

Planning Issues A Barrier To Wind Energy In UK South-West

The UK's south-west region may not meet its 2010 renewable electricity target, according to renewable energy agency Regen SW which says that local councils have rejected too many plans for wind farms. The agency says planning permission remains the most "significant barrier" to wind farm uptake, with only three of 10 schemes approved in the past 12 months. North Cornwall District Council – which has the greatest wind capacity in the region with almost 24 MW – says it is supportive of renewable energy, but that some applications are "inappropriate". The council has given the green light to four wind farms but says that not every renewable energy application would be approved as a matter of course. "Some applications are just inappropriate for the location because of their adverse impact on the landscape, the community and wildlife," says the council. Regen SW says by 2010 the area should have installed nearly 600 MW of green energy generating capacity under government targets but has just 137 MW of wind capacity – an increase of 14.4 MW in the past 12 months.

[Source esaa news]