



Repowering Scheme a Giant Success

A large repowering scheme potentially affecting more than 2,000 old wind turbines below 100 kW (and certain turbines up to 150 kW) is in progress. Owners of existing smaller old wind turbines, (who scrap these turbines) are offered to triple their installed capacity in new, large turbines at a particularly advantageous electricity tariff, which includes an environmental premium. This offer is expected to replace more than 1,000 old, small wind turbines, adding some 300 MW new generating capacity in 2002.

This onshore development is expected to continue in 2003, although at a somewhat slower pace, since the economic benefits for wind turbine owners delaying investment will be somewhat lower in 2003.

The political reasoning behind the replacement scheme for old, small wind turbines is that the old turbines contribute little to electricity production, and that these turbines were sited somewhat haphazardly before national planning regulations with local hearing procedures came into force 1992. A modern wind turbine produces more than 100 times the annual output from a 1980 vintage turbine. In order to boost renewable energy production further, the current replacement programme will mean a tripling of rated generating capacity from the replaced turbines, and an increase in renewable electricity production by a factor of 4 to 5 times.

(10 February 2003)

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