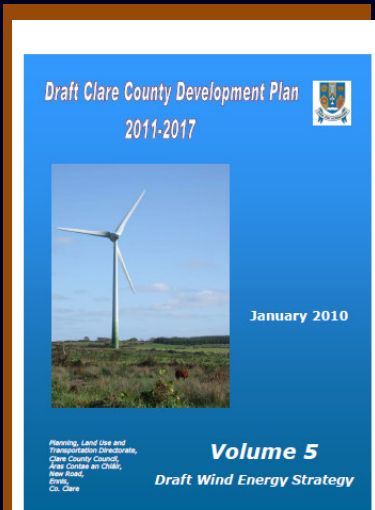


Planning for Energy

County Development Plans: Clare

- Target: 550 MW
- Current Status: 125 MW
- Total Land Area: 16.4%
- 4 Area Designations
 - Strategic
 - Acceptable in principal
 - Open for consideration
 - Not normally permissible

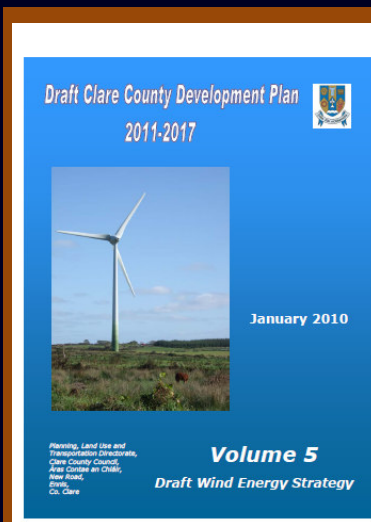
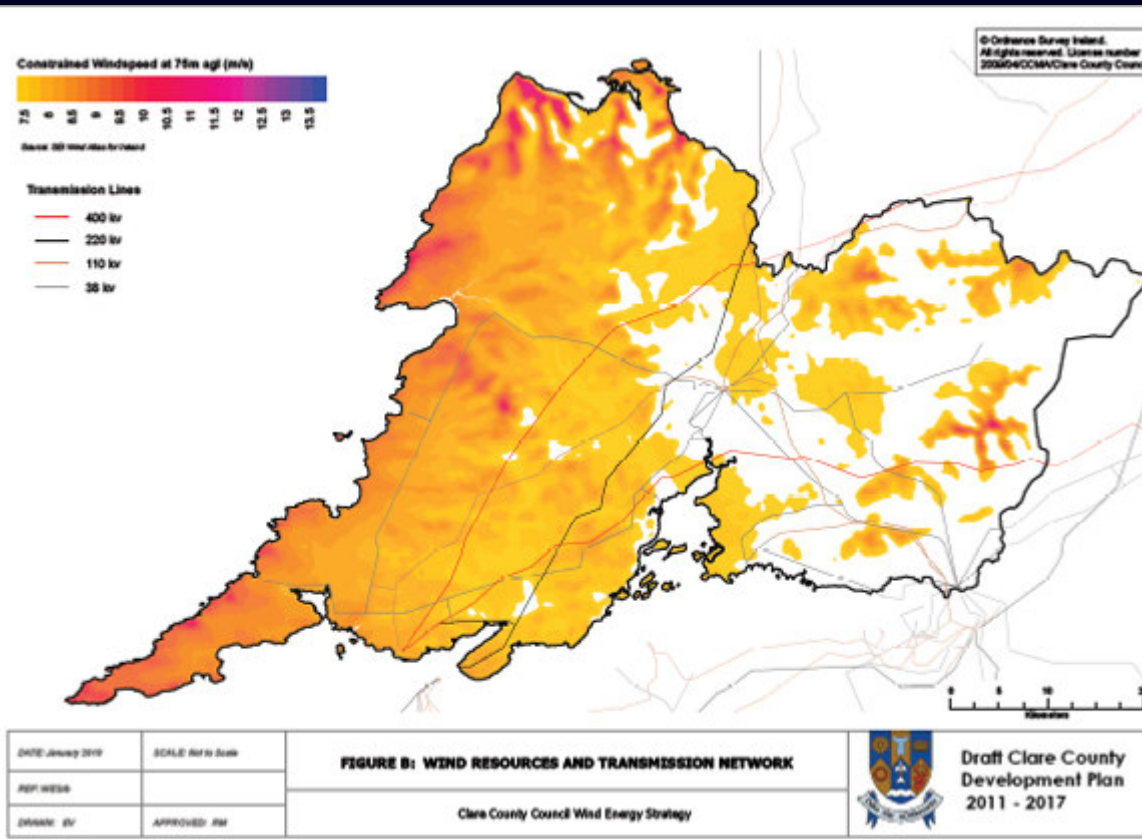
“The Draft Wind Energy Strategy was prepared to reflect the changing economic environment and to respond to anticipated commercial demands for wind energy developments. The Draft Wind Energy Strategy will facilitate development of wind farms by maximising the wind resource of the County having regard to recent technological advances in turbine design, updated information on wind speeds, proximity and availability to grid connections and to changing energy and grid connection regulations, while minimising any environmental and visual impacts.”



