

PLANNING PEATLAND WINDFARMS

with carbon calculations:

1495



UNIVERSITY OF
ABERDEEN

What's the problem?

Despite covering just three per cent of the planet's land area, peatlands store more carbon than all the world's vegetation combined. Scotland is particularly rich in peatland – since peat-rich areas are not considered to be valuable for farming, they present prime investment sites for windfarm developers. However, disturbing peatland can lead to the release of carbon, negating the ability of windfarms to mitigate climate change. This can affect the environmental credibility of a site.

What did we do about it?

Professor Jo Smith from the University's Institute of Biological Sciences was commissioned by the Scottish Government to examine the impact of peatland windfarms on carbon emissions.

This work produced a tool that estimates the net carbon savings of peatland windfarms and can be used to plan developments with reduced carbon emissions.

Who was involved?

Professor Jo Smith and Dr Dali Nayak from the University of Aberdeen's School of Biological Sciences Forest Research, James Hutton Institute, University of Glasgow, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency.

What's happening next?

The Windfarm Carbon Calculator is now a major part of the Scottish Government's planning process for new windfarm developments on peatlands.

The tool guides the actions of the wind industry, ensuring planners understand the environmental credibility of a site and how best to reduce any potential carbon footprint.

Campaigners, politicians, community groups and the wider public can easily access the tool which offers a transparent methodology for potential developments and ensures benefits can be achieved.



Road to
COP26