

Renewable Energy Development in Cambridgeshire 1999-2010

Introduction and Key Findings

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief commentary on the progress of renewable energy development in Cambridgeshire.

The report is based on data that was collected with a nominal survey date of 31st March 2010, and was prepared by the Research and Monitoring team at Cambridgeshire County Council. The Research and Monitoring team carries out the annual development survey, working closely with colleagues from the District Councils. Each site in Cambridgeshire with outstanding planning permission for renewable energy is visited and the development progress recorded.

Following the survey, the data is carefully analysed and checked, and also checked against the reports produced by Renewables East (the renewable energy agency for the region) <http://www.renewableseast.org.uk/information-library-reports.asp>

This survey forms part of a much wider area of work undertaken by the Research and Monitoring Team, encompassing housing, retail, leisure, hotels, business, community, education and other types of development. The key findings from the 2010 renewable energy development survey are:

- 16.545 MW (megawatts) of renewable energy capacity was installed in 2009-2010, compared to 6.3783 MW the previous year.
- 14 MW was for an extension to Coldham Wind Farm in Fenland of 7 turbines (2009-2010).
- The total amount of installed renewable energy in Cambridgeshire at 31st March 2010 was 167.433 MW.
- There was a total of 78 wind turbines operating in Cambridgeshire at 31st March 2010 producing 68% of Cambridgeshire's renewable energy.
- At 31st March 2010, a further 38.6074 MW had planning permission.

1 – Net Renewable Energy Completions

The total amount of new renewable energy capacity installed between 1999 and 2010 in Cambridgeshire was 163.5158 MW. Prior to 1999 only 3.9172 MW capacity existed. Figure 1 shows that most of the recent development has taken place at a fairly steady rate since 2005. This development has mainly been due to the building of a number of wind farms in Fenland and Huntingdonshire as shown in Figure 2. The large completion in 2001-2002 is mainly down to the building of a 36.85 MW straw burning power station at Sutton in East Cambridgeshire.

Over half (90 MW) of renewable energy capacity installed in Cambridgeshire since 1999 is located in the district of Fenland – particularly due to the large number of wind turbines installed (47 in all). East Cambridgeshire also has a fairly high proportion of the renewable energy capacity due to the straw burning power station at Sutton.

The last few years has seen the growth of micro-generation – domestic wind turbines and photovoltaic cells using the power of the sun.

Figure 1: Amount of renewable energy installed in Cambridgeshire (MW)