Planning for Energy

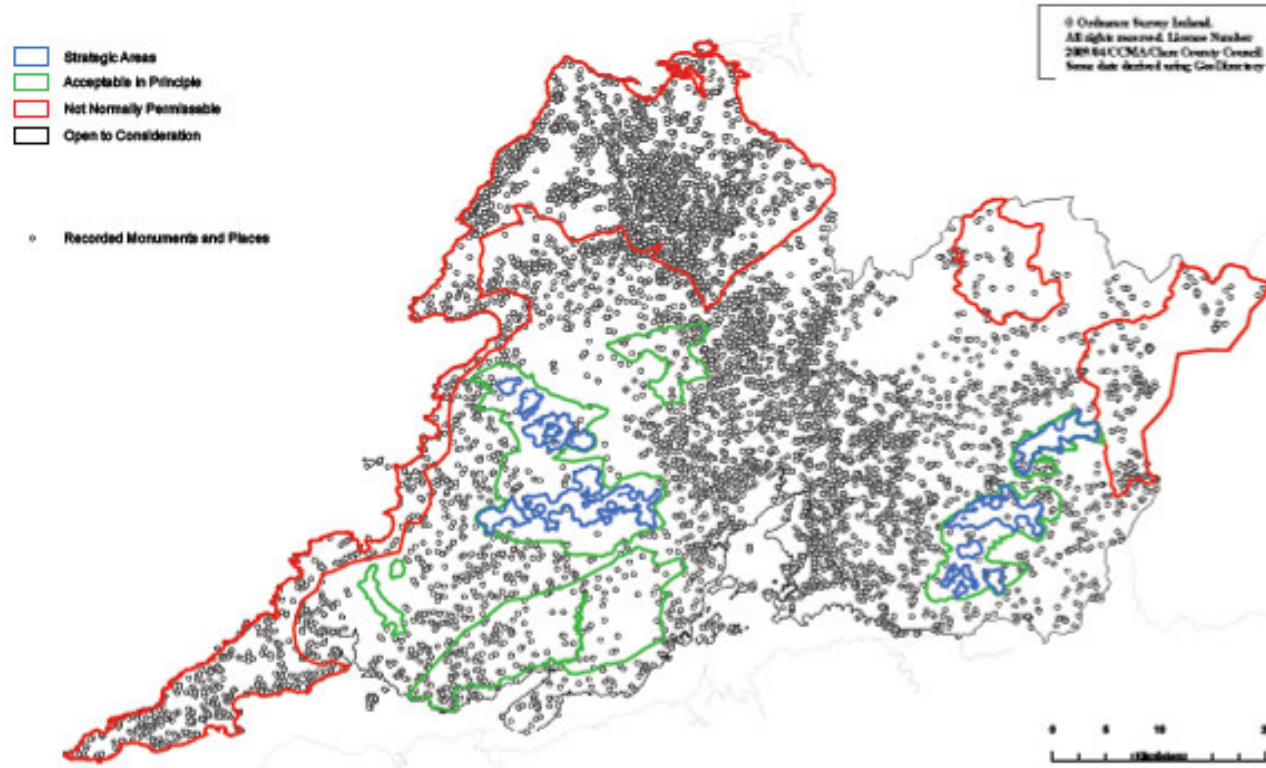
County Development Plans: Clare

SEAI Wind Atlas

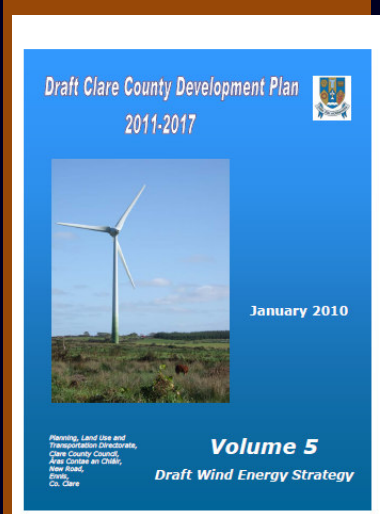
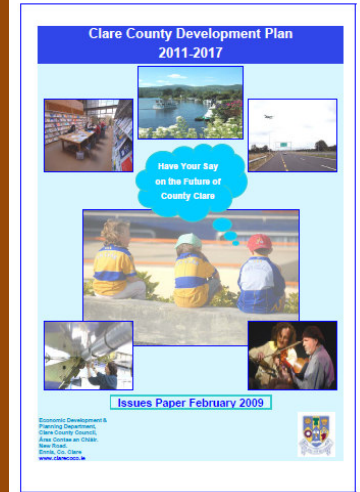


Planning for Energy

County Development Plans: Clare



DATE: January 2010	SCALE: Not to Scale	FIGURE C: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES Clare County Council Wind Energy Strategy	 Draft Clare County Development Plan 2011 - 2017
REP: WESH			
DRAWN: BV	APPROVED: RM		



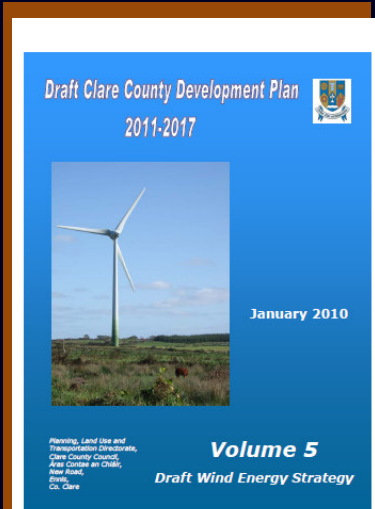
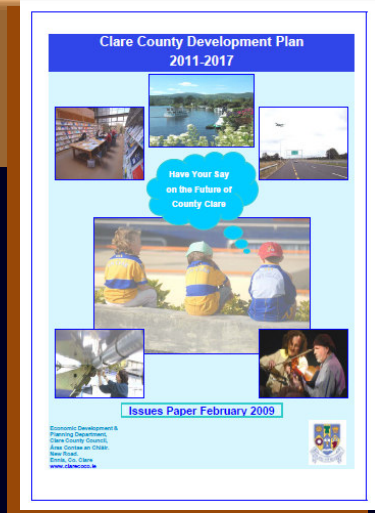
Planning for Energy

County Development Plans: Clare

After studies carried out a number of options were found

“Option Three: Alternative Renewable Energy Sources

