

Fully unlock small-scale onshore wind

About The MCS Foundation

Our vision is to make every UK home carbon-free. The MCS Foundation helps drive positive change to decarbonise homes heat and energy through our work programmes, grants and advocacy. We support engagement programmes, fund research and facilitate innovative solutions to drive widespread adoption of renewables to help achieve a Net Zero future. In addition, the Foundation oversees the [Microgeneration Certification Scheme \(MCS\)](#) which defines, maintains and improves quality standards for renewable energy at buildings scale.

The issue:

- Currently the only small-scale wind turbines allowed under permitted development rights are restricted to a maximum height of 11.1m and rotor diameter of 2m.

The ask:

- The height limit for small-scale wind should be **increased from 11.1m to 30m** under permitted development, with the blade length less than 8m long.

The detail:

Small-scale wind can play a vital role in community energy projects and for providing energy to rural communities, farms and small businesses to help reduce their energy costs. They can contribute to critical national infrastructure and help relieve pressure on the grid in remote rural areas, where grid upgrades to provide for a transition to a low carbon economy would be particularly costly.

Single small wind turbines can complement on-site solar PV energy generation, especially through the darker winter months. Furthermore, onshore wind is one of the cheapest forms of electricity generation and has a short construction time and should therefore be a central tool in addressing high consumer energy bills and the current cost-of-living crisis.

The MCS Foundation welcomes the new Government's decision to lift the ban on new onshore wind that was announced in July 2024. This was a big step in the right direction towards a low-carbon energy supply. Moving forward, we ask that the Government also **increases the height limit for small-scale wind turbines** from 11.1m to 30m under permitted development rights, with blade lengths under 8m. These turbines would only be a little taller than a mature oak tree (~25m). This would match existing rights for mobile phone masts.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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