



FOR A TRULY GREEN AND JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

RENEWABLES YES, BUT NOT LIKE THIS

ALIENTE IN ALMERIA

We support the need of making the transition to renewable energies due to climate emergency we are facing. We want a truly sustainable energy model based on energy savings, energy efficiency and self-consumption with respect to territories, local economies and biodiversity, which benefits people and not big business, once again.

In Almeria, as in almost all of Spain, both the central and regional governments have opted for the so-called centralised model of gigantic wind and photovoltaic plants without planning or attending to the real needs (demographic, energy and environmental) of our land,. There are already more than 140 renewable energy mega-plant projects threatening our province and turning the territories of our villages and seas into sacrifice zones. In many cases, they are accompanied by fraudulent practices with deceitful and abusive lease contracts, the fragmentation of projects or the use of an electricity sector law that allows expropriation for public utility, which benefits just a few.

Many of these projects are often sold and resold, multiplying their value before they are even developed.

The massive and unregulated expansion of renewable energy involves the occupation of thousands of hectares with solar and wind power plants, power stations and evacuation lines. Many of these industrial renewable energy installations affect areas of high ecological, agricultural, hunting, landscape, social and cultural value, as well as being a habitat and refuge for species of flora and fauna that are exclusive to our geography and seriously threatened. The selection of land that will inevitably have to host large installations aimed at supplying energy to large cities must be rigorous, scientific, planned by the different administrations and agreed with the social agents of the territory, not leaving our countryside, seas and nature in the hands of the voracity of the market.

Industrial photovoltaic and wind power plants implemented without planning and public participation can:

- Destroy the soil
- Alter hydrogeological functioning, reducing water infiltration into aquifers.
- Occupy large areas of land, destroying biodiversity by causing fragmentation and loss of habitat.
- Increase air temperature, altering the balance of water and climate processes.
- Decrease the CO₂ absorption capacity of the soil by reducing photosynthetic capacity.
- Cause mortality of birds, cetaceans, fish and bats, as well as destruction and fragmentation of their habitat.
- Significant alteration of the landscape, occupation and destruction of agricultural land and fishing areas, which can jeopardise the natural and economic resources of rural areas, compromising food sovereignty.
- Destroy historical and archaeological heritage and associated economic resources.
- Damage sustainable tourist activity, linked to natural and heritage values and quality food products.



These industrial facilities hardly create stable jobs after their construction but destroy them in the agricultural, fishing and tourism sectors, further exacerbating the serious problems of depopulation, ageing and lack of community cohesion suffered by Almería. Companies take advantage of these aspects to speed up their projects, taking advantage of the reduced capacity for reaction, information and mobilisation in depopulated areas. The fewer people, the easier it is for them to do business. The Junta de Andalucía seems to have opted for the extractive development model of other times, by putting its population (emigration), its water (aquifers), and now its territory at the service of foreign interests. The province will be an energy colony of other territories, while our villages languish for lack of services, work and innovation and see their weak productive framework weakened even further.

In Almeria, there are more than 140 photovoltaic and wind power plants installed and planned and will occupy at least 45,000 hectares. In Andalusia there are projects presented for a total of 23 GW of photovoltaic power, when the national objectives for 2030 according to the PNIEC are 39 GW. The photovoltaic power planned in Campo de Tabernas (Almeria) is equivalent to 5.4% of that planned for the whole of Spain by 2030.

There are plants planned throughout the province, concentrated in some of the most environmentally and heritage-valuable areas of Almeria, such as Campo de Tabernas and Lucainena de las Torres area, where macro photovoltaic projects threaten to destroy the landscape that supports environmentally friendly activities, or as in the case of the Mar de Agata offshore wind farm, near the Cabo de Gata Natural Park and Biosphere Reserve, which would contribute to increasing the loss of naturalness of this area, or the photovoltaic projects in the area around Los Millares site, which is in the process of being declared a World Heritage Site.

