

B735215

24

Carnie M (Mary)

From: Francis Okyere [francis.okyere@thirdwave.org.uk]
Sent: 20 March 2006 16:44
To: francis.okyere@thirdwave.org.uk
Subject: SSDF Draft Submission to DTI Energy Review Consultation

This email has been received from an external party and
has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

Dear Forum Member,

The Secretariat is kindly seeking your comments on the draft submission by the Scottish Sustainable Development Forum SSDF to the DTI's Energy Review Consultation- Our Energy Challenge: Securing clean, affordable energy for the longer term'.
The submission is based on conclusions and recommendations from the workshop on Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability during the 2006 SSDF Plenary convened at the Scottish Parliament

Please email any comments to the Secretariat: ssdfsec@thirdwave.org.uk by 10am Tuesday 4th April 2006. Please note we cannot take onboard any comments after this date.

Kind regards

Francis

Francis Okyere
SSDF Secretariat
Thirdwave Scotland Ltd
8 Maritime Street
Edinburgh
EH6 6SB
0131 625 1465

PLEASE NOTE: THE ABOVE MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED FROM THE INTERNET.

On entering the GSi, this email was scanned for viruses by the Government Secure Intranet (GSI) virus scanning service supplied exclusively by Cable & Wireless in partnership with MessageLabs.

Please see <http://www.gsi.gov.uk/main/notices/information/gsi-003-2002.pdf> for further details.

In case of problems, please call your organisational IT helpdesk

Scottish Sustainable Development Forum

Draft Response to Energy Review Consultation

March 2006

Scottish Sustainable
Development Forum



Scottish Sustainable Development Forum (SSDF)

Draft submission to the DTI Energy Review/Consultation – ‘Our Energy Challenge: Securing clean, affordable energy for the longer term’, January 2006

1. Background:

1.1 This submission is based on the conclusions and recommendations of an interdisciplinary workshop on ‘Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability’, which took place during the course of a Plenary conference of SSDF convened at the Scottish Parliament on Monday 30 January 2006.

1.2 The opening session of the Plenary was addressed by Mr Ross Finnie, MSP, Environment and Rural Development Minister and Ms Sarah Boyack, MSP, Chair of the Environment and Rural Affairs Committee of the Scottish Parliament. Ms Boyack was also one of the participants in the Energy workshop.

2. Questions for the SSDF Energy Workshop:

2.1 We need to take responsibility for all of our individual actions at work and at home when using and demanding energy. This is primarily a moral and ethical responsibility that requires more informed and careful judgement at all levels of society given the prospect of increasing climate change and a probable end to the availability of low-cost energy.

Q1. Who will accept the leadership role in taking the essential next steps?

Q2. Is reliance on a regulatory and statutory framework the only way forward?

Q3. How can we achieve a general change of attitude towards the use of energy?

2.2 There should be a public debate throughout Scotland about the future energy ‘mix’ required to sustain all sectors – domestic, industrial and commercial – of the Scottish economy. Although the UK energy policy is a reserved subject under the Scotland Act 1998, political opinion and key planning decisions taken on renewables or relating to alternative/innovative sources of electrical power generation within Scotland will have a major influence on the longer term outcomes across the UK as a whole, given the inter-connected nature of the power distribution networks.

Q4. What is feasible and what will work for the next generation of power stations?

Q5. Are all the Scottish claims linked to the aspiration of ‘40% renewables by 2020’ valid?

Q6. What are the risks and uncertainties of increasing dependency on renewable energy?

2.3 The preparation of a new Scottish energy efficiency strategy linked to sustainable development and cross-sectoral energy conservation is urgently required. Attempts have been made in the past to achieve this, but little has changed in practice. There is now a clear window of opportunity given the urgency of actions required in relation to climate change and all sectors of the Scottish economy should be systematically targeted.

- Q7. What are the first steps needed for an energy efficiency strategy to work in practice?
- Q8. What are the responsibilities of professional groups, e.g., architects, designers and builders? to carry forward the aims and objectives of energy conservation?
- Q9. What is the role of central and local government in defining specific targets?
- Q10. What reduction in energy consumption is likely to be achieved during the first decade of a renewed energy efficiency strategy and how should this be monitored and reported?

3. Conclusions and Recommendations:

3.1 Energy Efficiency

Authoritative reviews have often estimated that 20 to 30% of cost effective energy savings are achievable, and have indicated that most of these savings remain largely untapped. Energy efficiency is both morally justified and economically worthwhile. A key question is therefore, how to provide incentives that will realise this energy saving potential - to individuals, communities, companies, public sector institutions, charities – in short, *everyone*.

We agree with unofficial signals from Government that energy prices are not likely to go down in future. However, relying on rising energy prices or the doubtful efficiency of global markets will bring pressure to bear on the wrong people, particularly the poor. More is needed in the way of providing rewards, information, encouragement and incentives in different ways. It was pointed out there is a "free rider" aspect of energy consumption which needs to be countered, so that people begin to regard energy as something precious and to be looked after well, rather than something assumed to be always available on demand.

