



SCOTTISH DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE

ENERGY POLICY – Executive Summary

REVISED October 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Scotland is an energy rich country which suffers from fuel poverty, high energy costs and has over 250,000 of our children living in poverty, many in cold damp houses. Our energy policy is controlled by the UK government with only minimal control devolved to the Scottish government.

The Scottish Democratic Alliance (SDA) advocates that Scottish energy policy should be wholly under the control of the Scottish government. Scotland could then put into place a structured programme for the management and security of all our energy resources.

An independent Scotland would be in a position to conserve our available hydrocarbon assets, and be well placed to augment the current nuclear, gas, oil and hydropower generation plants with a wide range of cost-effective alternative renewable energy options.

“Peak Oil” has passed and we are now moving out of the period of cheap oil and gas fuels, which have up till now powered our energy guzzling life styles – a period during which there have been significant changes seen in our climate with much damage done to the environment.

To stabilise global greenhouse gas concentrations, there must be substantial cuts in our emissions of these gases. Worldwide, there needs to be a re-balancing of energy resourcing. The world needs a significant move towards cost-effective alternative renewable energy resource to augment clean technology fossil-fuelled power generation.

The development of alternative renewable energy is still at an early stage and will for some time remain only a niche provider of our energy needs. The current highly-subsidised race for wind based alternative energy is inefficient, commercially unsustainable and environmentally damaging.

The SDA submits that we need longer term energy programmes to manage our use of energy and the move towards the development of geothermal, wave and tidal stream and alternatively fuelled cogeneration energy and heat plants – resources which could progressively replace our current mainstream power stations.

How can we guarantee supply of essential energy at accessible prices in the future and at the same time meet environmental concerns? Providing energy whilst integrating these three factors and their unforeseen facets is a difficult balancing act, but it is the concern around which we must build a responsible energy policy.

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