Western Development Commission

Response to consultation on the Green Paper on Energy Policy in Ireland

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Introduction

The WDC welcomes the opportunity to submit a response to the consultation on the Green Paper on Energy Policy in Ireland.

The Western Development Commission (WDC) is a statutory body promoting economic and social development in the Western Region of Ireland (the counties Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway and Clare). The WDC[1] is involved in policy analysis and development, the promotion of regional initiatives and the operation of the Western Investment Fund.

The WDC has been actively involved in the commenting on energy infrastructure (electricity and gas transmission) and in developing the renewable energy sector since 2003, and specifically involved in the bioenergy heat market since 2006 delivering a range of development projects and policy analysis. The WDC was a member of the National Bioenergy Working Group under the Department of the Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (2008 – 2010) and served upon the Supply Chain and Market Development Sub-groups.

Currently WDC is lead partner of the EU funded bioenergy project BioPAD (Bioenergy Proliferation and Deployment), which targets the Northern Periphery of Europe. It promotes the wider use of bioenergy and increases awareness of the opportunities it provides. The project will help the development of bioenergy and improve our understanding of the links between supply and demand by looking at supply chains for a variety of bioenergy fuels and different ways of converting these fuels into sustainable energy. Understanding the supply chains and the ways bioenergy moves from fuel source to energy provision will help the establishment of robust and efficient supply services which can match local demand. For more information see www.biopad.eu

Given the WDC experience in energy infrastructure and in renewable and bioenergy we are pleased to respond to the consultation on the Green Paper. For further information on our work in the area, or further discussion of the issues please contact us or see www.wdc.ie

Based on our experience we first highlight some general issues of relevance to the Green Paper and then address the questions outlined in the consultation document.

Energy Policy: issues for consideration:

Before addressing the specific questions of the consultation, the WDC wish to briefly comment on a number of issues not specifically covered in the questions for the consultation.

The scope of the Green Paper is very broad and it covers many aspects of energy policy in detail and DCENR are to be complemented on the work in drawing it all together. Given the many and varied aspects of energy use and energy policy opportunities it is important that there is a clear over view of the issues and a view of energy policy as a whole and that policy is provided in an integrated manner, particularly in respect of energy sources. In the Green Paper there is a tendency to separate renewables from more conventional fossil fuel based sources and to discuss them separately, however, fossil fuels and renewables are both sources of energy and merit consideration in an integrated manner, albeit they can have different policy need s and different roles.

[1] See www.wdc.ie for more information

In addition, it is also very important that the different uses of energy (electricity, heat and transport) are recognised as distinctive and that each is given due weight and consideration in energy policy. In Irish energy policy there has been a tendency to focus on electricity and to direct policy to this area, but heat and transport are also important aspects of our energy mix and their particular needs and considerations should be identified and addressed by the forthcoming White Paper.

QUESTIONS for the Consultation

Please note, this submission only addresses those questions relevant to the remit of the WDC

Priority 1 – Empowering Energy Citizens
Questions and Policy Options

5.
How have other countries effectively engaged citizens in infrastructural development, and which innovative or interesting approaches could be helpful in Ireland?

Communities Energy Scotland is an excellent example of the way to empower communities and citizens. Community Energy Scotland is contracted by the Scottish government to implement policies n its behalf and to provide both financial aid and soft support to communities to develop their own energy solutions. For more information see http://www.communityenergyscotland.org.uk/index.asp

6.
Is there further scope for switching in the Irish retail electricity and gas markets to enable customers to avail of alternative price and product opportunities, or do the numbers indicate that Irish switching has plateaued? If there is indeed further scope for switching for consumer benefit, are there barriers that need to be overcome, such as availability of information or consumer difficulties with the switching process?

Many of the energy suppliers who are seeking to attract customers focus on supplying both electricity and gas to these customers and the most favourable tariff are available to those customers with the options to switch both. However in parts of the country without access to natural gas (much of the Western Region which is under the WDC remit, and other rural areas and larger towns which are off the gas grid) do not have the opportunities to receive these most beneficial tariffs as they can only purchase electricity from the supplier.

The most active, engaged and knowledgeable consumers can gain most benefit from switching, and there is a tendency for less engaged, and less educated to fail to achieve the same savings. Thus a strong focus on switching and tariff reductions available from this tends to discriminate against some of the citizens and does not necessarily spread benefits of competition widely.

7.
Is micro-generation the most cost-efficient solution to decarbonising home energy, and who should bear the costs of any associated support scheme – consumers, taxpayers or industry?

