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Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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I moved to Ireland with my husband and two children so we could live in the countryside near my husband's family (they are farmers) and enjoy the peace and beauty of this country. Our peaceful existence has now been threatened by a windfarm.

It makes no sense to me that Ireland would destroy its most unique and valued resource -- its lush countryside --, and inflict health problems and lower quality of life on its own people for the purpose of building monstrous wind turbines that, let's face it, do little to reduce world-wide carbon emissions. Particularly when there are other options.

Hence, in regard to Section 5 of the Plan, over the next 20 year period, the government should focus on other forms of renewables, such as offshore wind turbines and solar power. Indeed, Ireland has such a huge coast line, that it could easily put wind turbines along a limited section of the coastline and still meet all of its CO2 emissions requirements.

Additionally, I would like to see the government encourage reduced carbon tractors and electric cars.

Lastly, but most importantly, relating to Section 5.3.4 of the Plan, Ireland should focus on ways to prevent the need for use of electricity and carbon-emitting sources without adversely affecting its people and resources. How about the government create bike paths in the outer areas, around the towns, which would encourage more people to safely bike to work and shops? Or put in place real incentives for retrofitting homes and buildings with better insulation? This latter idea would be a win/win for the country and the people -- better insulated buildings and homes would create employment in the insulation business, AND reduce the need for heat sources (electricity, coal, etc), which would ultimately result in (a) less damage to the environment, (b) lower heating costs for Ireland's residents and (c) better quality of life for everyone as they would be working and living in naturally warmer buildings/homes.

Those are my thoughts. I look forward to seeing the next draft of the Plan.

Regards,

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