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AN EVALUATION OF WIND POWER INVESTMENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESSES IN TURKEY

Nermin Merve Yalçinkaya*

Çukurova University, Faculty of Architecture, Department of Landscape Architecture, Turkey

Abstract

Energy is a sector with a major influence on sustainability. During the production and consumption of energy, environmental conditions are affected in many ways from the exhaustion of natural resources to the creation of various forms of pollution. In the last decade, Turkey has recorded the highest increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions among all the OECD countries. Although the pace of growth has levelled off in recent years, Turkey’s emissions are expected to more than double between 2015 and 2030. As demand for energy in Turkey is rising in parallel with the growth of the economy, the present fossil fuel-based generating capacity will need to be replaced by renewable energy sources. This study investigates the share of renewable energy sources – and specifically of wind power – in Turkey’s total installed electricity generation capacity and determines the place of wind power plants and the priority attached to them at the policy level by examining the major policy documents on the topic. In addition, research was conducted into how the environmental assessment processes in Turkey are actually enforced with respect to these sectoral facilities. As a result, the study makes proposals both for wind power plants and for holistically addressing the energy sector in a way that supports sustainable development.

Key words: impact assessment systems, renewable energy, sustainable development, wind energy

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* Author to whom all correspondence should be addressed: e-mail: nbaykan@cu.edu.tr; Phone: +903223386545; Fax: +903223386189