



National University of Ireland, Galway  
*Ollscoil na bÉireann, Gaillimh*



Environmental Protection Agency

# 'Perspectives on the interactions between wind energy developers, local authorities and local citizens'

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Photo: Author



# Key indicators

- Government support
- Policy effectiveness and detail
- Planning
- Ownership and power
- Community involvement



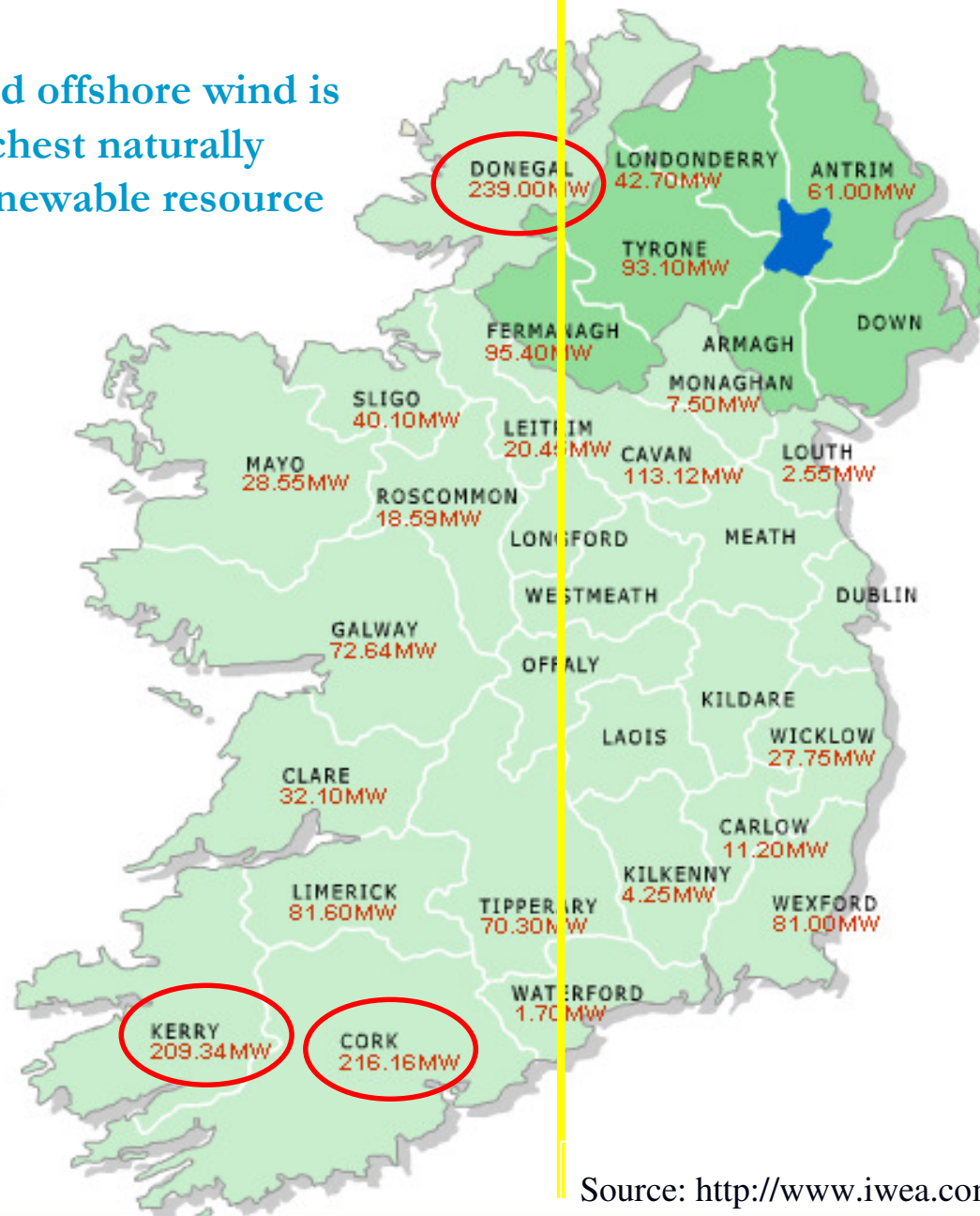
Photos: Author

# County Wind Map Ireland

Brid Walsh

Last Updated : 09/02/2010

Onshore and offshore wind is  
Ireland's richest naturally  
available renewable resource



IRL total installed  
capacity of  
wind energy = over  
1200MW  
(Eirgrid, 2010)

Source: [http://www.iwea.com/index.cfm/page/\\_windenergy\\_onshore](http://www.iwea.com/index.cfm/page/_windenergy_onshore)

# Determining factors of planning success

- Site suitability
- Ability to connect to electricity grid
- Financial support system
- Environmental factors

## **Social–institutional factors – aspects to consider:**

- Wind policy
- Ownership
- Grassroots initiatives
- Planning regime (local engagement)
- Cultural factors
- **Attitudes?**

“It ain’t what you do it’s the way that you do it”

Keeping people in the dark  
is often a recipe for disaster





# Good governance (process of decision-making)

Ownership

Power

Interaction

‘Communities must be the instrument of their own change’ (Baum, 2001)

‘Participation without redistribution of power is an empty and frustrating process for the powerless’ (Arnstein, 1969).

Photo: Author



**Planning guidelines**

**Responsibility for consultation**

**Consultation tools**





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**Early meaningful local  
engagement**

**Understanding of the local  
social landscape**

**Local authority support**



Photo: Author



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Thank you for your kind attention.  
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