Three quarters of people support onshore wind in the UK. But talking about it can be hard – we’ve all met a few naysayers. Onshore wind needs champions. Here are few things to have up your sleeve if you’re ever chatting to a friend, someone at work or your MP or councillor.

1. Wind power is cheap

Onshore wind is really really cheap. In fact, it’s now the cheapest form of new-build energy in the UK – and is able to deliver power subsidy free.
In 2017, offshore and onshore wind turbines produced 15% of UK electricity. Scotland regularly has full days where wind turbines produce enough electricity to meet all of their needs. Last year, onshore wind gave us more power than coal. When it’s really windy, wind can now produce over a third of our electricity.

Wind power is a cheap and reliable way to tackle climate change. The electricity generated by wind turbines is 100% clean. Building a wind turbine, like building anything, creates some carbon emissions. But the emissions produced in building them are offset in a matter of months by the clean power they produce.

If you’re worried about conservation, climate change is the biggest threat to our landscapes, species and habitats. And wind power is one of the key solutions available to tackle it. That’s why the RSPB built a wind turbine at their HQ. The key is to build turbines in the right places. It’s important to do proper surveys and make sure new turbines are sited well and don’t disturb wildlife.

Depending on the weather, wind turbines cause some variations in electricity supply for the National Grid. But it’s predictable, so we’re able to plan for and deal with it. As we build more renewable energy, we will need to build a smarter, more flexible Grid. Wind will be one of several complementary sources of power – along with solar, tidal, wave, and of course better energy storage.
6. Wind turbines are popular

The government’s latest figures show that 76% of the UK public support onshore wind. That’s far higher than nuclear and fracking. 65% of people would be happy living within five miles of a wind farm. Many people think wind turbines are inspiring and majestic. 66% of people polled said they were ok with the way wind turbines look. And, who likes the way coal fired power stations look?!

7. Wind turbines and the local area

Unless you’re up close, modern wind turbines should sound like a fridge’s hum. There are regulations about where turbines can be built so that the noise won’t disturb people. And there’s no evidence that noise from wind turbines has a direct physiological impact on health.

For more info check out 1010uk.org/blownaway