Micro generation is one of the key options for decarbonising home energy and also a way of engaging and empowering citizens and involving them in their energy decisions. It therefore has significant benefits and allows citizens to make the most of their local energy sources and keep energy spend local.

As it brings significant benefits to the consumer (control of their own energy and cost savings) and to the tax payer (reduced emissions and better opportunities to meet energy policy targets) and also to the industry which will develop associated with micro generation, it is appropriate that all three would contribute to the associated costs.

8.
What is needed to ensure that smart meters enable greater consumer empowerment? In the Irish energy market? Are there steps that should be taken to allow smart meters to play the fullest role in enabling greater consumer empowerment in the Irish energy market, in particular in relation to behavioural change, aside from CER's on-going preparations for the national smart meter rollout programme, and its associated regulatory decisions?

While the move to smart meters is welcome and it will empower consumers to make choices about when and how they use energy, it will be important to ensure that the benefits of smart meter installation go to the consumer and that they are not seen as another means to increase customer costs or add further stress to less well-off customers. It is important that overly complex tariffs are avoided so that the choices are simper for consumers. It is also important that if consumers are incentivised to move away from peak time consumption that they gain significant benefit from doing so and that the benefits are not captured by the industry instead. If consumers spread their consumption there will be less requirement for peaking generation and there for lower costs over all. These benefits must be passed on as fully as possible.

Priority 3 – Planning and Implementing Essential Energy Infrastructure
Questions and Policy Options

17.
How could the permitting and licensing processes for major energy infrastructure projects provide for greater collaboration and engagement with community stakeholders?

There will be greater acceptance of major energy infrastructure where communities see clear benefits from the infrastructure both locally and nationally. Where people believe that the development of the transmission network will aid inward investment or the creation of indigenous business and that both will bring jobs to their area, then acceptance will be increased. It is important that where major investment is undertaken (such as over €1bn in Grid West) by an entity owned by the State, that there is a formal means of working established to ensure that, alongside benefits for the electricity grid, the maximum benefits of such large investments are realised. This could mean an implementation group or other formal structure for cooperating with IDA, Enterprise Ireland and local County Enterprise Boards and their successors, and with local business and representatives to ensure that industry is attracted or maintained by this asset. Alongside this there is a need to ensure that there is community benefit at all levels and that the investment also brings social benefits. There should be targets

for the economic and social outcomes of each major infrastructural investment and evaluation of the success in achieving them.

If there is a belief that the benefits of the investment are not going to be felt locally, or even in Ireland, then there will be less acceptance. However if the investment will bring local and national benefits and these are seen as real (and that there are examples showing that such investments do bring employment and local growth) then the acceptance will be greater.

18.
Following the 'Government Policy Statement on the Strategic Importance of Transmission and Other Infrastructure' in 2012, what additional improvements could be made to the permitting and licensing processes for energy infrastructure projects to make them clearer and more efficient for project developers, the public, and other stakeholders?

The WDC believes that it is essential that the new Energy White Paper and any future energy policy recognises the role of energy infrastructure in stimulating regional development and recognises the requirement to extend and upgrade the electricity and gas network infrastructure in line with economic, social and regional development imperatives.

While the state bodes (EirGrid, Gaslink and ESB networks) are required to make investments in line with certain economic criteria, WDC believes that government investment is also essential as such public infrastructure provision is an essential response to market failure.

Private operators, or those operating on a commercial basis, will either under-provide or not provide infrastructure if the revenue benefits they will receive are less than the cost of providing it, **even if the overall economic and societal benefits are greater than the cost**. In these circumstances there exists a strong case for government investment. Thus where overall economic and societal benefits exceed the cost of a project there is a strong case for public investment

Thus the **full** economic and social benefits of investing in energy infrastructure should be considered for all projects and there should be a commitment to implementing this in the White Paper.

19.
How can Ireland better collaborate with Northern Ireland and neighbouring EU Member States on a shared approach to supporting potential investment in building and accessing energy storage capacity in order to better use oil and gas fuel supplies and to facilitate further exploitation of variable renewable energy sources?

There is potential for cooperation with Northern Ireland on the extension of the natural gas grid in the North West. For further information see the answer to question 20 below.

20.
Is Ireland's electricity and gas infrastructure – including, but not limited to, interconnection – sufficiently developed for Ireland to be able to achieve the benefits of European market integration at least cost? How should Ireland continue to improve electricity and gas interconnections in the context of this integration and its security of supply policy objectives? What additional steps could be taken to facilitate this improvement?

