

Public Acceptance and Participation in
Decision-making for Wind Energy Projects:
A critical perspective

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Rationales of Participation

- **Procedural** : legitimacy of the process + outcomes
- **Substantive**: better decisions + critical voice
- **Instrumental**: improving acceptability and implementation

The Meaning of Public Acceptance

Support vs Passivity

‘energy infrastructures are being proposed or given by authorities or companies to individuals and communities for them to **receive without contestation**’

(Batel and others, 2013)

Key Factors of Acceptance

- Environmental and landscape concerns
- Place attachment
- Fairness: distributional and procedural justice

How is this relevant to Major Wind Projects in England?

Conclusions

- Participation vs Acceptance is not a purely theoretical exercise
- Decision-making for large wind projects in England reflects a 'public acceptance' approach
- More weight should be given to environmental/landscape, place attachment and distributional justice concerns