

Debate the Advantages and Disadvantages of Wind Farms



Create a public meeting. Pupils research their characters (official and audience) and prepare their arguments to debate the situation. Each camp, in favour and against wind farms, should discuss their research and ideas before the meeting.

Some suggestions for characters, but do encourage further ideas from the group:

a) Official

- A chair person
- The developer of the wind farm (in our case Adam Twine)
- Someone opposed to the wind farm (for example a local councillor)

These people open the meeting by making short presentations and then the chair invites the audience to ask questions and make comments.

The audience could include:

b) Neighbours of the site concerned about

- the change in the view
- the possible sound impact (research the distance over which the sound carries and how near the nearest property can legally be and consider other sources of sound in the area such as large roads)
- impact on property prices (there is no evidence nationally that there is a drop in prices)
- possible road accidents (also no police records of increase in accidents near the sites of windfarms) but a lot of people are very worried about these aspects

c) Business people

- Someone with a local business who feels they might be negatively affected by the development
- Someone with a local business who feels there might be advantages to them in the development
- Someone who is concerned about the cost of electricity produced by wind farms

d) Environmentalists

- A local environmentalist who believes in wind farms and their importance in combating climate change
- A local environmentalist who believes the wind farm will destroy a historic and beautiful landscape
- A local environmentalist who believes the wind farm could damage wildlife. (Note - the RSPB supported our application because they saw no reason to believe there would be significant harm to the local bird population)
- A person who believes that there is natural climate change anyway as shown throughout the earth's history (e.g. ice ages) and so sees no need for the wind farm
- A person who does not believe that there is climate change and so, also, sees no need for the wind farm and believes that this is the wrong site for a wind farm anyway
- Someone who wishes to encourage awareness of the need to combat climate change and feels that a wind farm would make an elegant statement to that effect