The WDC is concerned that significant parts of the North West have no natural gas infrastructure. Industries and businesses in areas without natural gas face higher energy costs, have fewer choices of fuel and higher carbon emissions. They also pay more in carbon charges. Lack of gas infrastructure may become a disincentive to investment in businesses and reduce a region's competitiveness.

Interconnection of the natural gas infrastructure in the North West between Derry and Letterkenny, (or further south, should additional natural gas infrastructure be built to Enniskillen in Northern Ireland) would allow more businesses and domestic users to benefit from European market integration.

The WDC believes that Government investment in natural gas infrastructure will bring both regional and national benefits, and will assist in the creation of jobs, and with enterprise development, as has been the experience in other countries where such investments have been made. This was the subject of a WDC Policy Briefing in 2011[2] which focused on the North West and in particular the need for natural gas infrastructure in eleven towns in counties Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim and Roscommon. The economic and other benefits of investing in natural gas infrastructure were estimated in the Briefing and were found to be

- Fuel cost savings for industrial and commercial users annually €16.2m
- Fuel cost savings for new domestic connections annually €4.4m
- Savings in carbon charges for users annually €0.5m
- CO_2 equivalent emissions saved annually (tonnes) 60,871 t
- Value of CO_2 emissions saved annually (at €15/t) €0.9m

21.
Does the existing regulatory regime underpin and incentivise appropriately investment in existing and potential future electricity and gas interconnection infrastructure and/or full consideration of its alternatives, on a cost-effective basis?

While it is important that investment in energy infrastructure should meet objective investment criteria in order to assess the value and need for the investment. it is also important that public benefits of infrastructural development are considered.

The Department for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR) is responsible for energy policy and for ensuring that it reflects wider government policy objectives. Thus while the focus of this consultation is on energy, it is also important to ensure that energy policy is means of implementing wider government policies. Balanced regional development is an important government objective and achieving it requires infrastructure to be in place to allow regions to achieve their potential.

This is a key objective of the National Development Plan (NDP) while the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) recognises that regions should have similar quality energy infrastructure to be competitive.

It is essential that the new Energy White Paper and any future energy policy recognises the role of energy infrastructure in stimulating regional development and recognises the requirement to

[2] Full details of the calculations and the arguments for public good investment in natural gas infrastructure are available at http://www.wdc.ie/publications/reports-and-papers/reports-2011/).

extend and upgrade the electricity and gas network infrastructure in line with economic, social and regional development imperatives.

Such a commitment to investment in energy infrastructure is important to achieving regional development goals and while the state bodes (EirGrid, Gaslink and ESB networks) are required to make investments in line with certain economic criteria, WDC believes that government investment is also essential as such public infrastructure provision is an essential response to market failure.

Private operators, or those operating on a commercial basis, will either under provide or not provide infrastructure if the revenue benefits they will receive are less than the cost of providing it, even if the overall economic and societal benefits are greater than the cost. Where overall economic and societal benefits exceed the cost of a project there is a strong case for public investment.

While the Green Paper notes that the natural gas grid has been extended and there are further plans to extend it to towns in Wexford and Tipperary, it is important that government policy in the new White Paper considers the situation in the North West where there is no natural gas infrastructure, even in towns as large as Sligo and Letterkenny. The full benefits of investing in energy infrastructure should be considered for all projects and there should be a commitment to implementing this in the White Paper.

Priority 4 – Ensuring a Balanced and Secure Energy Mix
Questions and Policy Options
23.
How can we reduce our high dependence on oil and gas?
One of the best ways to reduce our dependence on oil and gas is to focus on the heat market and the use of bioenergy for heat. Using solid biomass (e.g. forest residues, thinnings, waste wood) or organic wastes in anaerobic digestion provide the opportunity to produce heat for homes and businesses at lower cost than oil and with more stable prices.
Developing these markets and their associated supply chains will reduce our dependence on oil and gas, reduce imports, keep spending local and will make us more fuel secure. A focus on substituting fossil fuels for heat would be particularly beneficial for areas which are not on the natural gas grid (most rural areas and large parts of the North West). There is a significant supply of wood based biomass and as the market develops there are also opportunities to stimulate the use of energy crops to continue to secure fuel supplies.

24.
How best should we ensure that appropriate framework conditions are in place for secure markets and infrastructure with sufficient capacity and investment in the medium to long term?

