



Renewable Energy –

How much can we expect it to increase supplies over the next two decades Less Than We Hope

Dr M W Kennedy CBE FREng FRSE 18/10/05



The Costs of Generating Electricity





The British View of Renewables: Sources eligible for the Renewables Obligation

Source	Eligibility		
Landfill Gas	ü		
Sewage Gas	ü		
Energy from Waste	Only non-fossil derived energy will be eligible.		
	Energy from incinerated mixed waste will not be eligible.		
	Energy from the non-fossil derived element of mixed waste using		
	advanced technologies will be eligible.		
Hydro exceeding 20MW declared net capacity (dnc)	Only stations commissioned after the date the order is made.		
Hydro 20MW or less dnc	ü		
Onshore wind	ü		
Offshore wind	ü		
Co-firing of biomass	Eligible until 31 March 2011 for up to 25% of a supplier's obligation.		
	At least 75% of biomass fuel to be energy crops from 1 April 2006.		
Other biomass, eg agricultural and forestry residues	ü		
Geothermal power	ü		
Tidal & tidal stream power	ü		
Wave power	ü		
Photovoltaics	ü		
Energy crops	ü		



Renewables: Some Difficulties to Overcome

Planning & Organised Objections
Shortage of Technical People and Informed Opinion
Manufacturing and Building Rates
Accurate Capital and O&M Costs
Little Offshore Track Record for "Wet" Renewables
Intermittency, Spare Capacity and Storage
"City" Fears for Renewables
Grid System Limitations
Distribution System Limitations



Adding Complexity to the Energy System









Invention Innovation and Market Acceptance

Product	Invention	Market acceptance	Difference (years)
Ballpoint pen	1888	1946	58
Continuous steel casting	1927	1952	25
Flourescent lighting	1901	1938	37
Helicopter	1904	1936	32
Zip fastener	1891	1923	32



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