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Posted At: 07 September 2005 11:21
Posted To: Neth_Energy
Conversation: All-Island Energy Market Consultation
Subject: All-Island Energy Market Consultation

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to make the following submission in regard to the above consultation and I would also like this submission to be acknowledged and considered as part of the consultation report.

Ireland is very slow in harnessing and developing renewable energy especially in relation to wind our greatest exploitable energy resource at present. The reason for this slow take up is as follows:

1. **Lack of political commitment.** Other than larger companies there would appear to be no support for smaller companies, groups or individuals to develop renewable energy sources.
2. **Lack of Legislative support** especially in relation to feed-in law system. The ESB is doing its best to prevent access to the system at all levels. They are charging exorbitant prices for access to the system. On the continent anyone can feed back electricity into the system and in Germany you get paid for it. Here you will be brought to court and prosecuted.
3. **Lack of Fiscal or financial Support.** The individual can get no fiscal supports to develop his own alternative energy supply. For instance if an individual wishes to purchase a wind turbine there is no fiscal support and VAT must be paid at the full rate. The individual is penalised at every step of the way rather than being supported.
4. **Lack of Administrative Support.** There is no active support for the individual projects for renewable energy to be brought forward. The Planning system is again geared towards the large scale wind farms and big companies not the individual. The Planning Guidelines are far too conservative and geared towards preventing development rather than encouraging it.

I would make the following recommendations for change:

- Proper political support for renewable energies at all levels.
- A feed-in law and payment for electricity supplied from renewable energy sources.
- VAT discounts or grant aid at all levels for renewable energy projects.
- Planning Guidelines for smaller scale developments and a more positive planning approach to renewable energy.

Thank You and yours sincerely,

Donall Mac An Bheatha.

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