

# ecotricity

## Facts and figures on electricity and wind power

### **Electricity:**

- The average household consumption is 3,300 kWhrs per year. This roughly equates to 1.4 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per household per year. In comparison, one of Ecotricity's largest wind turbines will prevent the emission of 3,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.
- In the UK, the electricity sector is the largest emitter of carbon dioxide, accounting for over 30% of total emissions.
- Carbon dioxide accounts for over 80% of the emissions which contribute to climate change.
- Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are at their highest for 20 million years.

### **Wind power:**

- The Energy White Paper has indicated that renewable power should replace the 20% from nuclear within the next 20 years and provide 40% of our electricity from renewable sources by 2050.
- The UK has spent £50 billion on nuclear power – which now only accounts for 20% of our electricity needs. If the renewable industry was given £50 billion it would be able to power the whole of Europe with renewable energy ten times over!
- Germany leads the world in wind generating capacity, with more than 12,001 MW. In contrast, Spain currently produces 4,830MW and Denmark 2,800MW. Britain, which has the largest potential of wind resources of any EU country, still only generates around 552MW of capacity although this is set to change.
- The installed capacity of wind power in Europe has increased by about 40% per year in the past six years...
- Wind turbines can start generating electricity at a wind speed of around 5 miles an hour.
- One 67 metre high (1.8 megawatts) wind turbine can produce enough electricity for around 3,000 people and prevent the emissions of carbon dioxide by over 3,000 tonnes a year.
- The typical lifespan of a wind turbine is 30 years.

### **For further information contact:**

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