

Timeline Windfarm Autena in Vianen

The Autena wind farm in Vianen comprises three wind turbines with a combined capacity of 9 megawatts. It is situated between the A2 and A27 highways ([location in Google Maps](#)). In accordance with the request, this document presents a timeline of the key steps in the decision-making process for establishing this wind farm. Discussions during the hearing also included a wind farm in Houten. However, as no timeline was requested for the Houten wind farm, this document exclusively focuses on the Autena wind farm in Vianen.

| Date: | Document: | Content: | Explanation / status: |
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| 13 December 2004 | Provincial / Utrecht Regional Plan 2005-2015 (link) | Vianen area is designated as an indicative area for wind turbines. | In this plan, areas suitable for wind energy are indicated. Based on further research and plan development, decision-making would take place at a later stage regarding the final locations. |
| 14 September 2011 | Request mentioned in Letter from municipal council of Vianen dated 20 June 2012 (link) | The initiator of the wind farm requests the municipality to cooperate in principle with the procedure necessary for allowing the building of the wind turbines. | The initiator wishes to know if the municipality has a preliminary favorable view of the initiative. If there are strong objections to the plan in this initial stage, it is important to be aware of this, because the development of a plan and the following necessary procedures are expensive and time-consuming. It is, however, only a broad preliminary check. No promises for the final decisions are made here. |
| 20 March 2012 | Draft-Provincial Spatial Structural Vision / Provincial Spatial Policy Strategy 2013-2028 (link) | In the draft plan, the Vianen area is no longer designated as an indicative area. | The Provincial Spatial Structural Vision is a follow-up for the next period. The indicative areas have been narrowed down. |
| 3 April 2012 | Letter from municipal council of Vianen dated 20 June 2012 (link) | The municipal council of Vianen decides in principle to be willing to cooperate with the request for the realization of 3 wind turbines at the Autena-location by the highway A2. | This type of principle decision is a starting point for conducting environmental studies and drafting the zoning plan. This decision does not limit the possibility for the municipal council to make a different decision at a later stage. |

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| | | | <p>The decision was published and there were opportunities for participation in several ways, including public meetings at which opinions could be voiced.</p> <p>The letter states that a draft agreement will be prepared and send. We have not been able to determine the exact date when it was sent.</p> |
| 11 May 2012 | Views presented by the municipality of Vianen to the draft Provincial Spatial Structural Vision (link) | The municipality of Vianen submits a view on the draft plan and requests the province to include the Vianen location nonetheless. | |
| 4 February 2013 | Memorandum of Reply (link) And Definitive Provincial Spatial Structural Vision / Provincial Spatial Policy Strategy 2013-2028 (link) | The province decides not to grant the request to include the location in the plan, because it would require significant changes compared to the original draft. Instead, the province initiates a separate revision procedure, allowing the public to fully participate and provide input regarding this proposal. | The Provincial Spatial Structural Vision has self-binding effect on the province. It is not legally binding for local governments or citizens; however local authorities should take policy strategies of higher authorities into account in het weighing of interests relating to spatial decision-making and may not deviate from them without proper justification. |
| 10 March 2014 | First Partial Revision of Provincial Spatial Policy Strategy 2013-2028 (link) | The location for the Autena windfarm was added to the Revised Provincial Spatial Structural Vision. | After following the full participation and decision-making procedure, the province decides to revise the Provincial Spatial Structural Vision so as to include the Vianen location. |
| 12 June 2014 | Draft zoning plan windfarm Autena | Draft decision of the municipality of Vianen to change the zoning plan for allowing 3 wind turbines in the exact location where they would be built. | <p>The zoning plan was a necessary step to allow the wind turbines. The Provincial Spatial Structural Vision itself is not a ground for granting the building permit.</p> <p>Available for inspection and views by the public.</p> |

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| 18 August 2014 | Memorandum of reply to the zoning plan Windfarm Autena (link) | Several smaller adjustments to the plan were made following the views of the public. The most notable change was that an obligation was added for the initiator to make a yearly contribution to a fund for spatial quality. The draft anterior agreement was changed to add this obligation. | |
| 30 September 2014 | Definitive zoning plan for windfarm Autena (link) | The definitive plan was approved by the municipal council. | A zoning plan is legally binding for the municipality and the public. |
| 30 September 2014 | Anterior Agreement (link) | On the same day as the approval of the zoning plan the Anterior Agreement was signed and entered into force. | The Anterior Agreement primarily contains provisions regarding the responsibility for the costs of necessary infrastructure facilities. If the zoning plan had not been approved, the agreement would not be signed. In that case, for the costs made up to that point the general municipal regulation would apply. |
| 17 December 2014 | Environmental permit | The environmental permit for the construction of the wind farm was granted by the municipality of Vianen. | |
| 27 May 2015 | Judgment on the appeal to the Council of State to the zoning plan (link) | The appeal has been dismissed by the Council of State. | The Council of State is the court of appeal for administrative law. This decision includes the dismissal of the claim that the decision-making procedure was not in line with the Aarhus Convention. |
| 14 December 2016 | Judgment on the appeal to the Council of State to the environmental permit (link) | The appeal has been dismissed by the Council of State. | |
| 2017 | Construction of the wind farm | | |