We therefore need the means to bring home to people the wider aspects of what they are consuming. For example, we continue to face the problem that as citizens we do not have a realistic way of registering or monitoring the environmental costs (for example, in landscape, pollution, risks, infrastructure costs) of our energy consumption at the point of delivery, in the price-at-the-pump, at the gas meter, or regularly in the print-outs of our electricity and gas bills. This leads to recommendations below about meters and bills.

3.2 Renewable Energy

We wish to emphasise the potential of Scotland to develop renewables economically and efficiently. Scotland has the capacity to be a world leader in marine renewable technology building on the last thirty years of experience in offshore and petroleum engineering in support of the North Seas oil and gas industry. However, the infrastructure needs to be further developed to enable progressive industrial companies to exploit renewable technologies and the science base to support them. We should not wish to see original British technological innovations in the field of renewable energy being exploited, developed and marketed in countries such as Denmark or Portugal.

3.3 Nuclear Energy

The nuclear issue was discussed and various opinions were expressed as to whether or not this would be a significant factor in contending with future climate change. Nuclear power was described as being only one in a hierarchy of possible energy supply options. It depends upon working assumptions as to whether this option would fall to the bottom of the list or be retained at a higher point. Different opinions were expressed on the future significance of the nuclear option. The point was made that nuclear power systems will continue to be available in global markets whether or not Scotland decides to continue to support the technology.

3.4 Actions Required

We identified the different levels at which action should be taken – by central government, by political parties, by energy utilities, and by individuals and communities.

1. By Central Government

1. We call for a **Scottish Sustainable Energy Network** to be run as a ‘virtual community’, consisting of databases, reference files and back-up support compiled from the acquired experience and detailed infrastructure associated with new energy technologies, practice and industrial application in Scotland. This should cover planning, distribution and support for renewables and micro-renewables, large-scale power generation, and the non-electricity sector (to provide a sharper focus on energy saving). The Network would be accessible to all sectors of the economy and should include the energy utilities, energy suppliers, energy construction and service companies.
2. We are concerned about existing low levels of government financial assistance. We would wish to see increased incentives for domestic and community renewables plus energy conservation measures. Without this further cash injection from central government, the energy savings potential identified in Scotland’s Sustainable Development Strategy ‘*Choosing our Future*’ (December 2005) will not to be delivered.
3. We recommend the introduction of Building Regulations incorporating instructions for building developers on revised standards to encourage the widespread use of passive solar and other energy saving features in all new building design - domestic, public and industrial. We believe that this will not happen unless government introduces statutory requirements that are binding on developers rather than merely providing advice and guidance.
4. Scotland’s energy resource and economic potential in marine (tidal and wave) renewable energy systems indicates the need for development on a scale that considerably exceeds the small discreet sums of funding available. For example, instead of complaints to the EC about Portugal and a fixed price contract for developing the Polamis wave device, we believe that the government should be encouraging and promoting its uptake here.
5. Although past estimates have been made of the employment potential of the various energy policy options, the numbers of jobs and their projected distribution of jobs are largely uncertain. We suggest that the government should commission an urgent study as part of the current Energy Review and include the estimates in a report to Parliament.

2. By Political Parties

6. We call upon all the political parties to acknowledge the probable continuing upward trend in fossil fuel prices. This is an important part of the public message in relation to the development of energy saving and renewables technology. The fear of losing votes by acknowledging this trend would be avoided if all political parties would make such a statement.

3. By Government and Energy Utilities

7. Micro-generation at a domestic and at a community level is being seriously constrained by present metering systems which fail to balance the flow of electricity to and from small-scale producers connected to the national grid. We call for two-way dynamic metering to become the adopted standard in this area coupled with flexible tariffs to optimise production levels from renewables in local areas.
8. Smart meters should be installed by the utilities in all households to provide users with information on more detailed aspects of energy usage rather than the present charging systems. If meters were replaced when we switched to North Sea gas, then we need to change again for an era of low carbon economy. To provide relevant feedback on levels of energy consumption associated with various activities, and their effect on the wider environment, would be an incentive to change the way we use energy. This is a direct means of changing public attitudes and would lead forward to more sustainable means of energy usage.

4. Actions at an Individual Level

9. We take the view that advertising preferences for high performance cars and new kitchens rather than saving energy needs to be addressed with regard to personal life-style choices. For example, more work needs to be done to create a public image that energy saving and use of micro-renewables are attractive and socially responsible options which provide a contribution to sustainability that is long term, significant and worthwhile.

5. Actions at a Community Level

10. We suggest that use of micro-renewables in communities has great potential which will not be achieved without considerable effort. Street-by-street schemes or the involvement of community organisations such as churches, schools, village halls need to be explored. Encouragement and the incentives to become responsible for a proportion of electricity production, heating and fuel should be part of the life of every community.
11. Public messages, for example, that leaving lights on, and electronic, computer or other systems on stand-by, are completely wasteful forms of energy usage, need to be widely promoted. Schools, churches, trade unions, NGOs, community and voluntary organisations have major roles to play in raising awareness of all energy issues.

