

The renewable energy sector in Scotland

Evidence of Stuart Young

1. My name is Stuart Young. I am a retired Construction Consultant. I am opposed to windfarm development and its promotion through market distortion which penalises the consumer while delivering no demonstrable environmental benefit. I was Chair of Caithness Windfarm Information Forum for 6 years, and I am author of the report "ANALYSIS OF UK WIND POWER GENERATION NOVEMBER 2008 TO DECEMBER 2010" <https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/about/resources/594-analysis-of-uk-wind-power-generation-november-2008-to-december-2010>
2. The thrust of the consultation is "how can we support the renewables industry against the threat of removal of subsidies by Westminster".
3. My message is to each individual committee member. I urge each of you to consider that you were elected to represent your constituents and collectively the people of Scotland. You were not elected to further the aims of any particular section of industry.
4. It could be that a particular section of industry is worthy of support if it generally benefits society and that would be a reasonable thing to do if you had ascertained that it was in the public interest to do so.
5. Have you ascertained beyond reasonable doubt that it is in the public interest to support the continuing subsidy of the renewables industry at the expense of the consumer?
6. No-one was asked to vote for subsidising renewables so that some fortunate people could benefit at the expense of the vast majority of consumers.
7. If you have any doubt that UK energy is in a parlous situation, consider these three facts:
 - a. The Strathy North Windfarm in Sutherland became operational early in November 2015. Between 12th November 2015 and 2nd February 2016, it was paid £2,808,000 for not generating 26,000 MWh of electricity. Strathy North Windfarm is surplus to requirements. Any future windfarms will similarly be surplus to requirements.
 - b. National Grid has engaged a fleet of diesel generators to be on standby to be able to step in when wind fails to deliver electricity. Wind was supposed to eliminate the need for diesel generation.
 - c. Recently National Grid has floated the idea of giving away surplus wind generation free of charge because it is cheaper to buy it and give it away than it is to constrain it off.
8. Consider this: *You engage a milkman to deliver 2 pints a day. He delivers 2 on Sunday, none on Monday, 1 on Tuesday, 3 on Wednesday, 1 on Thursday, 3 on Friday, and 4 on Saturday. Job done, you have had your weekly ration of 14 pints. An average of 2 pints a day.* You would sack your milkman after week one. You wouldn't pay him extra for being unreliable, and you wouldn't pay for the surplus milk on

the days there is too much and you wouldn't pay him more to take the surplus away when you can't use it either. But that is exactly what we do when we rely on wind generated electricity.

9. Consider also that if you have one solar panel and one wind turbine and there is no sun and no wind, no amount of extra panels or turbines will change the amount of electricity you get.
10. **In conclusion, rather than try to support the renewables industry, I urge you to campaign for a rational energy policy which depends on sound engineering principles and a grasp of reality.**

Stuart Young
16th February 2016