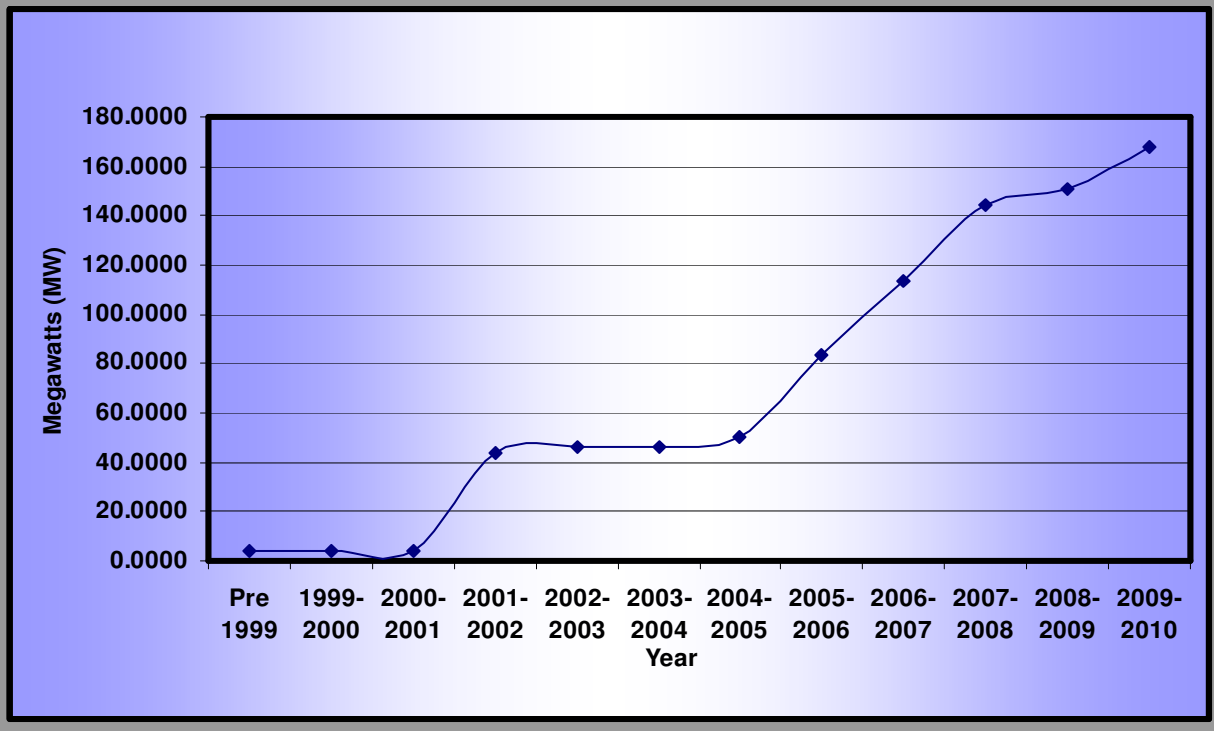


Figure 2: Renewable energy in Cambridgeshire by type, year by year

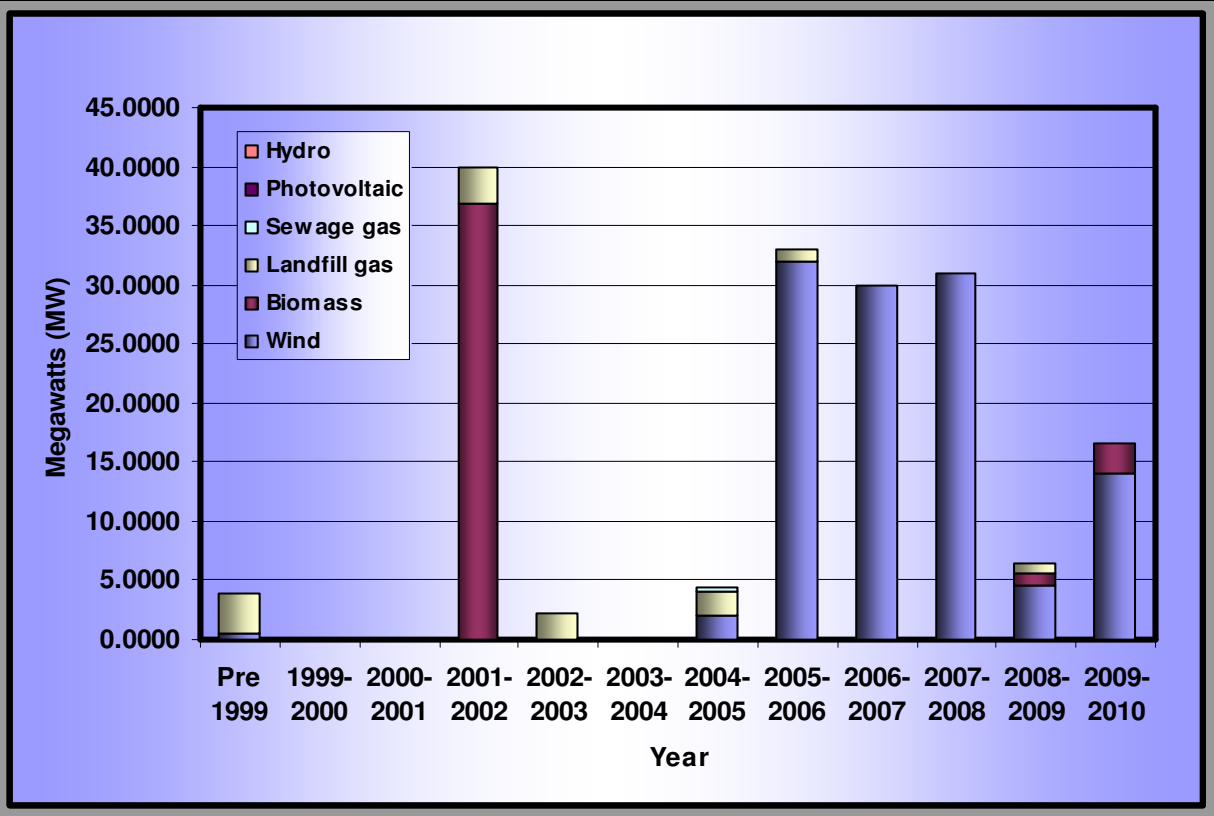
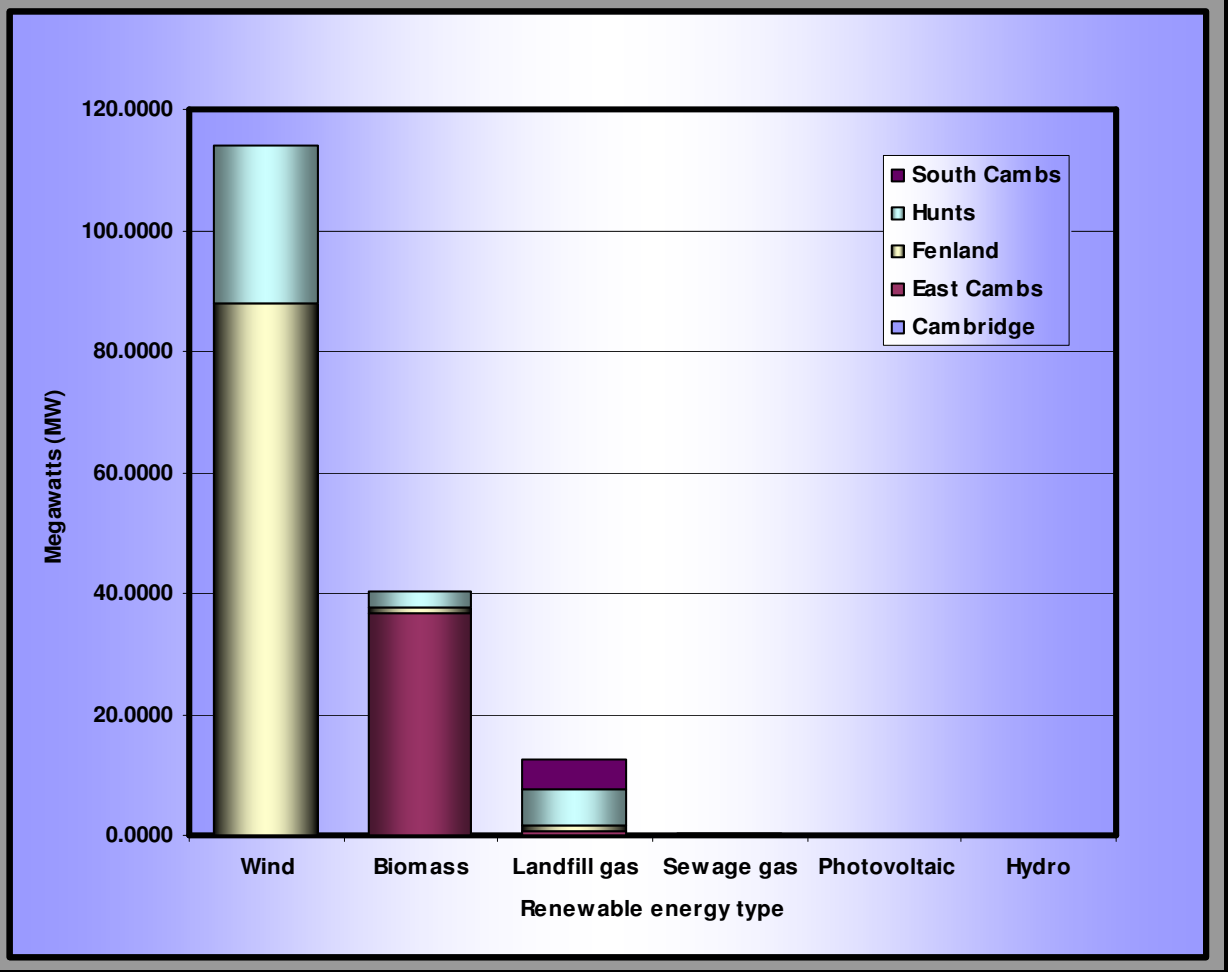


