

The Rt. Hon David Cameron MP  
The Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON, SW1A 2AA



House Of Sound Thinking  
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14th March 2012

Dear David Cameron,

As entrepreneurs, investors, economists, scientists, engineers, energy providers, community builders and Members of Parliament, we are increasingly concerned about the lack of clarity around the future of government support for land based renewables, such as solar, wind and biogas.

In wind alone, the UK has more than 40% of Europe's renewable energy resources - enough to power up our economy 3 to 4 times over, generate exports, and provide the tools for communities and entrepreneurs to do their job.

Bringing energy supply and demand together, a decentralised energy market can make real efficiencies in costs associated with our antiquated infrastructure and transmission loss, deliver savings for tax payers and provide frustrated investors with new opportunities.

In the on-going review of renewable energy support, we ask that the Government recognises the importance of simple and accessible Feed-in Tariff policies, to guarantee the broadest possible ownership of the UK's next generation of energy infrastructure.

The new National Planning Policy Framework, in its current form, does not recognise the huge value of this approach that has been proven successful year-on-year by Germany, where community and large scale energy farms have delivered a 25% cost reduction, taking electricity bills down to 2008 levels.

A planning system that does recognise the value of a move to local energy is badly overdue and must be preferred to ripping up a system and leaving all sides uncertain.

We urge you to ensure that planning inspectors know that the future of the low carbon economy is at stake and our collective needs, both local and national, must be taken into account.

Yours sincerely,

**Robin Smith**  
Founder  
HOST Universal

**Sir Richard Branson**

**Dr. Michael Stein**  
CEO, Trillion Fund

**Ben Goldsmith**  
Founding Partner, WHEB Group

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Owner and Implementation  
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**Simon Roberts OBE**  
Chief Executive, Centre for  
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**James Vaccaro**  
Director, Triodos Bank

**Dale Vince OBE**  
Founder, Ecotricity

**Howard Johns**  
Chair, Solar Trade Association

**Juliet Davenport**  
Founder CEO, Good Energy

**Jeremy Leggett**  
Founder, SolarCentury

**Adam Twine**  
Energy Farmer, Westmill

**Chris Hopkins**  
Founder, Ploughcroft

**Caroline Lucas, MP**  
Leader of the Green Party

**Alan Simpson**  
Architect of the Feed In Tariff

**Alan Whitehead**  
Chair, PRASEG

**Colin Challen**  
Former MP and Chair of the  
All Party Parliamentary  
Climate Change Group

**Peter Ainsworth**  
Founder Member  
Robertsbridge Group

**Mike Zeidler**

Association of Sustainability Practitioners

**Nick Pyatt**

Director, Flow International

**Tamara Giltsoff**

Sustainable Business Strategy, Innovation & Venturing  
Trillion Fund

**Peter Holbrook**

CEO, Social Enterprise UK

**Helen Browning OBE**

Chief Executive, Soil Association

**Joel Benjamin**

Occupy LSX Energy, Equity and Environment Group

**Bill Dunster OBE**

Principle, The ZEDfactory Ltd

**Nicko Williamson**

Managing Director  
Climate Cars Ltd

**Dawn Muspratt**

Director  
The Renewable Power Exchange

**Robin Gifford**

Director, IEC Connect Ltd

**Keith Richardson**

Chair  
Community Renewable Energy

**John Elkington**

Co-founder & Executive Chairman  
Volans

**Dr Doug Parr**

Chief Scientist, Greenpeace

**Steve Trent**

Executive Director  
Environmental Justice Foundation

**Barbara Hammond**

Chair, Low Carbon Hub

**Wendy Twist**

Director, Low Carbon Hub

**David Hampton**

The Carbon Coach

**Duncan Law**

Chair, TTB  
(Transition Town Brixton)

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Chairman  
Low Carbon South West CIC

