

# Community Wind Power newsletter

Spring 2008

Welcome to our first community wind power newsletter.

The Mount Alexander Sustainability Group is proud to be taking action on climate change and helping establish a community owned Wind Park in the Mount Alexander Shire.

This newsletter will be published periodically to help you become informed and kept up to date with how the proposed community wind park in our area is progressing.

In this edition we focus on our sister organisation, Hepburn Wind, and its share offer. There are chances for you to hear more about this offer at the MASG offices, and get up close and personal to a wind farm on several organised tours.

## Wind Tours:

*Sunday September 28th*

Our sister organisation Hepburn Wind is taking a tour of the Challicum Hills wind farm this Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> and MASG supporters are most welcome. The tour is FREE. The tour leaves from the Daylesford Neighborhood House at 10am and returns at 3pm, bring a picnic lunch. Bookings are recommended via David Wait on 8804 3138 or [david.wait@hepburnwind.com.au](mailto:david.wait@hepburnwind.com.au).

Hepburn Wind is likely to repeat the tour on another weekend in mid October, so contact David too if that interests you and suggest what date suites you best!!

*Thursday October 30<sup>th</sup>*

Following on from our MASG wind farm tour in May we are planning another tour to the Challicum Hills Pacific Hydro farm.

Date Thursday October 30<sup>th</sup>, leaving Castlemaine at 9.30am and returning at 4pm. For bookings contact Dean on 54 70 6978 or [dc@masg.org.au](mailto:dc@masg.org.au)

## MASG Information Night on Hepburn Wind

Wednesday Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm at MASG offices

Find out more about Hepburn Wind and its share offer. Here is our chance to be involved in Australia's first community owned Wind Park. Hepburn Wind's Treasurer Phil Hanson will give a brief presentation on the share offer and take questions.

The share offer will be open until the end of October and a copy of the offer is available in the MASG office for loan or at the Hepburn Wind website <http://www.hepburnwind.com.au/>

For bookings contact Dean on 5470 6978 or email [dc@masg.org.au](mailto:dc@masg.org.au)

## Community Owned wind farms overseas: Denmark

Community wind farms are particularly prevalent in Denmark where a quarter of all wind farms are locally owned, mostly through cooperatives and 85% of wind generation capacity is made up of small turbine clusters (up to three) rather than large wind farms.

**How it all started:** To encourage investment in wind power, families were offered a tax exemption for generating their own electricity within their own or an adjoining commune. While this could involve purchasing a turbine outright, more often families purchased shares in wind turbine cooperatives which in turn invested in community wind turbines. By 1996 there were around 2,100 such cooperatives in the country. Opinion polls show that this direct involvement has helped the popularity of wind turbines, with some 86% of Danes supporting wind energy when compared with existing fuel sources.

**Not just small farms:** The role of wind turbine cooperatives is not limited to single turbines. The Middelgrunden offshore wind farm - with 20 turbines the world's largest offshore farm at the time it was built in 2000 - is 50% owned by the 10,000 investors in the Middelgrunden Wind Turbine Cooperative, and 50% by the municipal utility company.

You can go online and see how the Middelgrunden community wind farm is

currently generating at <http://www.middelgrund.com/>



*Middelgrund cooperative windfarm*

**Denmark Today:** By 2001 over 100,000 families belonged to wind turbine cooperatives, which had installed 86% of all the wind turbines in Denmark. By 2004 over 150,000 were either members or owned turbines, and about 5,500 turbines had been installed, although with greater private sector involvement the proportion owned by cooperatives had fallen to 75%.

For more information see wikipedia [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wind\\_power\\_in\\_Denmark](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wind_power_in_Denmark)

## Wind Energy Could Provide 28% of EU Electricity by 2030

From RenewableEnergyWorld.com

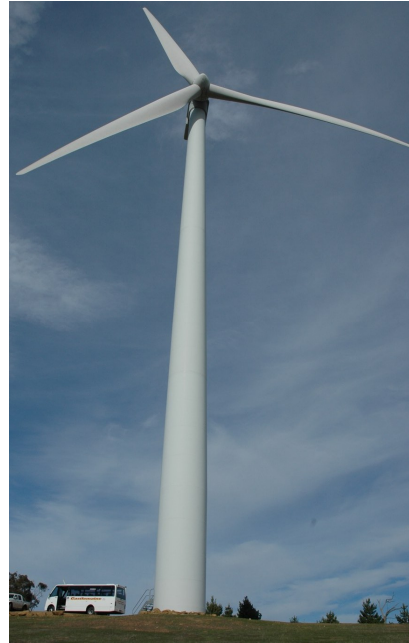
In its newly released Strategic Research Agenda (SRA), the European Wind Energy Technology Platform (TPWind) predicts that wind energy could cover 12-14% of the EU's electricity consumption by 2020, with a total installed capacity of 180 gigawatts (GW). This could increase to 22-28% of consumption and 300 GW by 2030.

For a copy of the report visit [http://www.windplatform.eu/fileadmin/ewetp\\_docs/Bibliography/Executive\\_summary.pdf](http://www.windplatform.eu/fileadmin/ewetp_docs/Bibliography/Executive_summary.pdf)

## MASG Wind Farm Tour May 2008

As part of the Mount Alexander Community Owned Wind Park project, MASG organised a tour on Friday 30th May with 25 interested community members departing on the mini coach provided by the Castlemaine Bus lines. After a pleasant two hour journey, we were greeted in Ararat by Sean, the operations manager of the Pacific Hydro wind farm, who took us out to the site and gave us a very interesting presentation while we stood directly under one of the turbines.

Some of the general feedback from those on the tour included how attractive the turbines were from a distance, how well they melded into the agricultural landscape, how large they were up close and how quiet they were. People were also very appreciative of Sean's presentation and the patience he showed in answering a constant barrage of questions from such a passionate group. We all came away from the site better informed about wind farms and even more enthusiastic about the prospect of having some wind turbines installed in our shire as part of the proposed community owned Wind Park.



*MASG tour bus at Callicum Hills  
Photo courtesy of Alan Jones*

For further details about the tour see our website [http://masg.org.au/?page\\_id=417](http://masg.org.au/?page_id=417)

### **Further information or volunteering opportunities**

IF you would like to help us get a community owned Wind Park in our shire, or want further information please don't hesitate to contact **Dean Bridgfoot**, Project Officer, Mount Alexander Sustainability Group on 54 70 6978 or email [dc@masg.org.au](mailto:dc@masg.org.au)