This option would involve planning for alternative renewable energy sources such as biomass or tidal power in seeking to achieve a target that reflects the national target of 40% renewable energy production by 2020. The reason this is not being investigated for this strategy is that whilst other renewable energies can and will contribute to this target, in practice County Clare has a significant wind resource, and at national level, Ireland has experience in planning and managing this technology. Wind energy technology is currently the most established and experienced renewable technology in this country hence the focus for the lifetime of this strategy (2011 to 2017) remains on wind energy planning. This option was excluded at an early stage in the SEA process, post Scoping as it was not considered a realistic alternative.”



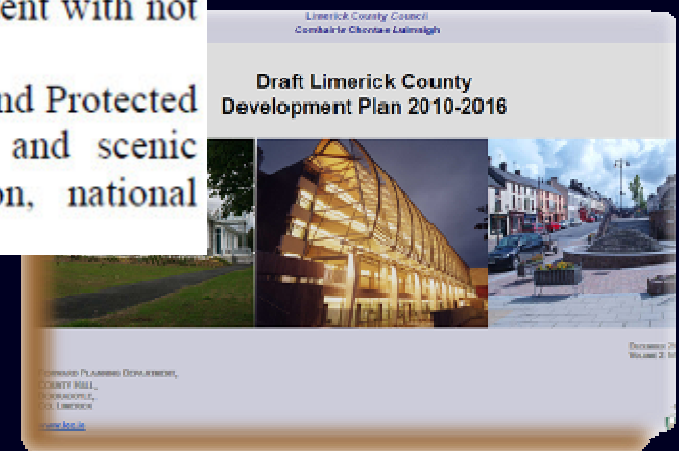
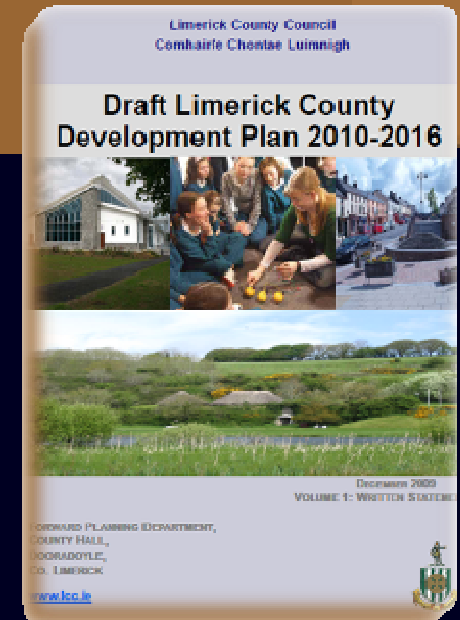
Planning for Energy

