



Buy local!

The case for distributed energy

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About Fine Energy



- Established in Birmingham in July 2010 as a developer of small-scale renewable energy projects, primarily in wind energy
- Offices in Birmingham and Edinburgh. Employs 12 people with mix of skills
- Rents small parcels of land for 20 years from businesses and agricultural landowners for siting individual wind turbines
 - Unlike large wind farms, these single-turbine developments are quiet and have low visual impact, so are more acceptable to local communities.

What does “small” mean?



Distributed (renewable) energy



- Produce energy renewably as close as possible to where it is used
- Objections:
 - “But there will never be enough of it to replace centrally generated energy... and it only works when the wind blows (or when the sun shines)”
 - “... and it’s only economic because of government subsidies which we all pay for.”

Distributed Renewable Energy: producing energy by renewable means as close as possible to where it is used



- The Energy industry's answer to buying locally grown produce.
 - For 'food miles' read 'cable runs'
- Cable losses are reduced by reducing distribution distances and avoiding the transmission network altogether.
- The energy generated is used
 - on the farm (best case)
 - by neighbouring businesses and residents



“But there will never be enough of it to replace centrally generated energy. And it only works when the wind blows (or when the sun shines)”



Distributed energy displaces conventionally generated energy. Every kWh generated locally means more than a kWh of energy that doesn't need to be generated centrally.

“... and it’s only economic because of government subsidies which we all pay for.”



But factor in rapidly rising energy prices and the picture starts to look different...