

RENEWABLE ENERGY IN SCOTLAND IS A SCANDAL.

- Every household in Scotland contributes about £330 per year to renewable subsidies, predominantly wind.
- The wind farm companies export the electricity and sell it abroad for their own benefit.
- Scotland receives almost no benefit, suffers enormous damage to the natural environment, energy prices continue to rise and 25% of Scottish households are in fuel poverty.
- All over Scotland, country people are becoming ill due to wind farm noise intrusion and environmental damage, some are even abandoning their homes.

THAT IS NOT A CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY. IT'S A

NATIONAL SCANDAL.

If wind power is how you imagine we will save the planet then you need to read this.

- The burden of at least £330 a year falls onto all UK households due to renewable subsidies, mainly for wind farms. Direct impact of renewables subsidies on household electricity bills is about £130 a year. The costs of these subsidies on businesses and the public sector must also be passed on to consumers amounting to a further £200 a year per household. These figures do not include each consumer's share of the "constraints" payments which are paid to wind farms – over £135 million in 2019. Constraints" payments are paid when the electricity grid can't use the power which would have been produced and they are more than the value of the electricity not used.

Source: Office for Budget Responsibility's Economic and Fiscal Outlook, March 2019, The Global Warming Policy Forum and the Renewable Energy Foundation.

- Whilst, in the first six months of 2019, Scotland generated almost twice its total electricity consumption by wind, the actual renewable energy consumed in Scotland is going down. In 2016/17 it was 28%, in 2017/18 only 15% and for 2018/19 a tiny increase to 18%. This is because it is much more profitable for wind farm companies to sell electricity in Europe, Ireland and England, even though the electricity has been subsidised by the Scottish taxpayer. Scotland receives no benefit from this subsidised energy for which we all pay handsomely.

Source: Earth Energy Report and Scottish Power Electricity Bills.

- Environmental damage is extreme. Building a wind farm on agricultural land, open moorland or forest changes the habitat from a rural environment to an industrial wasteland. Indigenous wildlife is simply driven out or killed. 70,000-page environmental assessments by wind farm companies are so much "pie in the sky" as nobody can possibly read them. Local authorities do not have the money to enforce adherence to the promises made and they are frequently dishonoured.
- Since 2008, electricity prices in Scotland have risen by 41%. The average electricity bill in 2008 was £477 per year, in 2018 it was £672. Wages did not rise by anything like that. Saving the planet is all very well if you are not freezing to death and starving.

Source: Quarterly Energy Prices, BEIS, March 2019.

- 24.9% of Scottish households live in fuel poverty, 7% in extreme fuel poverty. In 2003 there were 16% in fuel poverty and 5.1% in extreme fuel poverty. (Extreme fuel poverty is when more than 20% of the household income is expended on domestic fuel.) In 2012 the Scottish Government pledged to eradicate fuel poverty by 2016, now that date has been put back.

Source: Scottish House Condition Survey.

- Families were driven from the Highlands to make way for sheep during the infamous Highland Clearances. All over Scotland rural areas are being devastated by ill-conceived and badly sited wind farms. There are many studies which indicate extreme health problems associated with wind farms including the respected World Health Organisation. Our government continues to ignore this evidence.

Source: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/publications/abstracts/environmental-noise-guidelines-for-the-european-region-2018> and <https://www.wind-watch.org/documents/case-studies-that-have-convinced-me-that-industrial-wind-turbines-make-people-sick/>

The people of South West Scotland ask you to think again about the destruction of our way of life in the spurious cause of saving the planet.

For further information on why the current energy policy makes no sense please see:

<http://www.windsofjustice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Renewable-Energy-Scotland-December-2019.pdf>

Sent from Christopher Shaw; houseofshaw1053@hotmail.co.uk