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3.2.1

Improve the electricity grid to better handle wind-turbines;  
the annual expenditure of some 60M euro pa over the last 10 years  
is a derisory amount to have spent.

Build zero-emission coal-fired AND natural gas fired power plant(s).

Coal is abundant & will continue to be used for many many years to come.

Liquefied natural gas will improve both our diversity and our security of supply.

3.2.2

Increase transmission voltages nationally upwards from 440 kV ( a substantial proportion of the electricity that we generate is wasted during transmission, etc.)

Standardise interconnection voltages to neighbouring countries particularly the North

The availability of our power plants to generate electricity is below international norms that is, they are not being run at optimum efficiency. Reform ESB management to develop professional standards.

3.2.3

Build liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage facility NOW; do not leave it to the private sector. A national reserve is a strategic requirement for Ireland.

Use the LNG facility to feed a zero-emission power plant as well.

3.2.4

Probably the small size of the market.

3.2.5

Start with the North by standardising on grid voltages; at the moment we only communicate at 110 kV

But it is important not to rely overly much on imported electricity ... we cannot, as a country, hand

over control of this vital aspect of our economy. The same applies to our natural gas supply; we

cannot accept a situation where we are totally reliant on Russia (and those countries in between)

for our natural gas.

3.2.6

The conditions for granting exploration licenses appear to be reasonably generous; given the past record

of economic finds however it does not seem that bonanzas are just around the corner so terms will have to be continually

revised to encourage exploration.

The Corrib situation must not be allowed to re-occur. Clearly the Departments concerned did not do their homework beforehand and think through the situation. One key aspect that was missed was the benefit to the local community or rather the lack of.

3.2.7

LNG storage is the top priority.

3.2.8

Yes, it seems to have some of the key points covered but it persists in confusing energy policy with

Kyoto commitments. Trying to frame an energy policy based on carbon reduction is bound to fail.

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3.2.9

Improve e-grid

Facilitate planning process for wind farms

### 3.2.10

Renewables have almost no role to play in the transport sector in the near to medium term future

except in a very limited sense (say 5-10% of the total.)

Why? Climate is all wrong, arable area insufficient, etc., etc. A major US study has concluded recently that even the USA cannot replace fossil fuels by biofuels.

The concern is that we will get around this situation by importing cheap palm oil from the tropics and thereby accelerate the destruction of the tropical rainforest.

Simple regulation by Government (limiting engine size for example) could achieve reductions in fuel usage much more efficiently and far cheaper than trying to switch to biofuels.

In the domestic heat sector emissions from biomass would be worse for the environment, particularly the impact on human health.

It takes minutes to burn biomass, yet at least a year to grow. This is basic science which the report does not seem to appreciate ...

### 3.2.11

Publish and enforce strict building regs. all new builds to have triple glazing, so many square meters of solar panels, etc., etc. this is easy to do & politically neutral.

Existing builds are more difficult and more expensive to retro-fit but grants for domestic wind turbines might be looked at again.

The typical Irish car is less efficient and more polluting today than it was 5 to 10 years ago despite the fact automotive engineers are continually improving the performance of internal combustion engines. If it is judged that reductions in consumption are necessary then limiting engine size or issuing fuel vouchers which enable the consumer to purchase 600 litres at the normal price but extra supplies will carry a premium of say 100% (this additional money to be spent solely on public transport infrastructure not simply disappear into Govt. coffers) are better tools than a blanket "carbon tax" of 5 cents a litre or whatever..

### 3.2.12

The commitment to spend 3.8 billion over 7 years is welcome, as is the fact that energy has finally been

identified as a key area for Ireland; however, it is expected to spend 70% of the funds in the first two years of the programme. This is a huge sum of money and one would have expected

that a clear and defined plan of action had been framed, but the section on energy is one of the

strangest it has been my misfortune to read. It seems to have been written in complete isolation

from the real world. The Department and its advisers need to get out more often.

### 3.2.13

Reward those research groups that are producing trained personnel,  
that have a track record in winning research contracts from the EU,  
that have an international profile.

Do not put all the research eggs in the one renewable basket; today and for the foreseeable future the

dominant energy supply will come from fossil fuels. We need trained people who understand the combustion process

#### 3.2.14

BioEnergy is not THE answer; it can help but we need an Energy Strategy first and foremost. How about creating a new agency "Unsustainable Energy Ireland"? (note that the document has three times more mentions of "biomass" than of "liquefied natural gas".)

#### 3.2.15

Mix

#### 3.2.16

No; it has way too much stress on renewables and almost nothing to say about unsustainable energy.

There is an elephant in the room yet all the discussion is about the mouse in the corner!

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#### 3.2.17

The regulatory agencies seem to be working well in this regard. Clearly if we could snap our fingers and have alternative sources of supply right now that would enhance competition, efficiencies, etc.

#### 3.2.18

No idea.

#### 3.2.19

Use extra profits to improve infrastructure (grid); Ireland is one of the poorest countries in the world judged on infrastructure ... very little of the Celtic Tiger funds have been spent on public transport, hardly any on rail, etc., etc. No motorways outside of Leinster!

We have not invested sufficiently in those things that benefit everybody, that is infrastructure. There is not much point in us driving around in luxurious cars if the road network is of a 3rd world standard.

You can't have a knowledge economy without a reliable secure energy supply.

#### 3.2.20

Not impressed by ESB; they (and the Department) do not seem to have participated in EU discussions aimed at setting the agenda for FP7. Zero-emission power plants represent a possible scenario which will sustain us until nuclear (fusion?) makes its appearance.

BnM are in an ideal position to apply their location (beside a city of 1 million plus), personnel and expertise to producing energy from waste since the peat market will continue to contract. It is unclear whether they have the capacity to break with their traditional business & move in new directions.

#### 3.2.21

A combination of means testing and vouchers?

#### 3.2.22

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