

It is not just the Olympic Athletes that need Energy!

The combined right hook and left jab of the economic crisis and underestimation of the true financial cost of the 2012 Games look set to threaten a knockout blow to the notably green ambitions of the 2012 Olympic Games.

Loss of Wind Turbines

Perhaps the most visual casualty is the 130m high wind turbine that was scheduled for development in the Eton Manor district of the Olympic Park. The purpose of the Turbine was to provide 4million KW hrs per yr to provide power to 1,000 homes (including the Olympic Village), so the loss of the project is a blow. In addition, the Turbine was designed to provide a great landmark for Olympic sustainability, including the ability to meet their bid commitment of 20% of energy for the Games to be derived from sustainable sources. The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) are now seeking to meet these commitments via the potential use of solar energy.



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Energy Plan B

The adaptation of existing resources to meet the requirements for solar energy (i.e. solar panels) will no doubt require a hefty financial commitment. This has led to questions in some quarters as to why solar panels had not featured in

the original Olympic Park designs, given the highly visual sustainability goals of the Games.



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ODA Chief Executive David Higgins released the following statement: 'We have carried out an exhaustive process with the industry and suppliers over the last two years to find a viable way of delivering a wind turbine on the Olympic Park site. However, the industry environment has changed and that means the project is no longer feasible.'

'We have a strong track record in sustainability and we remain committed to meeting the challenging renewable energy targets we have set ourselves. Our focus is now on researching a number of alternative renewable energy options across the Olympic Park site to help contribute to these targets and compliment the other state-of-the-art new energy infrastructure we are building.'

An official Press Release for London 2012 indicates that a significant proportion of the ODA's 20% renewable energy target will now be met by a state-of-the-art new Energy Centre that will be located on the Olympic Park site, and that work is currently underway to identify additional options for renewable energy infrastructure across the Olympic Park to help meet the shortfall in the 20% target.

The possible options include **Photo Voltaic (PV) panels** (possible installation of photo voltaic solar panels at locations around the Olympic Park site to deliver renewable solar energy) and a **Biomass Gasification unit** (gas heating via a process called pyrolysis). The resultant gas can be channelled to generators, helping generate electricity and the excess heat can also be captured and reused). Biomass fuel is a net zero carbon fuel.

Road Closure to Open

The Commission for a Sustainable London 2012 has approved the sustainability standards adopted by the ODA and is further pleased that they have been advised of very little road closures during the Games, stating that "... the impact on London's air quality is likely to be minimal", that, overall, "things continue to go well" and that "The ODA continues to break new ground in sustainability in construction and we have much more confidence in LOCOG."

Working with Sponsors

It can also be reported that one of the Olympic sustainability sponsors, EDF Energy, is helping LOCOG to achieve sustainability targets relating to energy via development of a low-carbon flame for the Olympic cauldron.

The six Olympic sustainability partners — BMW, BP, BT, Cisco, EDF Energy and GE — were also praised by the Commission for their energy-related sustainability initiatives, such as a partnership between GE, BT and EDF to supply smart-grid technology to the Olympic Village, a commitment by BMW and BP to improve the performance of the Olympic vehicle fleet, and an agreement by BT to develop a new method of calculating the carbon

footprint for all the infrastructure and services for the Games. Of course, the future of BP and their capability to deliver on many projects may have been affected by the Deepwater Horizon disaster.

START THE DISCUSSION

- **Research the legacy targets of the 2012 Games. What part does sustainability play?**
- **Do you think that sustainability targets will be met given these adaptations to the original plans?**
- **What impact do you think that extraneous environmental and financial variables, such as the economic crisis, Deepwater Horizon and Icelandic volcano, might exert on the ability of LOCOG to achieve sustainability energy-related targets?**

FIND OUT MORE

London 2012 Website Sustainability Press Release

<http://www.london2012.com/news/2008/01/olympic-park-sustainability-targets-exceeded.php>

Office of Government Commerce: Sustainability Targets

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/sustainability_targets.pdf

CREDITS

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