By seeing clear goals for energy policy in future, and putting the strategy and actions in place to achieve them the markets can develop successfully. However, clear policy, based on a review of all appropriate options is important. It is essential that we look long term in planning and while accepting a short term reliance on fossil fuels we need to be actively working to ensure alternatives are available to make the country energy secure, and also to ensure that the Irish economy benefits from its energy send by using our indigenous natural resources.

In short clear, realistic goals and an action plan that covers all aspects of develop of our energy use will provide markets with the correct signals. The action plans should involve financial stimulus as well as education and soft supports for the development of new markets which are not fossil fuel dependent.

25.
How can we optimise the policy and regulatory environment to enable the market to decide on an appropriate fuel mix from a grid, market design, carbon, cost and energy security perspective? Are current policy and regulatory instruments sufficient or are additional interventions required, and what should those be?

Decisions about carbon, energy security and to a lesser extent about fuel mix, should not be made by the market. The government should be making the decision about the importance of carbon, the level of emissions we target for the country, the level of fuel security required and the types of fuels we aim to use. Broad decisions on fuel mix need to be made at a government level if a goal is to ensure the energy market can bring local employment, reduce dependence on imports and be more sustainable. It should not be left to the market to make these decisions. However once the government has decided its goals and set its targets, at that point the market can respond to government stimulus and to other market stimuli and if policy is well designed, the market will be the means of implementing the energy policy which is set by government.

Further policy intervention will be required to stimulate the development of a renewable heat market and this is likely to be in the form of additional incentives, combined with existing instruments like the carbon tax. At an early stage markets can be slow to develop and learning and experiences is required all along the supply chain. Thus market supports are needed to overcome some of the barriers to market development, such as lack of information and an existing dominant fossil fuel market. In the longer term as the markets for different fuels develop the financial support required should decrease, and the market will be sustainable. This is clearly the situation in other European countries which took steps to incentivise the renewable heat market (Sweden and Finland and Austria, for example).

26.
Given that Moneypoint will approach the end of its life by 2025, is there a role for coal in the future power-generation fuel mix, taking into account cost, security of supply and environmental issues? If coal generation does not continue at Moneypoint, what are the alternatives? Should options such as biomass or nuclear power be considered?

Serious consideration should be given to the use of biomass at Moneypoint. Large scale renewable energy generation would reduce our emissions (depending on the source and type of fuel used). Any future development of Moneypoint should also include review of the use that can be made of the heat produced during generation so that this heat energy is not wasted. This would include active search for appropriate industry for the locality by linking energy policy with industrial development strategies and working with agencies such as Enterprise Ireland and the IDA.

27.
What strategy is needed to support the continued increase of renewable energy on the electricity grid? Are new approaches needed?

There has been a strong policy focus on increasing the use of renewable electricity on the grid and the target of 40% renewable electricity and associated actions has been successful. This focus should continue with policy develops as required.

However, at this point there is a need to concentrate on the heat and transport markets which have received less effective policy focus and which provide opportunities to increase renewable uses and to provide jobs in Ireland and bring local and regional investment. The heat market in

particular is well developed in other countries and there are many opportunities to learn from them and their policies for achieving significant increases in renewable use.

29.
What options should we pursue to incentivise switching to cleaner lower-carbon heating fuels?

The announcement of an RHI under the Bioenergy Plan is very welcome, making the full details of the policy available as soon as possible is important to ensure that the market can respond quickly to the incentives. It is important that the Bioenergy Plan is implemented quickly and that the focus on bioenergy is a clear and visible part of government energy policy providing the market with confidence in the objectives and the incentives. It will also be important that the plan is reviewed regularly to ensure goals are being met and that the incentives are working as they were designed to.

30.
How best should we further develop and implement streamlined and integrated oil, gas and electricity emergency planning and control frameworks to ensure resilience to fuel-supply disruptions and external energy shocks?

While it is important to plan for these in the short to medium term, broadening our fuel mix and using more indigenous fuels will also ensure resilience and reduce exposure to energy shocks.

31.
What options should we pursue to enhance oil, gas and electricity storage? Should we explore further the potential for additional oil stocks to be deployed as secondary fuel in the event of gas disruptions? What are the costs and benefits of delivering energy storage, and are there alternatives?

While it is important that we have sufficient stores of oil and gas, it should be recognised that biomass in forests, and energy crops are also effective, safe, reliable stores of energy and if they are key inputs in our fuel mix we have more secure reserves.

32.
What further efforts are required to pursue indigenous development of hydrocarbons and ensure suitable conditions for development on the island to improve Ireland's security of supply position? What additional actions should we take?

