

Adopted Variation to the Cork County Development Plan 2009

(adopted by the Members of Cork County Council on the 13th of
December 2010.)

Variation No. 2: Wind Energy Policy

December 2010

NOTE:

This document should be read in conjunction with Cork County Development Plan 2009.

Document Verification

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Job Title						
Wind Energy Variation						
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Adopted Variation to the County Development Plan 2009						
December 2010						
Variation No. 2: Wind Energy Policy						
Revision	Date	Filename:				
1.0	13.12.10	Wind Energy Variation to CDP December 2010				
		Description:				
		Document prepared setting out the changes to the Wind Energy policy contained in the County Development Plan 2009 adopted by Cork County Council on the 13th of December 2010.				
			Prepared by	Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by
Rev 1.0		<i>Name</i>	PK	n/a	AH	AH

Variation 2:

Review of Wind Energy Policy

Cork County Development Plan 2009 in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Acts, have prepared a variation in order to allow future wind energy projects in Strategic Employment Areas to be considered on their merits.

This variation concerns the inclusion of additional text to the Wind Energy policy contained in Chapter 6, Volume 1 of the County Development Plan 2009. The County Council has identified a number of locations in the county as suitable for large scale industry being Carrigtwohill, Kilbarry, Little Island, Ringaskiddy and Whitegate. In all these locations, except Ringaskiddy, wind energy proposals can be considered on their merits and in accordance with the criteria set out in objective INF 7-4.

The Council, in the preparation of its County Development Plan objective for wind energy, have identified two special areas; Strategic Search Areas and Strategically Unsuitable Areas. Ringaskiddy is located within a Strategically Unsuitable Area where wind energy proposals, although not ruled out, will generally be small in scale. It is the Council's view that this policy position in relation to wind energy at Ringaskiddy is inconsistent with the other objectives for Ringaskiddy i.e. as a location for large scale industry, and in relation to encouraging business and industry generally to increase its use of wind energy.

Therefore, the variation now brings the policy position in Ringaskiddy in line with the approach already taken with regard to other areas identified for large scale industry so as to enable wind energy proposals at Ringaskiddy to be considered on their merits in relation to the criteria set out in objective INF7-4 and other proper planning considerations.

No mapping change is proposed in this variation.

A copy of the Adopted Variation is available for inspection at the following locations during normal opening hours:

- Planning Department, Floor 1, County Hall
- Planning Policy Unit, Floor 13, County Hall
- Council Offices in South Cork (Carrigaline, Douglas, Ballincollig and Kinsale)
- Public Libraries (Douglas, Wilton, Grand Parade, Carrigaline, Ballincollig and County Library, Carrigrohane Road)

This document can also be viewed on-line at www.corkcoco.ie or can be obtained from the Planning Policy Unit, Floor 13, County Hall.

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Directive Assessment

The variation was accompanied by an Environmental Report which was prepared in accordance with the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, which gave an assessment of the environmental effects of the changes proposed on foot of this variation. Furthermore, a Habitats Directive Assessment screening in relation to the variation has been completed and again the changes proposed in this variation were considered as part of that process. Copies of the Environmental Report and Habitats Directive Assessment screening can be viewed at the locations outlined above or alternatively can be viewed or downloaded from the Council's website.

The paragraph, objective and table numbers, in this document are indicative and will be replaced with the appropriate paragraph and objective numbers when the varied plan is incorporated into the published County Development Plan.

Changes to Volume 1, Chapter 6: Transport and Infrastructure

1.1. Amend Paragraph 6.7.12 to include additional text (bold & underlined) to read as follows:

“STRATEGICALLY UNSUITABLE AREAS: Areas which, because of high landscape sensitivity, are considered generally to be unsuitable for wind energy projects. While there may be a small number of locations within these areas with limited potential for small-scale wind projects, their contribution to any significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions would be negligible. Except on a small scale and at particularly suitable locations, wind projects would normally be discouraged in these areas. **However, because of the potential of wind generated electricity to reduce the reliance of large scale industry on fossil fuel generated electricity, for the avoidance of doubt, the areas identified as suitable locations for large scale industrial development in Objective ECON 3-2 of this plan are excluded from these areas and wind energy proposals in the areas referred to in ECON 3-2 will be considered on their merits, subject to compliance with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive.**”

1.2. Amend section (b) of objective INF 7-4 to include additional text (bold & underlined) as follows:

“...(b) It is an objective to support existing and established businesses and industries who wish to use wind energy to serve their own needs subject to proper planning and sustainable development. **In particular, because of the potential for wind generated electricity to reduce the reliance of large scale industry on fossil fuel generated electricity, proposals located within the areas identified as suitable locations for large scale industrial development in objective ECON 3-2 of this plan will be considered on their merits, subject to compliance with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive.**”

1.3. Amend section (d) of objective INF 7-4 to include additional text (bold & underlined) as follows:

“...(d) Similar criteria would be taken into account in the strategically unsuitable areas except that **(other than in areas to which objective ECON 3-2 relates)** suitable projects will generally be on a smaller scale and on very special, carefully chosen sites.”