

DPD

From: Robert Wilkes
Sent: 12 February 2016 23:02
To: DPD
Subject: New Planning Guidance on Solar Development in Mid Devon.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Sirs,

There should already be established a planning guidance for moving to 100% renewable energy which incorporates wind, solar, bio mass, green gas, hydro on suitable rivers in our area, despite the current Government's policy towards the development of renewable energy.

The river Dart has more than one hydro scheme in operation. The Culm has great potential, however, I'm unaware of any plans to develop hydro, despite the numerous weirs & mills still in existence.

The council should be actively encouraging the development of solar farms (also rooftop solar on industrial, commercial & private dwellings IE: Tesco buildings & car parks). Solar farms on agricultural sites are a very positive development, with low visual impact and very little impact towards agricultural production, taking partly into account the excessive production of maize in the region, which does great environmental harm. Solar farms will benefit the wildlife, with the introduction of wildflower meadows & improvements to hedgerows.

Consultation with the National Grid should be carried out in relation to battery storage sites similar to the installation at Leighton Buzzard:

<http://www.power-technology.com/features/featureeuropes-largest-battery-creates-a-buzz-in-bedfordshire-4563310/>

Not considering wind farms is scandalous and should be actively encouraged, considering the increased energy supply to the National Grid from wind and the reduced costs of installation.

Green gas. MDDC should be actively in consultation with Ecotricity on the development of green gas in this area as per the following link :

<http://www.ecotricity.co.uk/our-green-energy/green-gas>

Therefore, solar should be further encouraged to form part of a properly integrated plan that makes the transition away from fossil fuels & nuclear towards a renewable energy smart grid infrastructure, in line with other European countries.

Yours faithfully,

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