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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday 27 October 2022 20:51
To: Energy Consultation
Subject: Submission to consultation on energy security
Attachments: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

27/10/22

Submission attached and below

The best way to provide energy security and tackle the climate crisis at the same time is to make a fast and just transition from fossil fuels.

We need action fast. Actions I favour include:

1. All energy security measures must also minimise our carbon emissions.
2. Take control of the development of critical energy infrastructure – do not rely on private business to develop our crucial energy supplies
3. Slow down production of the corrib gas field to the minimum level necessary to keep it operational – use it as a de-facto storage unit (and the cost of doing so is probably cheaper than building new storage)
4. Resolve the planning and implementation issues delaying renewable energy farms, wind and solar. Buy local support by giving them free energy
5. Increase our battery storage capacity
6. Stop Gas Networks Ireland from expanding the network. No new connections. Now. And stop them falsely greenwashing when they have <1% biomethane while you are at it.
7. Ensure any additional gas storage built is the absolute minimum required – do not lock us in to fossil fuel infrastructure

8. Ensure we do not use fracked gas.
9. Do not permit any new fossil fuel exploration or development licences
10. Stop new data centres until we have surplus additional renewables
11. Reduce the demand for electricity /energy with a combination of carrot and stick approach
12. Use the smart meters to genuinely facilitate behavioural change – fix the pricing mess. Over 1m installed and 4% used! And CRU blame the customer.
13. Increase the carbon tax to achieve behavioural change, while protecting those with low income. (The increase in petrol price brought a flurry of people arranging car shares, which has died down now as the price reduced)
14. Increase the capacity of the planned interconnector to France to at least 2GW
15. Ban oil and gas boilers in new buildings immediately.
16. Ramp up the housing upgrade program – small improvements in every home will yield better returns than the current focus on deep retrofits
17. Continue and ramp up moves towards sustainable mobility
18. Reduce speed limits to reduce fuel consumption. Promote efficient driving styles.
19. Promote 100-200kW solar installations (e.g. every car park in the country) instead of or as well as 30 5kW rooftops that require much more effort to do through SSG and other schemes. Give locals the benefit of free electricity when the sun shines to promote behavioural change associated with renewables
20. Require every local authority to install small scale installations on their premises/car parks/public buildings.
21. Prioritise fast effective training and good pay for workers on renewable energy/retrofit schemes to ensure supply matches demand
22. Do not tolerate the messing that we have seen in Derrybrien, with removal of an existing farm, and a case near limerick, where sense prevailed before a business was forced to remove a turbine that was 30m from the permitted spot. Emergency powers are needed.

This is an emergency. Please act like it is.

Thanks for your work on this but at this stage we need more action and less planning.

