Wind energy and biodiversity

**The Wind. It’s free, clean, and renewable. We can use it to produce electricity.**

**Wind is available locally. It doesn’t need to be imported from other countries. The more we use it, the closer we get to energy security.**

**Wind energy holds many benefits for the environment and for biodiversity. It can coexist happily with nature.**

**Before installing a wind farm, we choose the site very carefully. We then plan and design the wind farm in a way that respects the environment. This process takes several months!**

**We talk to local residents...**

**We carry out thorough impact assessments with scientists and local authorities.**

**We look at all the potential impacts of a wind farm and its infrastructure.**

**Before installing a wind farm, we choose the site very carefully. We then plan and design the wind farm in a way that respects the environment. This process takes several months!**

**During installation, we take extra care to minimise our impact:**

- We limit the time needed to install a wind farm.
- We avoid installing wind farms during the bird nesting season.
- Where applicable, we use air bubble curtains to reduce noise pollution for marine life during works at offshore wind farms.
- The cement we use for foundations is inert. It doesn’t pollute the soil.

**CO2 emissions associated with construction, operation and dismantling are paid back within one year of operation.**

**Once installed, wind farms bring many benefits to the environment:**

- No CO2 emissions
- No air pollutants...
- Zero water footprint...
- Wind farms can coexist with farming and other land uses.
- Offshore foundations act as artificial reefs.
- Once installed wind turbines leave the site undisturbed for many years.

**Once installed, wind farms leave the site undisturbed for many years.**

**We take extra measures, in addition to correct planning and siting, to protect biodiversity:**

- The impact of wind turbines on birds is actually very low.
- We constantly monitor our impact.
- Where appropriate, we use technology to detect, deter and decoy birds and bats. In some cases this includes stopping the turbine from spinning at certain times.
- Wind farms are bee-friendly, and their sites can be designed to attract pollinators.

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