It should be recognised that security of supply should not just focus on hydrocarbons. A more diverse fuel mix which has more indigenous fuels would improve our security of supply.

Priority 5 – Putting the Energy System on a Sustainable Basis
Questions and Policy Options
33.
How should cost-effective sustainable energy be promoted and supported? What are the appropriate support and regulatory frameworks to do this, ensuring both regulatory certainty and protection of the long-term interest of consumers? Is there a role for solar, offshore wind, wave, tidal or other technologies?

The WDC believes the following are key issues for the development of the more sustainable energy options (and the bioenergy sector in particular) and which should be addressed in the forthcoming White Paper.

- The renewable heat market has the potential to create considerable levels of employment across the Western Region and to provide long-term stable markets for low value wood fuels which can compete with fossil fuels and so reduce and stabilise energy prices for end users. Local wood biomass resources are finite, however, and as demand for biomass increases in a variety of markets, a greater understanding of the available resources at both a county and regional level is required. Under RASLRES the WDC prepared resource assessments which provide an overview of the potential supply of wood based biomass and estimate demand for renewable heat market within each county. They also highlight the issues regarding the potential impacts of large scale projects such as Bio-Refineries and/or Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plants on county and regional supply chains.

- As noted in the recent OECD report on renewable energy and rural development report bioenergy policy interventions are typically most effective when delivered at a regional and/or local level where it can be tailored to local resources and conditions. This focus on ensuring the most suitable development takes place in the right location is important in ensuring that the widest benefits are levered from the development.

- Any policy should seek to apply the principles of a full supply chain approach, partnership and industry consultation, and continued flexibility of response to ensure that targets are met, and that the benefits of bioenergy development are realised in their fullest sense.

34.
What options are available to encourage private investment in energy efficiency and ensure the transition to non-Exchequer funding models for energy efficiency?

While capital grants and other incentives can be important in stimulating private investment in energy efficiency measures, it is also worth exploring a government backed system of long term loans at reasonable interest rates which would allow people the capital to make the investment and allow then to use the savings made to pay back the loans. Although the payback from energy efficiency measures can be very good, many people do not have the capital to make such investments, and are not likely to prioritise such investment is they are feeling financially insecure.

35.
How might supports for sustainable energy measures be made more predictable and transparent, and more effectively attract cost-competitive investment in renewable electricity, heat and transport?

Clear detailed strategy for sustainable energy with measureable goals and a government commitment to the strategy, followed by policy and by action plans which are implemented in a timely manner are important ways of ensuring that the measures are predictable and transparent. Where investors believe there is a commitment to a policy and that the future policy direction has been mapped out they are more inclined to make investment. Delays, such as that in relation to the publication of the bioenergy plan (which was originally due in 2013) can have a negative effect and delay or halt investments. Incentives such as the renewable heat

incentive (RHI) can, however, be very effective in stimulating investment and providing a long term security for the investor.

Along with energy policy and incentives, it is also important to ensure that there is clarity in the planning process and that the system for getting planning permission and securing other permits is streamlined, efficient, and has predictable timelines.

36.
How can Ireland best develop sustainable energy solutions that meet our long-term international climate obligations? Which pieces of energy infrastructure should be our priorities for climate adaptation?

While we have had significant achievements in the development of renewable electricity, electricity is only one third of our energy consumption and it is important that similar focus is given the to the heat and transport sectors. Given that alternatives to fossil fuel based transport have been slow to develop internationally, in the short term a focus on renewable heat and ensuring that we use carbon neutral sources of energy will help make significant steps towards meeting climate obligations.

In relation to infrastructure, there are therefore significant opportunities for the development of district heating systems for centres of population of all sizes from villages to larger cities. District heating networks are flexible forms of infrastructure, available to carry heat from all sources and can carry a mix of heat energy sources for renewable energy or from fossil fuel boilers. District heat can provide the user with price stability (depending on the source used) and can also provide local employment both in the heating plants but more significantly in the fuel supply chain, in particular where locally grown fuels are used.

38.
How can we exploit Ireland's sustainable energy strengths to realise job creation and economic growth opportunities?

The OECD report "Linking Renewable Energy to Rural Development"[3] contains a very useful examination of policy options and actions in fifteen OECD regions. It highlights what makes effective renewable energy policy and shows how bioenergy can provide greater local and national economic benefits than other renewable energies. Its analysis should influence the development of the White Paper on energy in particular in relation to the stimulus of employment and growth opportunities. .

39.
Are the optimal structures in place to deliver sustainable energy and realise the associated jobs and growth opportunities? Are existing policy interventions for sustainability (e.g. public service obligation, priority dispatch, efficiency measures) consistent and aligned?

