

Wind power?



Hello. We're **Minch CAN** (Minchinhampton Climate Action Network). We want to help the communities around the Commons around Minchinhampton become more resilient, sustainable and healthier, our local landscapes and habitats regenerate and improve, and to reach net-zero carbon locally as soon as possible.

Is this survey for you?

If you live in or around Minchinhampton Parish (your postcode starts **GL52**, **GL55**, **GL68**, or **GL69**), then please fill out this survey. It has **10 questions**. Mostly it's ticking boxes, and the whole thing shouldn't take more than **10 minutes**. Thank you.

This survey is confidential

You don't have to give us your name, and you don't have to answer any question you don't want to. When we look at the results, we'll produce averages and totals. We won't share any data we get with anyone else beyond that. (See our data protection policy.) We'll only contact you if you give us your permission to.

If you have any questions about this survey...

Please contact us at canminch@gmail.com

Minch's contribution to the carbon in our air

Our warming climate is directly linked to the amount of carbon we're putting into our world's air. Our target is to reach **net-zero carbon** (creating no more carbon than the world can soak up safely) as soon as possible, to escape the worst consequences of a hotter Earth.

- ◆ Driving a reasonably efficient regular car (52 mpg) 12,000 miles a year (commuting Minchinhampton to Swindon for your job, say) causes about **3.3 tonnes** of carbon a year.

- ◆ A ready-meal reliant meat-eater who isn't fussy about where in the world their food comes from or about not leaving left-overs probably causes about **2.8 tonnes** of carbon a year.
- ◆ A single return flight to Italy – to go to a match, on a stag do, a school trip – is **1 tonne** of carbon.

There are lots of easy calculators you can use to measure your own **carbon footprint**, we used Carbon Independent, **ask us about others**.

In **Minchinhampton parish**, the average household uses around **21.1 tonnes** of carbon a year. 7.18 tonnes in goods and services, 5.49 tonnes in household energy, 4.12 in food, 4.07 in travel, and 0.24 in waste. (Numbers from the IMPACT community carbon calculator.)

The question is how to cut all that carbon. There's only so much we can do to control our own lives – the food we eat, the ways we travel, the electronic-plastic gadgets we buy...), at some point we have to think **bigger**.

When we had our founding public meeting in March 2020 we asked for ideas for what to focus on. Joint second on the list suggested was green energy generation, and particularly **wind power**.

About wind turbines

People object to **wind turbines** because of how big they look, but it wasn't that long ago that the Kearsy windmill turned on Windmill Road in Minchinhampton. We have history with wind power around here. If you saw it from Minchinhampton High Street, a 100m turbine in the far east of the parish would look smaller than a 2p piece held at arm's length.

A big benefit of turbines is that they take up so little ground space: they can generate an enormous amount of clean energy on a very small area of land. The solar farms we see need much more space, and don't generate on winter evenings, when demand is highest.

Wind turbine power grows with the cube of the wind-speed: three times windier; twenty-seven times better. The power grows with the square of the blade length, too: three times longer; nine times better.

Wind turbines are problematic to construct because of planning and ecological issues, and the difficulties in getting such large blades on-site.

Why this survey?

The most known wind turbine locally is probably **Lynch Knoll**, west of Nailsworth on the Nymphsfield Road. This is 62m high. Lynch Knoll is about 3.5 miles from Minchinhampton, 2.1 from St Chloe, 2.6 from Box.

A **single 100m turbine** could generate 2.5MW of electricity. Not quite enough for Amberley; more than enough for Burleigh.

In Stroud District there are potentially 18 areas (ChalCAN survey) where average wind speeds and isolation from houses, roads, protected habitats and other concerns point to potentially good conditions for a 100m wind turbine. The eastern part of our parish is one of those.

We want to know how you feel about our having wind turbines of this size around there.

/1/ Are big carbon-saving projects needed to meet a net-zero carbon target?

Crucial. | Important. | Don't know. | They contribute. | No.

/2/ Is it right to make green energy a top priority for large projects?

It's number 1. | It's one of a few outstanding priorities. | Don't know. | Some other priorities are more effective. | It's low on my list. | I didn't agree large projects are necessary.

/3/ We have good conditions around here for wind turbines. Is it fair and appropriate for our parish to host them?

Very much so. | On balance. | Don't know. | Other sites are better. | No.

/4/ If you think other energy-generating projects (eg mini-nuclear, solar farms, Severn river tidal) would be more appropriate locally, can you say which and why?

/5/ Have you ever lived close to a Lynch Knoll size (or larger) wind turbine?

Less than half a mile away. | Between half a mile and a mile. | Between one and two miles. | Over two miles away. | I'm not sure.

/6/ In your experience, how do you think a Lynch Knoll size (or bigger) wind turbine affects the following?

| | Lot worse. | Bit worse. | Can't say. | Bit better. | Lot better. |
|---|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| The attractiveness of the local landscape. | | | | | |
| Conditions for local wildlife. | | | | | |
| General levels of nuisance coming into the home from outside (noise, smell, other disruptions). | | | | | |
| General feelings of living safely. | | | | | |
| The general health of local people. | | | | | |
| General feelings of living somewhere remarkable and exciting. | | | | | |
| The ability to sell a house or rent out property. | | | | | |

/7/ How does a wind turbine compare to living close to other big constructions like tower blocks, bridges, factories, quarries, masts and pylons?

Lot better. | Bit better. | About the same. | Bit worse. | Lot worse. | Can't say.

/8/ The eastern part of the parish between Hampton Fields and Aston Down is about 1.7 to 1.8 miles east of Minchinhampton. Is it worth exploring whether wind turbines could be situated somewhere around there?

Yes. | If it's one of our best options. | Don't know. | As a low priority. | No.

/9/ Lynch Knoll is 62m tall. Should turbines here be:

Much bigger. | Around the 100m size we've been discussing. | Around the same size as Lynch Knoll. | Smaller. | I'm not persuaded.

/10/ Are there any other questions we should be asking, or any comments you'd like to make?

Thank you!

Thank you again for all your help. We want to make a difference to our communities, and the more we know, the better we can do that.

Do you think you could help us a bit more?

We'd love to be able to get back in touch with you to ask more about the answers you've given. If you choose to give us permission to contact you, your personal information will not be passed on or used for anything other than following up this survey.

Your name

An email address we can use

My postcode begins:

GL52. | GL55. | GL68. | GL69. | Other.

Submit your answers

You can hand in your filled-in survey to us, email it to us, or fill in the version on our website (minchcan.org/wind-power/).

Join your CAN

The more that people join us, the better we'll be at creating positive change. If you like a friendly, *optimistic* group that tries to get things done (and eat some biscuits), find us [here](#):

- [\[web\]](https://minchcan.org/) <https://minchcan.org/> • [\[email\]](mailto:canminch@gmail.com) canminch@gmail.com •
- [\[face\]](#) @Minch-CAN • [\[twit\]](#) @CanMinch • [\[insta\]](#) @minch_can •

And please join our [mailing list](#) to keep updated with all we're doing!