

<p>Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru</p> <p>Pwyllgor Amgylchedd a Chynaliadwyedd</p>	<p>National Assembly for Wales</p> <p>Environment and Sustainability Committee</p>
<p>Dyfodol Ynni Craffach i Gymru?</p>	<p>A Smarter Energy Future for Wales?</p>
<p>Yr un ymateb gan nifer o ymatebwyr (Saesneg yn unig)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roberta Owen • Matt Grover • Kim Dewsbury • Vicky Leech • Clare Johnson • Mari Arthur 	<p>Identical response from numerous respondents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roberta Owen • Matt Grover • Kim Dewsbury • Vicky Leech • Clare Johnson • Mari Arthur
<p>SEFW 02</p>	<p>SEFW 02</p>



August 2015

Dear Environment and Sustainability Committee,

Re: Consultation - A Smart Energy Future for Wales?

I am encouraged to hear that the Welsh Assembly's Environment and Sustainability Committee is conducting an Inquiry into 'A Smarter Energy Future for Wales'.

This is a very positive step forwards and would allow us to make better use of the many natural resources for producing energy we have in abundance in Wales, namely wind, water and the sun. We must ensure that communities in Wales are able to own and produce their own energy.

In Germany in recent years their 'Energiewende' (energy transition) strategy has led to cross party political support for targets including one for a 50% reduction in primary energy use by 2050 and one for achieving an 80% renewable electricity share of total consumption by 2050.

- In early 2012, around 25% of Germany's power was generated from renewable sources;
- In 2011, over 380,000 people were employed in the renewable energy sources industry;
- Only 13% of Germany's 60 GW of renewable energy is owned by utilities, with the rest being owned by households, communities, and farmers among others.

The benefits of the Energiewende are clear - more local ownership, more jobs, more security of supply and concrete action to tackle climate changing emissions from energy.

We now need a clear and ambitious vision for Wales, and a commitment to approving community-led energy developments on a scale not seen before. We need to change the way the grid and supply systems operate in Wales to prioritise a locally-led, locally-owned, and locally-supplied renewables revolution.

An energy transformation in Wales has the capacity to create many new jobs in Wales, and crucially in areas that desperately need them. Increased employment in Germany is across all skill levels — from highly specialised technicians to farm hands — and geographically spread, particularly useful to stop the economic decline of rural areas and the migration to towns and cities.

A further benefit in Germany has been the retrofitting of large social housing schemes with energy efficiency measures and renewable energy systems thereby reducing energy bill costs or eliminating them entirely in new 'passive house' buildings.

I would like to ask that the Environment and Sustainability Committee's inquiry on 'A Smarter Energy Future for Wales' to consider the following points:

- That the Welsh Government sets a target for energy consumption reduction in Wales.
- That the Welsh Government sets a target for community renewable energy in Wales.
- That there is priority access in Wales to the National Grid for community renewable energy schemes.
- That energy market rules in Wales are changed to permit and prioritise local energy supply so that people can buy electricity generated by community renewable energy groups more cheaply than they can buy it from big utilities. This is of particular importance to those communities suffering from high fuel poverty numbers as they will have the option of cheaper local supplies.

Thank you for the chance to input into this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

