



DESIGNERS OF a new type of wind turbine are hoping to see the structure erected on Buckingham Palace after applying for planning permission from Westminster Council. Commercial director of manufacturer XCO2 Julia Grove admitted the application was "a bit tongue and cheek" but explained the point was to demonstrate what was possible and inspire more use of renewables in the city. The 6kW, 5m high turbine has three vertically aligned helical blades that the designers claim allow for better performance in the fluctuating wind conditions found in built up areas. It also reduces the amount of space required. At £25,000, the generator will take 15 to 20 years to pay for itself by lowering energy costs. However, light emitting diodes fitted to the blades can display a 4.5m high, 3m wide image and could be used as advertising space. Groves said the company plans to cut costs to £15,000 a unit when production rises and is looking at sourcing components from overseas to further reduce the cost.