

How productive are wind farms?

All power stations have periods when they don't generate electricity. This can be because they are undergoing maintenance or because fuel is limited. Some conventional power stations can only operate economically during periods of high electricity demand. For wind turbines generation can be restricted because there is too much or too little wind.

The electricity generated over a year can be calculated as a percentage of the theoretical maximum. This is known as the 'load factor'. The average load factor for all types of power station in the UK is 50%*. The UK average load factor for a wind farm is 29%*. Burradale Wind Farm in Shetland has always had an annual load factor of more than 50%.

It is expected that the Viking Energy wind farm would be among the most productive wind farms in Europe due to Shetland's wind resource. It could also be as productive as many conventional power station assuming that Shetland's wind speeds remain similar.

* [Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics 2009](#)

More Questions?

Ask Viking through:

- [Our website](#)

-  [Facebook](#)  [Twitter](#)  [Myspace](#)  [Bebo](#)

- Email: info@vikingenergy.co.uk

Or write us a letter at:

Viking Energy
The Gutters Hut
North Ness Business Park
Lerwick
Shetland
ZE1 0LZ

