

Offshore wind farms to power one in six households in Britain

Level 2 | Intermediate

1 Pre-reading: Key Vocabulary

Match the words with the definitions:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. renewable | a. a gas that stops heat from escaping from the atmosphere and causes global warming. |
| 2. offshore | b. isolated; far away from other cities, towns or people. |
| 3. greenhouse gas | c. to decide to use money for a particular purpose. |
| 4. earmark | d. the process of closing down a nuclear power-station. |
| 5. expertise | e. the network that carries the electricity supply. |
| 6. remote | f. something that can be replaced by natural processes. |
| 7. the national grid | g. found in the sea and not on the land. |
| 8. decommissioning | h. a special knowledge or skill that you get from experience or training. |

2 Wind power in Britain

Decide whether these statements are True or False:

1. Britain is the windiest country in Europe.
2. Britain uses more wind power than Germany, Denmark and Spain.
3. Most electricity production produces greenhouse gases.
4. Britain is first in the world in the use of wind power.
5. New nuclear power stations are being built in Britain.
6. Britain plans to use offshore wind power.

True False

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Now look in the text and check your answers.

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Terry Macalister

Members of ecology groups and representatives of the renewable energy industry heard some very good news this week. The British government announced plans to invest £6 billion in developing wind power. This could create 20,000 jobs and, at the same time, provide energy for one in six households by 2010. The government announced that a second set of licences would be granted to companies wanting to develop offshore wind power. They said that this was part of the government's plan to generate 10% of the country's electricity from greenhouse gas-free means by the end of the decade.

The licensing authority hopes to attract 6,000 megawatts of offshore capacity. The cost of developing 6,000 MW is expected to be about £6bn and to create 20,000 jobs in the engineering and construction sectors.

The British Wind Energy Association (BWEA) welcomed the news. "We

are sixth in the world in the use of wind power behind countries such as Germany, Spain and Denmark, but at the same time we are the windiest country in Europe. We have the best offshore expertise and workforce, and all of this can be used to make Britain the world leader in this new industry," said Alison Hill, a BWEA spokeswoman.

But the organisation also warned that there would be problems connecting remote wind schemes with the national grid. There might also be additional costs because of political uncertainty, and there could be opposition from the Ministry of Defence to plans to build turbines. The BWEA wants the government to confirm recently published government plans for the UK to obtain 20% of its electricity from renewables by 2020.

At the same time as the plans to develop wind power were announced, it was learnt that the cost of decommissioning the country's nuclear power stations

could be double the original estimate, costing British taxpayers £3.2 billion. British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) said that it could not put a definite cost on the decommissioning of all eight plants because it had only worked out the costs for the first two.

Stricter regulations and the fact that the original estimates were made 10 years ago are believed to be the causes of the rapidly rising costs. BNFL originally earmarked £380m to run down Hinkley Point nuclear power station, closed in 2000, and Bradwell, which was shut down last year. It has now been forced to put aside a further £415m.

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3 Comprehension Check

Match the beginnings and endings of the sentences:

1. The £6 billion investment in developing wind power ...
 2. The investment is part of the government's plan ...
 3. Although Britain is the windiest country in Europe, ...
 4. Britain could become a world leader in the use of wind power because ...
 5. Plans to build turbines ...
 6. Renewables might provide ...
 7. The cost of decommissioning nuclear power stations ...
 8. The rising costs have been caused by ...
-
- a. ... could be opposed by the Ministry of Defence.
 - b. ... other countries make much more use of wind power.
 - c. ... 20% of the UK's electricity by 2020.
 - d. ... will create 20,000 jobs and provide energy for one in six households.
 - e. ... stricter regulations.
 - f. ... it has the best offshore expertise and workforce.
 - g. ... to generate 10% of the country's energy from renewable sources.
 - h. ... could be twice as much as originally expected.

4 Vocabulary: Collocations

Fill the gaps using verbs from the text.

1. The government plans to _____ £6 billion in developing wind power.
2. This could _____ 20,000 jobs.
3. It could also _____ energy for one in six households.
4. The government will _____ licenses to companies wanting to develop wind power.
5. The government plans to _____ 10% of the country's electricity from renewables.
6. The Ministry of Defence might _____ the plans.
7. It is very expensive to _____ nuclear power stations.
8. BNFL _____ £380m to run down Hinckley Point nuclear power station.

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5 Vocabulary: Word Building

Complete the table

Verb	Noun
1. develop	_____
2. invest	_____
3. announce	_____
4. expect	_____
5. oppose	_____
6. provide	_____
7. confirm	_____
8. estimate	_____

6 Discussion

What are the arguments for and against using wind power?
What kind of energy would be most suitable for your country?

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Key

1 Key Vocabulary

1 f; 2 g; 3 a; 4 c; 5 h; 6 b; 7 e; 8 d

2 What do you know?

1 T; 2 F; 3 T; 4 F; 5 F; 6 T

3 Comprehension Check

1 d; 2 g; 3 b; 4 f; 5 a; 6 c; 7 h; 8 e

4 Collocations

1. invest 2. create 3. provide
4. grant 5. generate 6. oppose
7. decommission 8. earmarked

5. Word Building

1. development 2. investment
3. announcement 4. expectation
5. opposition 6. provision
7. confirmation 8. estimate