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Danish Wind Turbines: some 'facts' (ie. gleaned from the Net) in the lead-up to the "Summit"

- 1 Population of 5.4m with 5,500 (up to 6,000 according some sources) turbines and the biggest % turbines per capita in world
- 2 Average output of Denmark's turbines is only 24% of installed capacity even though it has a significant wind resource compared with other euro. nations
- 3 Often hear claim that 20% of all Danish energy is produced by wind turbines BUT they provide only 10% max. (sometimes only 5%) of the energy actually consumed because any more than 10% causes too much instability in the system
- 4 Denmark is in the enviable position of having connections to european grids so any excess can be fed into the those grids ie. no requirement (as in US and Australia) for backup from fossil fuel power. They can also buy back (albeit at greatly increased rates) power from these grids if there is a shortfall (ie. if the wind isn't blowing). European countries on the greater grid consume about 100 times the energy needs of Denmark (ie. they provide a huge 'safety net')
- 5 Nevertheless, Denmark still imports 8% of its power from nuclear sources and the rest from coal fired sources. Consequently, they are big (indirect) emitters of CO2 and in 2005/06 CO2 emissions even increased.....by 43%.
- 6 Also have a valuable green reputation and income to protect (hence the Copenhagen summit). They control approx. 20% of global wind industry (one article claims Vestas alone controls 20%) and until 2000, 55% of all turbines used were produced by danish companies. Vestas is allegedly the world's leading wind technology supplier. The danish government decided to back wind in 1970's when there was an oil crisis and because at the time Danes were almost totally dependent on oil. But in 2004 there were only **5 new** turbines installed in Denmark! And in 2002-07 the number of danish turbine manufacturers dropped form 8 to 3.
- 7 Green jobs in Denmark are subsidized at 175-250% above av. pay.

Conclusion (mine): not even close to a 20% renewable energy target (and probably never will be) and meanwhile the cost of electricity is astronomical