As mentioned in responses to previous questions there are very significant job opportunities all along the supply chains when our indigenous energy sources are used. This is particularly the case with biomass and with other sources where the fuel requires harvesting and handling and

[3] OECD, 2012, *Linking Renewable Energy to Rural Development*, OECD Green Growth Studies, OECD publishing. http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264180444-en

is not 'free' as is the case of wind and solar. If jobs and growth are key goals of energy policy these options need to be given additional stimulus because of the public benefit derived from the development of their markets.

The question is focusing on policy incentives associated with electricity, and it is important that the same focus is given to heat and transport to find solutions which allow us sustainable energy, bring fuel security, and at the same time provide jobs and economic growth.

Priority 6 – Driving Economic Opportunity
Questions and Policy Options

41.
How can energy policy be designed to maximise and grow Irish employment in the sector in the long term?

The WDC identifies the following as priority market development issues to achieve sustainable supply chain growth in the bioenergy sector with the development of supply chains employment in the sector will grow.

- *Flexibility of Approach*: High level targets, be they national or EU, must be translated into a regional and local context if they are to drive delivery of market growth rates. Regions have varying levels of competitive advantage in bioenergy resources e.g. there are significant wood resource in the western counties, energy crop potential in the southern tillage areas. Regions must develop their bioenergy resources in the most effective and appropriate manner given their conditions and characteristics. The development of local loops of demand and supply typically result in sustainable, efficient deployment of resources.

- *Supply Chain Approach*: A supply chain development approach is necessary to tackle the barriers to growth and achieve sustainable development of the sector. The piloting of supply chain demonstration projects serves to build market confidence and expertise. Such projects will highlight current gaps and limitations to the policy framework and thereby inform policy makers on the design of national policy.

- *Partnership Approach*: The WDC advocate a supply chain approach to support the development of the bioenergy sector. The successful delivery of this approach is dependent on effective cross-agency and cross departmental working arrangements, and partnerships between public and private stakeholders. Effective supply chain interventions must be dealt with through partnership i.e. linking of demand- and supply-side support programmes delivered by various agencies and departments into present a coherent and comprehensive sectoral intervention.

These approaches, advocated by the WDC in relation to bioenergy, are also relevant to other types of renewable energy development.

The WDC has commissioned SLR consultation to conduct a study of the Local Economic and Social Benefits of Bioenergy. The primary purpose of this study is to prepare a report which highlights the different ways in which the development of bioenergy can contribute to a local economy in a peripheral or rural area. It will use case studies, and other methods as appropriate, to show the local economic impact of a bioenergy development. The study will consider all stages of the supply chains from fuel production and harvesting to conversion to

energy and should include consideration of the ancillary support services along the supply chain. It will examine the impact of different bioenergy types and conversion methods.

The study should provide insight into and information on the following in relation to bioenergy generally and for each of the individual case study supply chains:

- the numbers of jobs provided along the supply chain (including ancillary services)
- description of the kinds of jobs along the supply chain and the qualifications required for these jobs.
- the amount of money which remains in the local economy as a result of using a local bioenergy fuel rather than an imported fossil fuel
- inward investment or provision of finance to the local economy associated with the project and supply chain development
- actual and potential business opportunities associated with the development of the bioenergy supply chain
- other potential and actual socio economic benefits
- the impact that the case study or that a bioenergy installation can have on local innovation and competitiveness
- the types of supply chains and bioenergy activities which provide greatest benefits to the local economy.

The study is at draft report stage and will be complete by 31 August 2014. A copy of the completed study will be set to DCENR for information.

47.
Do any other areas within the energy/enterprise policy space need to be addressed in the forthcoming Energy White Paper?
The forthcoming White Paper needs to focus on all aspects of energy and give more weight to the heat and transport parts of our energy market.

There needs to be a long term view about where our energy markets should be in 2030 and 2050 as well as the shorter term to 2020. This will allow for the longer term development of strategies as well as a focus on our immediate needs. It will allow us to ensure that decisions made for the shorter term will also be relevant to the future.

There needs to be a focus on the development of our renewable energy options so as to make us more fuel secure, to provide jobs and substitute the import of fossil fuels and benefit our own economy through our energy use. The development potential of renewable heat from biomass and organic waste is very significant and there needs to be a focus on this area in particular as it can provide the greatest local economic benefits (see references above).

For further inforamtion or to discuss anyhting in the submission pelase contact:
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