

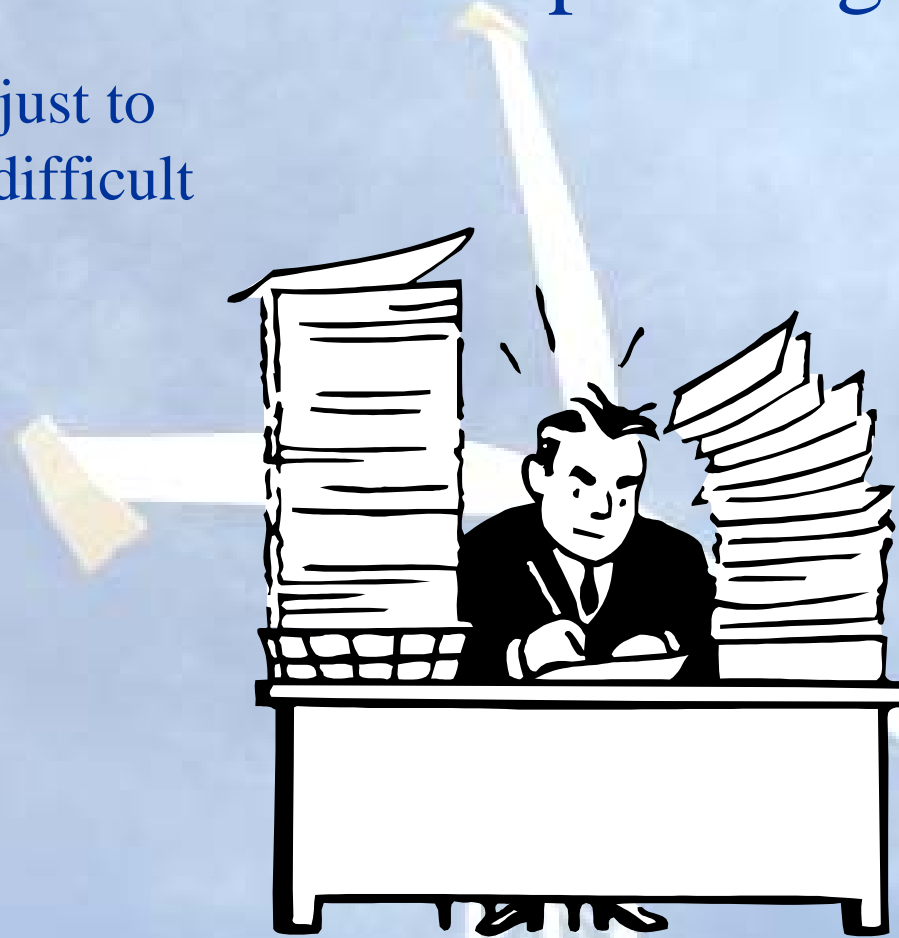


Planning Barriers to Renewable Energy Deployment

Jane Barbière, International Energy Agency

What is planning?

Is he here just to
make life difficult
for us?



No, planning serves
a true purpose!!

What?

- Planning is the policy system that governments use to control changes to our environment

How?

- Most countries do this through the formulation of a plan which sets out their intentions for future development in a given area
- Planning applications must be made to the planning authority for new development in an area

Why?

- To ensure that all such development is sustainable and fair
- To keep urban growth in check and protect the natural environment
- To ensure that provision is made for essential services



The Issue



- Planning policy is one of the major barriers to Renewable Energy deployment in the world today
- Delays projects
- Adds to cost
- Element of uncertainty/risk
- Can lead to the cancellation of entire projects

What is happening now !!

“Norwegian Armed Forces delay Wind power development”