County Development Plans: Limerick

Objective IN O46: Facilitation of Energy networks

It is the objective of the Council to facilitate the provision of energy networks in principle, provided that it can be demonstrated that:

- a) the development is required in order to facilitate the provision or retention of significant economic or social infrastructure,
- b) the route proposed has been identified with due consideration for social, environmental and cultural impacts;
- c) the design is such that will achieve least environmental impact consistent with not incurring excessive cost, and
- d) where impacts are inevitable, mitigation features have been included; and Protected areas – NHAs, SPAs and SACs, areas of archaeological potential and scenic importance, proximity to structures that are listed for preservation, national monuments, etc have been taken into account.



Planning for Energy

Planning Applications & Processes in An Taisce

- Application recorded and passed to Energy Officer for review
- Application passed to Natural Environment Officer for review
- Application passed to Heritage Officer for review
- Site specific research carried out: maps, development plans, local knowledge etc.
- Each officer writes notes for review by other officers
- Planning submission - if any - is written and as much as possible includes suggestions / alternatives
- Submission goes to relevant County Council/ An Bord Pleanala
 - An Bord Pleanala
 - Strategic Infrastructure Act submissions
 - Appeals



Planning for Energy

Public Consultation

- Developers need to conduct a public consultation before they finalise their plans
- Questions can be asked
- Maps can be read
- Documents can be read
- Anything wrong with this?????

If it's called an information session – nothing wrong!

However...

If it's termed 'Public Consultation' ... a lot to be desired

An Taisce is pushing for the Monaghan Model and use

consultation



Planning for Energy

Oral Hearings

- A gathering of all stakeholders to a planned project by planning authority
 - To gather further information relevant to the project
 - To give all stakeholders an opportunity to voice their opinions
 - To give the developer an opportunity to address issues raised in submissions
- Very Costly
 - Teams of experts
 - Legal representation
 - Time
 - Travel
 - Out of office
 - Expenses
 - Can be intimidating



Planning for Energy

Amendments to Planning Legislation

- Currently in draft form (going through the Oireachtas)
- Unfortunately...
 - NONE of what has been discussed as lacking has been addressed
 - More Guidelines – need something stronger
 - Integration – positive if it happens
 - Consolidation – positive
 - Foreshore licensing now also in Dept of Environment's remit

Planning for Energy

An Taisce Recommendations

- More legal obligations in strategies and development plans
- Less nebulous language and guidelines which are open to interpretation
- Inter-departmental task group to handle cross-over policies/issues
- Prepare a comprehensive ocean energy and off-shore wind strategy NOW
- Review oral hearing process
- Review guidelines on community gain with view to introducing rules
- Review guidelines on consultation processes with view to introducing rules
- Review European methods of social acceptance of wind “ “ “
- Establish Commission for Energy Regulation / Bord Pleanala meetings
- Review assessments carried out by Regional Development Authorities

Planning for Energy

Conclusions

- Uncertainties in planning lead to:
 - Risks for investors
 - Less investment in wind energy
 - Increasing probability that RES-e 40% target will not be met
- Current planning 'guidelines' lead to huge inefficiencies incl.
- Financial, Time, ...
 - Developers
 - Prescribed Bodies
 - Tax-payer
- If recommendations are taken on board...
 - Inefficiencies can be decreased if not eliminated

Planning for Energy

Thank you and Contact Details

energy@antaisce.org