

Julie James MS
Minister for Climate Change
Welsh Government
5th Floor
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

11.07.2023

Dear Minister,

RE: Tidal Lagoon Challenge

On behalf of our thousands of members I would like to express our pleasure to see the Welsh Government's desire to explore additional forms of renewable energy. We as a charity are very encouraged by the establishment of the Tidal Lagoon Challenge and hope that it will eventually position Wales at the very front of technological research on tidal power.

We, as do you, hope this will lead to research proposals that will address the barriers to and define the benefits of tidal lagoon development in Wales. CPRW believes that such schemes will reap huge rewards, if certain barriers such as environmental concerns and financial investment are overcome.

Perhaps you may also undertake a schools-based competition to engage students on thinking about other such solutions, such as retrofitting something to the Cardiff Bay barrage or the elan valley to produce power.

I'm sure that you were happy to hear about recent advances in solar panels using perovskite¹ that have enabled efficiency levels of up to 30%. We hope and are sure that these technological advances in efficiency will continue to improve in future.

You may also be aware that our sister charity in England, CPRE, recently launched its rooftop solar campaign², with new, in-depth, research showing that over half the solar panels needed to hit the UK's national net zero targets could be fitted on rooftops (houses and warehouses) and in car parks. CPRE is calling on the UK Government to commit to a target of at least 60% of the solar energy required by 2035 to be delivered through rooftop solar installations. CPRW fully supports the CPRE campaign and is working with several Welsh Universities to undertake similar research.

I know that you have spoken publicly several times about your desire for more community-owned and led renewable energy projects. Surely rooftop solar is about as community orientated, owned, and led, with localised benefit, as a renewable energy project can be.

Is the Welsh Government presently considering:

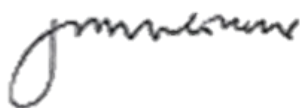
- a.) Supporting such a similar target for rooftop solar here in Wales?
- b.) Establishing an investment fund for households to access for their own rooftop solar panel purchase and installation?
- c.) Instructing the newly incorporated Welsh Energy Company to investigate the potential of rooftop solar?
- d.) Stipulating that all new-build homes must be fitted with solar panels?
- e.) Ensuring that all public buildings must be fitted with solar panels?
- f.) Legislating that all covered car parks and commercial buildings such as warehouses have solar panels installed?
- g.) Any other scheme to help realise the full potential of rooftop solar?

CPRW believes that ultra localised, community benefitting, schemes such as rooftop solar, combined with efficiency improvements, such as being facilitated through the Welsh Government's NEST scheme, will both help alleviate some of the strains on the electrical network and reap dividends direct to each household.

If there is anything CPRW as a charity can do to help encourage, inform, support, or publicise community and household support initiatives such as those mentioned above, please let us know and we would be happy to help.

I look forward to hearing from you in future.

Yours Sincerely,



Jonty Colchester
Chair
CPRW

CC.
Mark Drakeford, First Minister of Wales

1. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/perovskite-solar-cells-push-bounds-of-efficiency-tapping-their-potential-will-be-challenging-d69c69e8>
2. <https://www.cpre.org.uk/news/rooftops-can-provide-over-half-our-solar-energy-targets-report-shows/>