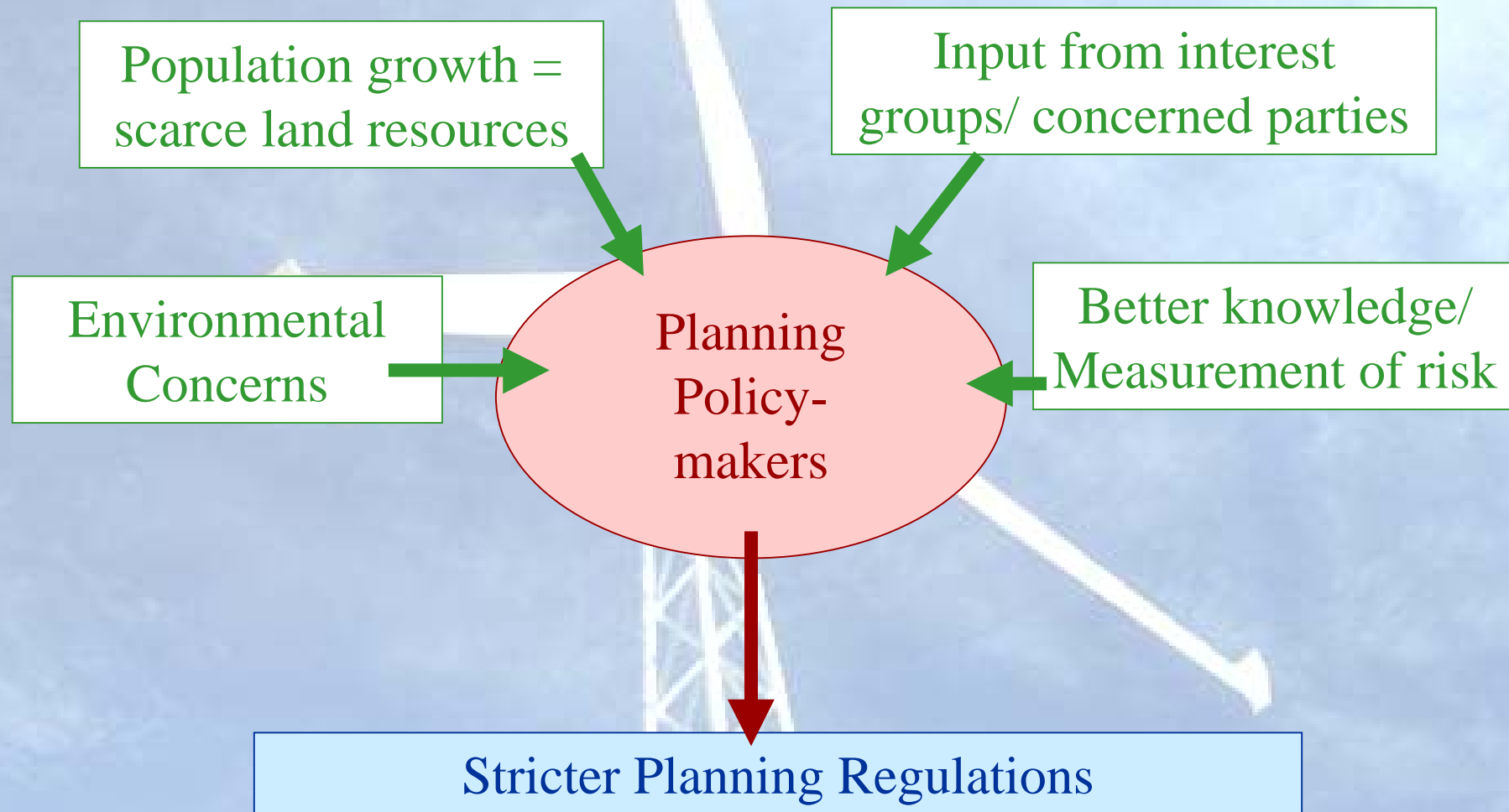
“Wisconsin’s largest wind farm stopped because of danger of windmills being struck by lightning”

“Red-throated diver halts plans for the World’s largest wind farm.”

“Fishermen stop offshore wind farms as extends their trip home by 15 minutes!”



Factors affecting today's planning policies



Not In My Back Yard (NIMBY)

Desire to have a cheap and reliable energy source

Versus

Refusal to have any source of that power located near you

- Emotionally driven
- Perception/Taste
- Public increasingly aware of environmental issues - guilt
- Who takes responsibility for the final decision
- Real issue when public opinion stops essential services being developed e.g. California Energy Crisis = BANANA (Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anyone)



Central versus Regional

- Is the planning system that you are dealing with run on central or regional level?
- Are the rules/policies made at central or regional level?
- One contact point OR many?
- USA - Large country - States have different rules
- Can be misleading for developer



Environmental Impact Assessments

- Environmental impacts one of the biggest issues in planning
- People have different views on the gravity of environmental impacts - who makes final decision?
- Environmental Impact Assessments have formalised this decision-making process - set a framework
- In the European Union EIAs are now a legal requirement
- EU have a directive setting out guidelines on how EIAs should be carried out
- This is a valuable tool for developers



Work with the planners Not against !

- Design renewable energy systems that minimises environmental impacts
- Educate both the public and the policy-makers of wider issues
- Share good practice with planners
- Select sites with low environmental impact
- Encourage Planning authorities to develop policies that incorporate the special characteristics of renewable energy



Clarity NOT Uncertainty

- Effective policy - needs to do what it says it does
- Timeliness - knowing how long the planning process will take
- Equity - a system that deals with all applications in a fair way
- Certainty - developers should be able to know the likelihood of their projects success
- Accountability/Transparency
- Renewable energy is no different from any other industry - not trying to make it special
- Strict rules fine - but need to be clear



Good Practice - Scotland

- Scottish Executive - promoting renewable energy in Scotland
- National Planning Policy Guideline (NPPG6) Renewable energy developments, 2000
- Gives clear guidance notes to planning authorities on Renewable energy
- Accompanied by a more detailed Planning Advice Note 45 Renewable Energy Technologies
- Result = 93% approval rate for Scottish wind turbine planning applications compare to 60% in England and 12% in Wales (source British Wind Energy Association)



What are we doing to help further ?

- Report aimed at government, policy-makers, renewable energy industry
- Inform readers about the major issues
- Looking at other industries experience
- Better understanding the job of the planner
- Clearer guidelines on how the planning system works

In many countries, planning has been identified as being the main barrier to renewable energy - aim to change this!!

