



Criteria for the Development of Renewable Energy Parks on Rural Land

Proposals for debate and future regulation in Menorca

December 2015

Presentation

This document is an initial proposal by GOB for a list of criteria with the objective of allowing interested people time to reflect and give their opinion. It makes a proposal, open to improvement, which is intended to regulate any significant building of solar photovoltaic and wind energy installations in rustic land.

You can find an introduction to the current state of the situation in <http://english.gobmenorca.com/criteria-for-renewable-energy-facilities-in-the-countryside/>

Solar Parks

The development of solar parks should be allowed as long as they adhere to the following conditions:

1. Territorial criteria

- Use of land doesn't exceed a total of 150 000m²
- No development to be done on any land which has any of the following characteristics:
 - Land which enjoys a high level of protection such as wet lands, dunes, oak and Mediterranean buckthorn woods, gorges, islands and cliffs.
 - Other areas of territorial protection: any land within a 500m from the coast.

The following conditions must also be considered.

- Oak or olive woods may not be chopped down.
- Archaeological and historical sites must not be disturbed.
- The area must have existing access roads in order to service installations. Apart from rural agricultural tracks, the building of all ways on rural land is forbidden.



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- There must be a separation of at least 500m between solar parks.

2. Landscape Criteria

- Solar parks should not be visible from main or secondary roads.
- No alterations should be made to dry stone wall network used to separate land.
- Dry stone perimeter walls should be built to the maximum height stipulated by the municipal and ordinance planning bodies.

3. Technical Criteria

- Systems which are the most energetically efficient will receive the highest punctuation. That is to say, systems which allow the biggest production of energy while occupying the least surface area.
- Connections to the electricity grid should make use of existing lines or new underground ones should be developed.

4. Construction Criteria

- The structures used to fix panels should be fixed to the ground without the use of concrete. They should be attached to the ground using bolts drilled through micro perforations.
- The structures should be easily dismountable, reusable and made from a material which can be recycled.
- Other auxiliary buildings which form part of the plant should be integrated into the landscape and hidden from view.
- The use of pesticides to control weeds and shrub growth under the solar panels is forbidden.
- Rain water collection and storage points should be incorporated into the site to provide the water necessary to clean and maintain the solar panels.
- The inclusion of animal drinking points and wildlife refuges etc will be positively valued.
- Focussing now on security measures, the following items should be taken into account:
 - Perimeters should allow small animals to access the area.

- Metallic fencing should have no sharp points.
- All fencing should be placed at least 3 meters from the stone walls so that it cannot be seen from the other side. This will also ensure a space for the growth of a natural barrier of autochthonous vegetation between the wall and the fence.

Wind Parks

Wind parks which use aero generators more powerful than 0.4Mw can be placed on rural land as long as they adhere to the following conditions:

1. Territorial Criteria

- Use of land doesn't exceed a total of 150 000m²
- No development to be done on any land which has any of the following characteristics:
 - Land which enjoys a high level of protection (AANP) such as wet lands, dunes, oak and Mediterranean buckthorn woods, gorges, islands and cliffs.
 - Other areas of territorial protection (APT): any land within a 500m from the coast.
 - Areas protected because of their landscape (AIP)
 - Areas of protection which have been developed for birds (ZEPA)
 - Ecosystems which provide refuge for birds included in annex 1 of the European Directive for Birds.

The following conditions must be observed:

- Oak or olive woods may not be chopped down to provide space for generators, neither should they be placed in firebreaks or along other existing footpaths.
- Development should not cause change in the lay of the land. Land should not be moved unless it is strictly necessary to allow for the correct laying of the generator's foundations.
- Archaeological and historical sites must not be disturbed.
- Dry stone walls must not be knocked down.



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- Access road must not be covered in tarmac. It must be demonstrated that the chosen access model is the most energy efficient.

2. Technical Criteria

- Systems which are the most energetically efficient will receive the highest punctuation. That is to say, systems which allow the biggest production of energy while occupying the least surface area.
- There must be a distance of at least 400m between residential/ tourist areas and any wind park development.
- Connections to the electricity grid should make use of existing lines or new underground ones should be developed.

3. Construction Criteria

- Auxiliary buildings which form part of the plant should be integrated into the landscape and hidden from view.
- The use of pesticides to control weeds and shrub growth under the solar panels is forbidden.
- Rain water collection and storage points should be incorporated into the site to provide the water necessary to clean and maintain the solar panels.
- The inclusion of animal drinking points and wildlife refuges etc will be positively valued.
- Focussing now on security measures, the following items should be taken into account:
 - Perimeters should allow small animals to access the area.
 - Metallic fencing should have no sharp points.
 - All fencing should be placed at least 3 metres from the stone walls so that it cannot be seen from the other side as well as providing a space for the growth of a natural barrier of autochthonous vegetation between the wall and the fence.