**Ramsay Dunning**

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**Merlin Hyman**

Chief Executive, Regen SW

**Toby Darbyshire**

Chief Executive, Engensa

**Hugo Schonbeck**

Repowering South London

**Peter Edwards**

Director, Windelectric

**Professor Stephen Frankel**

Founder/Chairman, WREN

**Alban Thurston**

Director, Juice from Your Roof

**Chris Church**

Chairman  
Low Carbon Community Network

**Rod Wood**

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**Mark Luntley**

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**Hugh Knowles**

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**Tony Juniper**

Sustainability & Environment Advisor

**Jonathon Porritt**

Founder/Director  
Forum for the Future

**John Sauven**

Executive Director, Greenpeace

**Lord Hunt**

Lab

**Lord Tyler**

Lab

**Lord Whitty**

Lab

**Mary Glendon, MP**

Lab

**Alex Cunningham, MP**

Lab

**Martin Horwood, MP**

Lib Dem

**Meg Hillier, MP**

Lab

**Helen Goodman, MP**

Lab

**Joan Walley, MP**

Lab

**Bill Esterson, MP**

Lab

**Mark Lazarowicz, MP**

Lab

**Kelvin Hopkins, MP**

Lab

**Martin Caton, MP**

Lab

**Mike Weir, MP**

SNP

**Chris Williamson, MP**

Lab

**Naomi Long, MP**

Deputy Leader, Alliance Party

**Dr Julian Huppert, MP**

Lib Dem

**Danny Chivers**

Author,  
No-Nonsense Guide to Climate Change

**Rachel Johnson**

Editor-in-Chief, The Lady

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND QUOTES**

A letter signed by 102 UK entrepreneurs and opinion leaders has been sent to Number 10 for the attention of Prime Minister David Cameron. The 102 letter is both a response to the action of the 101 backbenchers who rubbished wind power, and a call for the reinstatement of a stable investment platform for renewable energy as the driver of the UK's low carbon economy.

“March's budget provides one of the biggest opportunities to tackle climate change in the UK. We must ensure it encourages investment rather than create uncertainty and delay further serious investment in the renewable sector. As a country we need to be better prepared to deal with rising energy prices.”

**Sir Richard Branson**

“The Chancellor of the Exchequer has a wonderful opportunity in the Budget to put right a lot of the damage that this government has done to the interests of the renewable energy industry in the UK. It's crucial that the Government successfully encourages investment over time, rather than sewing further uncertainty and confusion in the way that it has done most recently. This is one of the surest ways of protecting consumers against rising energy prices”.

**Jonathon Porritt**, Founder Director, Forum For The Future

“If there is no stable platform for investment in renewables, we cannot expect to generate the backing or scale of innovation needed to make a sustainable difference. As things stand, Britain will be remembered for the Industrial Revolution rather than the Renewable Revolution. We're history without investor confidence in the feed in tariff.”

**Howard Johns**, Chair, Solar Trade Association

“We need a more inclusive approach to the way we invest in our energy infrastructure. We need to ensure that both our planning system and our grid network support renewable energy as a vehicle for both economic and social investment in communities, towns and regions across the UK.”

**Juliet Davenport**, Founder CEO, Good Energy

“Cutting support for green energy is a false economy. Britain needs to become Energy Independent once more, and with the North Sea all but depleted of fossil fuels - we need to look to other forms of indigenous energy. We have them in abundance, in the Wind the Sun and the Sea - enough to power our country many times over. While Britain remains dependent on global energy markets, our bills can only go one way - upwards. Current support for green energy sources is relatively small - in the last 12 months roughly £30 of our household energy bills has been spent on green energy support - while £175 has been spent on global energy market price rises. We need to reverse those proportions - it's an incredible false economy to throw money at energy market speculators while penny pinching over the one thing we can do to solve the problem long term - make our own energy.”

**Dale Vince**, Founder CEO, Ecotricity

If you want further information, don't hesitate to contact Robin Smith on 07770 675 064

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