

## **The Need for Wind Power**

Energy is an essential element to economic and social development. Securing the energy supply is one of the major challenges. An increased world population, an enlarged global economy and higher standards of living all contribute to larger demands for energy. Many countries, including Malta, are still heavily dependent on oil which will eventually become depleted within a few decades. At the same time, we are facing one of the greatest threats ever: climate change. Climate change is a major threat to both the environment and the economy.

Among the new renewable energy sources, electricity obtained from the wind is one of the most technologically advanced, as well as being financially competitive, compared to traditional sources of electricity generation.

### **Advantages of wind power include:**

- Wind power is a clean source of energy. Its fuel is the wind and therefore produces no pollution.
- Wind power is a renewable energy source. New wind is created every day by the heating and cooling of the earth.
- The price of wind power is not affected by fuel price increases or supply disruptions.
- Wind power creates jobs. The wind industry is creating thousands of new 'green collar' jobs each year at an ever-expanding rate worldwide.
- It is estimated that technological advances, wind power costs can be as low as a five to twelve eurocents per kilowatt hour (when installed on land), cheaper than energy from oil-fired power stations.
- The footprint of wind turbines is very small and less than 1% of the total space required. The rest of the land can be used for other purposes such as farming and recreation.
- Wind energy makes it possible to establish a large volume of Megawatts in a relatively short time.
- The environmental impacts of wind turbines are very small. Unlike buildings, wind turbines should be looked at as temporary structures (lifetime 20-25years) which leave negligible impact once removed.
- Wind farms are now considered as an attraction for tourism and recreational activities.