Figure 3: Installed capacity in Cambridgeshire as at 31/03/2010



2 – Location of largest renewable energy completions

The largest developments installed in Cambridgeshire are shown below in Figure 4.

Figure 4: location of largest renewable energy sites in Cambridgeshire

	LOCATION	COMPLETIONS
East Cambridgeshire	Elean Business Park, Sutton	36.85 MW biomass
Fenland	Stags Holt Wind Farm, March	18 MW wind power
	Coldham Wind Farm	30 MW wind power
	Glassmoor Wind Farm, Whittlesey	16 MW wind power
	Ransonmoor Wind Farm, Doddington	10 MW wind power
	McCains, Whittlesey	9 MW wind power
Huntingdonshire	Red Tile Wind Farm, Warboys	24 MW wind power

3 – Renewable energy commitments

Commitments are planned developments where construction has not yet started, and include sites with planning permission or land allocated within District Council's planning documents. At 31st March 2010 a further 38.6074 MW of renewable energy capacity had planning permission – 36.2274 MW for wind (another 35 turbines, 13 at which at South Cambridgeshire's first wind farm at Wadlow Farm in West Wrating which was allowed on appeal); 2.15 MW for biomass; and 0.23 MW for photovoltaic power.

Further information

This report has given a brief summary of the main findings emerging from the Research and Monitoring Team's annual survey of renewable energy within Cambridgeshire. In addition to this, the team are involved in a wide range of other survey work, as well as more frequent surveys of larger housing sites within the County.

For more information on the findings of this report, or on the general work of the team, please contact:

Paul van de Bulk
Principal Research and Monitoring Officer
Strategic Planning
Cambridgeshire County Council
Box CC1213
Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridgeshire CB3 0AP

Tel: 01223 715525

research&monitoring@cambridgeshire.gov.uk