



DESIGN
COMMISSION
FOR WALES
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27th February 2023

Dear Colleagues

Welsh Government Consultation: Review of Wales's Renewable Energy Targets

The Design Commission for Wales welcomes the proposed new target to meet 100% of Wales's annual electricity consumption from renewable electricity sources by 2035.

We note the projections suggest there is a need for a fivefold increase in electricity generation between now and 2050, and that there has been a recent slowdown in the deployment of new renewable electricity generation. The consultation document suggests the current electricity generation target of 70% of our annual demand by 2030 is highly ambitious – while recent data quoted suggests Wales is already generating 55%. Allied to energy targets and clean air objectives is the need to accelerate behaviour change and reduce harmful emissions.

With electricity demand projected to increase significantly from 2030, there is clearly the need for a considerable action to increase renewable energy generation if the proposed target is to be met, as well as further analysis of current generation to ensure data used to inform targets is reliable. Critically, a culture where energy use remains unchanged or is increased due to a lack of behaviours change must be avoided and clear action must be taken to reduce energy demand.

Actions such as improving the energy efficiency of buildings in the context of placemaking and the importance of sound, early strategic decisions must be recognised and addressed. Reducing the need to travel where possible, and enabling more walking, cycling and public transport can help minimise the amount of energy needed from generation. Coupled with energy measures it is vital that EV charging points and infrastructure, including financial incentives, are rapidly deployed to reduce emissions from vehicles and accelerate change well in advance of phasing out of petrol/diesel vehicles.

The Design Commission is currently working with Welsh Government colleagues on updating its guide to Designing for Renewable Energy in Wales, to support policies 17 and 18 of Future Wales. This will set out the key design objectives and considerations for the development of large-scale onshore wind farms and solar farms, and will provide useful reference and guidance for the context of target setting.

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Overall, we support the ambition of the proposed targets and simply highlight that meeting them will require significant integrated action.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CAD', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Carole-Anne Davies

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Ar gyfer ac ar ran y Bwrdd Cyfarwyddwyr - For and on behalf of the Board of Directors