per megawatt but still tiny amount when figures from community owned turbines in Tiree (Outer Hebrides) show a return of £170,000 per megawatt. On Westray the community owned turbine returns £299,000 per MW.

Edinbane Community Company gets approx £70,000 a year from Edinbane wind farm. This is based on an index linked figure of £2000 per MW agreed at the time of commissioning.