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30.08.2023

Dear Minister,

### **RE: Tidal Lagoon Challenge**

Thank you for your reply dated 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 (ref: JJ/02030/23), to our original letter on the Tidal Lagoon Challenge.

CPRW warmly welcomes the initiatives that you outlined and if there is anything CPRW as a charity can do to help encourage, inform, support, or publicise these initiatives, please let us know and we would be happy to help.

As an organisation, CPRW The Welsh Countryside Charity are happy to give our full support to calls for the UK Government to release funds for insulation and rebalancing electricity costs.

Last week, the UK announced a [£10m fund](#) to support the growth of community energy in England over the next two years, with the aim of helping local projects such as small-scale wind farms and rooftop solar partnerships.

Whilst this is to be welcomed, we recognise that the £10m budget is significantly deficient to the aims of the fund. Will the Welsh Government consider a similar fund for a range community led energy projects including rooftop solar panels for homes and other buildings such as offices and factories throughout Wales?

We reiterate that rooftop solar is about as community orientated, owned, and led, with localised benefit, as a renewable energy project can be. Current "community project" models, such as the cross-border project, Bretton Hall Solar Farm, leaves a lot to be desired. A project much more worthy of the title of community led would be that by Cartrefi Conwy on the old Inter Leisure site near Pensarn, where every affordable house will have rooftop solar. If it is possible to do so on an affordable housing project, rooftop solar should be a mandatory requirement for all new builds in Wales.

With this in mind, I ask once more, is the Welsh Government presently considering:

- a.) Establishing an investment fund for households to access for their own rooftop solar panel purchase and installation?
- b.) Instructing the newly incorporated Welsh Energy Company, Ynni Cymru, to investigate the potential of rooftop solar?
- c.) Stipulating that all new-build homes must be fitted with solar panels?
- d.) Ensuring that all public buildings must be fitted with solar panels?
- e.) Legislating that all covered car parks and commercial buildings such as warehouses have solar panels installed?

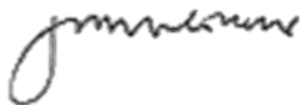
Additionally, CPRW welcomed the recent [Future Energy Grids Wales report](#) published on the your website.

Does the Welsh Government accept and agree with the recommendation on key insight 5 (page 9) that “offshore wind is projected to be the most cost-effective and prominent electricity source in a Net Zero Welsh energy system, providing up to 80% by 2050”?

If so, will you now redraw your renewable energy targets and update Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 to reflect this, and instruct PEDW accordingly to ensure only the most appropriate, most nature positive, and community supported onshore wind and ground based solar projects are consented to?

I look forward to hearing from you in future.

Yours Sincerely,



Jonty Colchester  
Chair  
CPRW

CC.  
Mark Drakeford, First Minister of Wales

