

At present the ROCs system only assists domestically produced renewable energy. It does not provide any subsidy to renewable energy from abroad.

We believe any new system, FiT or otherwise, should provide a level playing field for the import of renewable energy from the wider North Sea/Atlantic region for the following reasons:

- The UK has a target of 15% renewable energy by 2020. To attain this it will need to have some 30% of electricity from renewables. UK sources by themselves will be hard pressed to achieve this.
- The EU legislation specifically provides that renewable energy can be imported either from outside the EU, or from another EU country to help meet the target.
- Countries such as Norway, Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, Faroes, Iceland, Greenland and so on may have a comparative advantage in providing certain types of renewable energy and energy storage more cheaply.
- If we encourage the supply of renewable energy to the UK, we can become an important hub in a newly emerging EU supergrid, which will improve security of supply, lower the overall cost of energy for UK citizens, and assist in meeting climate change targets.
- This approach would stimulate the construction of interconnectors, which would in turn benefit UK intermittent energy sources such as wind by providing access to cheaper energy storage capacity in other countries.
- UK energy companies would be encouraged to develop renewable generating capacity in neighbouring countries with resources that may be more cost effective to exploit. Instead of BP developing an oil field in Saudi Arabia, why not build a new a hydro dam in Norway?
- The UK could collect the energy from the entire North Sea/Atlantic region and any surplus could be sold on to Europe at a mark-up, providing a re-export opportunity to assist the balance of payments.
- UK companies would be in a good position to develop and sell the new supergrid technologies all over the world.

Best regards,

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