



Earth's physical resources: renewable energy.

Wind power in Europe

Narrator:

Wind power is one of the most widely used of the renewable energy technologies, and it's growing very fast.

Erik Lysen:

Germany is the biggest wind power producer at present, and all in all we have let's say an annual last year, I'm talking 2001 last year, we had about 6,000 megawatts installed in one year which is, unprecedented in fact in history, and this is large, largely due to these measures in Germany and Spain.

Narrator:

In Western Europe, the wind is a huge source of renewable energy. With more than 10,000 megawatts installed, Germany has the most wind turbines. Spain and Denmark also have installed several thousand megawatts. Britain, although it has the best wind resource in Europe, has installed less than one thousand megawatts.

John Doddrell:

We have the potential to obtain 100% of our electricity from offshore wind, we have the windiest coastline in Europe, so let's make the most of that and develop offshore wind.

Narrator:

Britain's existing wind farms tap into just a tiny fraction of the energy that constantly flows across the country.

Increasing Britain's wind capacity will require not only capital investment but also a strong government policy.

John Doddrell:

The old non-fossil fuel obligation system was quite good as far as it went in providing an initial start for the renewables industry, but it was clear that it wasn't going to deliver the types of targets that the Government is now committed to, so we've introduced a radical new policy including a renewables obligation on electricity suppliers which will take us up to the target of 10% by 2010.

Narrator:

But it isn't just centralised policies that are required. Each region has a part to play.

John Doddrell

We're also cascading the 10% target down into regional targets, so this will make its way into regional development plans where renewable energy is a main feature, and this will encourage more local buy in and local acceptance of renewables, and hopefully will give a local momentum behind the development of wind farms.