



The ReThink Pylons (RTP) response to the Irish Government's May 2014 Green Paper on Irish Energy Policy written by the BW Energy team, Dr. Anthony White and Malcolm Brown, July 2014.

In our statement on the launch of the Green paper just back in May, we in RTP called it a 'cynical pre-election ploy to convince voters that the Government was working to rationalise Ireland's skewed energy policy, because this was a strategy document for a policy the government was actually halfway through implementing'! It was a 2007 policy attempting to catch up with an All Wind government policy, which was good for its time then, but is now completely wrong for Ireland at this juncture, and there are far better and cheaper alternatives readily available to the nation now.

However, in our positive Response to the Green Paper, we show clearly the major changes that have dramatically altered Ireland's energy landscape since the 2007 Irish Energy Policy Framework, and demonstrate why Biomass and Residential Solar PV are genuine alternatives, and we would claim, far better alternatives for Ireland NOW, and we show why.

We highlight the extent of Irish Energy Poverty, and how it is inextricably entwined with mortgage default and negative equity. We highlight the fact that the Green Paper actually revealed and confirmed that the ESB increased Irish carbonisation in 2012, in the power sector, while Irish consumers subsidised Wind Energy investors to supposedly decrease it! And we explain how Irish Households emit DOUBLE the amount of CO₂, versus the average EU home.

At the heart of our Response we show the real figures of the COST TO THE CONSUMER of reducing Carbon emissions from Onshore Wind, Biomass and Domestic Solar, we compare their impact on Irish Job Creation, and we outline the main Socio-Economic impacts of each. This information is crucial to Ireland's decision-making regarding its future Energy Policies.

And then we deal in detail with Energy Efficiency and Empowering Irish Householders, showing their Strategically Important Role in Carbon Abatement, and how they can participate and finally benefit from Energy Reduction measures, rather than continue to subsidise Big Wind Business. The €3.2 billion cost of Eirgrid's Grid 25 and the further €0.6 billion costs of systems integration with overseas markets, designed basically to support a doubling of Wind Energy in our power generation mix, represents another huge bill to Irish domestic and business consumers. An unnecessary bill, based on a totally wrong energy strategy for Ireland at this time, as we demonstrate. With regard to the best energy deal for Ireland now, it is Time to Stop, Pause, and ReThink the best way forward for Irish Energy policy. We call on the recently appointed Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Mr. Alex White, T.D., to address these issues with his government colleagues, with the urgency and positive action they demand.

About ReThink Pylons

ReThink Pylons is a national organisation made up of volunteers who hope to stimulate a rethink of energy issues. www.rethinkpylons.org

About BW Energy

BW Energy is an international specialist energy consultancy providing strategic, financial, regulatory and policy advice in decarbonising energy markets. www.b-wenergy.com

Biographies

Malcolm Brown has over 27 years' experience of the energy sector and low carbon economy as a financial analyst and strategy consultant. He was Head of UBS's European Energy Research team and Head of European Investment Research at ABN Amro. Malcolm specializes in the impact of the low carbon economy on the energy sector and was a Director at Climate Change Capital. In 2010 he co-founded BW-Energy.

Dr Anthony White has over 35 years' experience in international power markets and the low carbon economy as a financial analyst and industry strategist. He was National Grid's Group Head of Strategy and Head of Citigroup's European power team. More recently he was a founder of Climate Change Capital. In 2010 he co-founded BW-Energy.

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