It is important for us to be clear that:

- By threatening biodiversity, we compromise health.
- By invading agricultural, livestock and fishing areas and directly punishing the primary sector, we put food sovereignty at risk.
- By aggressively altering the landscape, we lose an important part of the identity of our territories and jeopardise the local economy, which has been based for decades on sustainability.
- Industrial development practices have no positive impact on the social level, as we can see directly in the price of electricity.
- With the loss of the cultural value of rural areas, hollowed-out regions are cornered, encouraging depopulation and territorial and social inequality.

The distributed model, based on small installations, with self-consumption and energy communities, makes it possible to take advantage of the virtues of renewable energies and reduce their impacts, brings energy production closer to the points of consumption, enables the democratisation of energy and the reduction of energy poverty.



We denounce that:

- The energy transition in Spain and in Almeria is in the hands of private entities and corporations, driven by foreign investors. This is favouring a new speculative bubble that turns our territories into an extractive source of profits.
- There is no planning for the expansion of renewables, neither by the State nor by the Andalusian Regional Government. The policy is only concerned with the number of gigawatts of production and the creation of short-term jobs in order to sell short-term results. The selection of locations is left in the hands of developers who focus only on economic criteria, planning in areas close to high voltage grid feed points, and within these areas, in turn, on the cheapest land, to the serious detriment of local farmers, especially the youngest ones. Moreover, it is precisely these highly biodiverse soils that offer some of the last refuges for endangered bird species, not only in Europe, but in some cases even worldwide.
- If someone does not want to lease or sell their land, they are threatened or resort directly to an expropriation law inherited from the Franco regime.
- The public administrations, instead of providing rigorous information to neighbours and town councils, are tolerating fraudulent practices such as the fragmentation of projects, facilitating the violation of the protection of rural land provided for by law and usurping the town councils' urban planning powers. The Junta de Andalucía is defending industrial energy interests and forgetting the protection of the environment and the landscape.

Our proposal for a just energy transition is:

1. We propose a temporary halt of 6 months, which would mean the temporary suspension of authorisations for the production of electricity from renewable sources of more than 5MW, as well as their evacuation infrastructures which are being processed and are not linked to self-consumption or community energy projects. Also the ones that have not had real citizen participation, through a procedure of free prior informed consent and until a dialogue table is organised to reach an Energy Pact in Almeria. This dialogue table should be formed by the different actors linked to this problem. From ALIENTE in Almeria, we propose that at least by: UAL, EEZA/CSIC, CIEMAT, SEO/BirdLife, Ecologistas en Acción, GEM, ALIENTE, Plataforma Stop Parque Eólico Mar de Ágata, Plataforma Salvemos Campo de Tabernas, Plataforma para la Protección del Valle y la Vía Verde de Lucainena" and other local platforms fighting for the territory, Asociación Amigos de la Alcazaba, ASHAL, Sindicatos Agrarios and Cofradías de Pescadores.
2. Assess our capacity of energy saving.
3. Enhance energy efficiency strategies, rather than authorising and financing the construction of new generation plants, in line with the European directives of the Winter Package.
4. Use all the possibilities of renewables to promote self-consumption and energy communities.
5. Carry out land-use planning with citizen participation.
6. Ensure that public money is directed towards making energy a common good.
7. Preserve the natural environment, the primary sector and the landscape for future generations.



We also propose several specific alternatives in our province that would help to alleviate the negative effects of the current model

1. The implementation of solar energy photovoltaic cell panels completely transparent (transparent luminescent solar concentrator-TLSC) on the roofs of the more than 32,000 hectares of greenhouses in the province. This could cover almost all of Andalusia's electricity demand.
2. To study the possibility of replacing certain super-intensive olive tree crops in the Campo de Tabernas (which have not destroyed habitats of protected fauna and flora species and which have depleted water from the aquifers in the area) with photovoltaic plants. All the photovoltaic power projected in Almería today could be installed.