

General Observations:

1)The three policy pillars mentioned at the outset may all be strengthened and indeed guaranteed ONLY through a fourth pillar titled INDIGENOUS RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT.

2)The phrase CLIMATE CHANGE used throughout the document is a euphemism, which could be more accurately and meaningfully be replaced with CLIMATE DAMAGE.

3)The imperatives of an 'EU directive' should throughout the document be equally balanced and strengthened by references to the responsibilities and obligations to it's citizens incurred by a sovereign state and republic.

4)I would also reccomend the universal adoption of the attached Charter as a tool to raise awareness, raise targets, and raise action TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE FOR IRELAND.

Yours sincerely,

Ronnie Owens

**RENEWABLE ENERGY CHARTER FOR IRELAND
[RENEWABLE ENERGY CHARTER USING RIGHTS
AND RESPONSIBILITIES (RECURR)]**



With growing energy demand from an increasing global population, the harmful effects of fossil and nuclear power have reached the point where we are compromising the future of this planet, and even its current stability. Fossil and nuclear fuels are finite, and we are at or near the point where their depletion is irreversibly affecting their price and availability.

Consequently, this generation has an interest in and obligation to move to a sustainable model, including in particular sustainable energy, which will provide a high quality of life, a high quality environment and maximise the economic benefits to the general population.

In Ireland we are particularly vulnerable, since we are almost totally dependant on imported fossil fuels for all our energy needs. The

situation has become quite urgent, since we now face growing economic problems as a result.

Given the enormity of the challenge, it is imperative to adopt a **Renewable Energy Charter Using Rights and Responsibilities (RECURR)**, which would enable all citizens to appreciate and participate in solutions to the energy situation. This Charter seeks to achieve widespread agreement as to how a sustainable energy model can be achieved in Ireland. The signatories to this Charter agree to it as a whole.

NATURE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

Virtually all the usable energy on this planet has been or is being created by the sun. However, to avoid escalating supply and cost problems and environmental damage, we must move away from using stored energy (fossil fuels and nuclear). Instead, we need to use energy as it is delivered by the Sun, and indeed we need only use a small proportion of it. Such sources are known as renewable energies, and have many forms, including solar, wind, wave, hydro and biomass. Renewable energy sources are unlike any other source of energy we use for the following reasons:

1. Within the life of this Planet and the Sun, they are effectively permanent;
2. They are widely dispersed and thus more local to consumption and fully secure;
3. They are almost totally harmless to the environment and health;
4. They incur either low or zero fuel costs, and technological development is making them very competitive with increasingly expensive unsustainable traditional sources.

PRINCIPLES

1. The dispersed nature of renewable energies confers exploitation and consumption rights on all individuals and local communities;
2. There is a corresponding moral obligation to harness renewable energies, in the most sustainable way possible.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

1. Ireland is an island nation that is endowed with exceptional renewable energy resources, both onshore and offshore. These circumstances provide a unique and substantial economic opportunity. Ireland will now develop a major new multifaceted renewable energy industry.

2. Ireland will become completely self sufficient in all energy use based on renewable sources as soon as technically feasible, and at the latest by 2050. Ireland will, before 2050, become an exporter of renewable energy, renewable energy technology and globally valuable knowledge on full conversion to sustainable energy.

3. All who wish to be involved in harnessing renewable energy sources will be fully enabled to do so, all obstacles to that will be removed by those responsible within the shortest time technically possible, and Ireland's policy on renewable energy will be fully integrated.

4. The energy market, in its widest sense, will be restructured to remove economic obstacles, such as subsidies to non-renewable energy forms, and non-internalisation of

external costs (eg: the discriminatory emissions trading scheme); the 'polluter pays principle' will be fully implemented.

5. The energy market will be restructured to remove all technical obstacles, such as grid constraints, discriminatory grid access, local metering restrictions and administrative obstacles; the integration of renewable technologies with each other and into the system will be fully facilitated,

6. The energy market will become fully functional, with an optimal mix of public and private participation, full legal separation of responsibilities and ownerships, truly independent regulation guided by Government energy policy, and the complete removal of all market dominance.

7. While development will take place at maximum pace, it will also rely less on support or aid; it will instead strike a balance between achieving success through appropriate, fair market structures and sharing the benefits with consumers.

8. Access to markets is vital, and barriers to entry will be removed, though where opt-outs for projects are sought from market rules, standards, and so on, these will be facilitated where there is a local consensus.

9. For the purposes of this Charter, waste incineration and new large-scale hydro (other than its use as pure storage for renewables) are not to be regarded as renewable sources, although environmentally optimal treatment of clean separated renewable wastes can be included.

10. Ireland will promptly confirm the rights and duties of individuals to harness and use renewable energy.

ACTION

1. Transposition of this charter into Irish law, to include the enshrining of exploitation rights for local residents, communities, farmers and landowners, through legislative, and if necessary, constitutional change.

2. Reflection in the shortest time technically possible of the contents of this Charter in all Government policy, legislation, regulation and administrative procedures, to ensure a coordinated national approach to the rapid switch to sustainable energy (eg: Planning, National Spatial Strategy, policy on Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and National Heritage Areas, Agricultural, Rural and Regional policies, Marine policy, Transport policy, etc).

3. Imposition of government policy on the Commission for Energy Regulation through legislation.

4. Full legal and ownership separation from all other units within ESB of the electrical network, so that the network asset owners (the TAO & DAO) would remain in full public ownership and guarantee a fair market. Full and immediate compliance with EU legislation as regards legal separation of the two system operators (TSO & DSO). The disposal of any assets not essential to ESB's core business, or which in the view of the authorities, would leave it in a dominant position in any sub-segment of the market.

5. Government driven policies on public networks, including State investment in a fully separated public electrical

infrastructure, extension of the network offshore, advanced strategic infrastructure planning, a connection policy designed to separate costs at the interface, and also interim measures to reduce the burden on renewable energy projects.

6. Renewable support mechanism(s) designed to enable all concerned to participate, while sharing the economic benefits of renewable energy between projects and the consumer, and to avoid application of EU state aid rules, implying reliance on the German/Spanish guaranteed approach for electricity and not the UK market led approach; similar supports for renewable energy applications in heating and transport.

7. Development of suitable financial instruments to accelerate progress, eg: National Development Plan infrastructure funding; Special Savings & Investment Account type approach to funding; involvement of pension funds; cooperative ownership structures; large-scale, appropriately applied, research, development and demonstration funding for the emerging technologies, in particular renewable Combined Heat & Power, marine, transport and integrative technologies.

8. Altering the financial objectives guiding the Department of Finance to ensure optimal outcomes in line with this Charter, rather than simply optimal revenue.

9. Comprehensive community models to enable locals and communities to have effective priority to harness their local renewable energies.

10. Restructuring and appropriate funding of Sustainable Energy Ireland, so as to ensure it effectively and efficiently co-ordinates all elements of this Charter.