

Hello,

As the national advisory body for design quality in the built and natural environment, the Design Commission for Wales has been commissioned by the Welsh Government to update [Designing Wind Farms in Wales](#) with new guidance for the development of large scale, on-shore wind and solar energy projects. The original guidance, published in 2004, was updated in 2014 and is being revised again to reflect changes in national policy and to include solar generation. The new guidance will respond to the requirements of [Future Wales: The National Plan 2040](#), specifically policies 17 and 18 of the plan.

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 reflects the Welsh Government's ambition for low carbon energy generation from renewable sources. It is important that the guidance attached to the plan is well informed.

The new guidance will support the delivery of national planning policy and will be relevant to the determination and decision-making processes accompanying renewable energy development at all scales across Wales. It will be a material consideration for the determination of wind and solar development applications.

The update will reflect and reference the latest policy, technological changes and the key design considerations relevant to the nature of these developments. It will also reflect the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and its integration with planning policy in Wales.

We are working collaboratively with colleagues and stakeholders and are keen to involve others in the process, ensuring that we find ways to draw attention to the engagement process and provide opportunities for groups and individuals to participate and share their views and experience. Your input is important to our understanding of the perspectives of stakeholders including regulatory and professional bodies, statutory stakeholders, developers, community groups and individuals. It will help us ensure that the new guide is clear and accessible for everyone; easy to use and understand, for professionals and lay people alike.

Please do therefore complete the attached survey in order that we can capture your input. The survey will be available until the deadline for us to receive your input which is **Friday 7th October 2022**. We expect to share the first draft of the new guidance document **later in the year** when you will have a further opportunity to comment, ahead of publication by the end of the year.

Thank you for your time and contributions.

**Design Commission for Wales**