

## Quotes about the report: *Renewable Energy in the UK, A Study of the UK Government's recent performance*

Ioannis Papadopoulos, researcher and writer from Green Peninsula who researched and wrote the report:

*Green Peninsula is a well-established renewable energy advisor to industrial and commercial clients and part of Pure Energy Professionals, which has been actively involved in renewable energy market for the last 25 years, as a developer, technical and commercial advisor and financial partner, both in the UK and internationally. This varied involvement has been fuelled by the fundamental belief that renewable energy makes technical, financial and ethical sense.*

*Onshore wind and solar PV are acknowledged to be among the cheapest forms of electricity generation. The recent political interventions in the UK however have combined with technical and regulatory bottlenecks to create a situation where the renewable energy industry can no longer reach maturity and continue to reduce costs, just as it was about to stand on its own feet.*

*We want fair treatment for partners, clients, and the UK renewables industry. We accept that government policy changes are part and parcel of the business but we are asking for better policy making that is based on evidence, not misconceptions. We do not believe that the recent changes are necessarily in the best interests of the UK, its commitments on carbon reduction, or the economic well-being of consumers.*

Merlin Hyman, Chief Executive, RegenSW:

*"We are now in the strange situation that the government is subsidising nuclear, gas and even diesel generation at much higher rates than renewables. This makes no economic or environmental sense. With a level playing field, renewables in the South West and across the UK can and will continue to thrive."*

Andrew Shadrake, Devon-based community renewables specialist:

*"This report lays out, in forensic detail, the government's assault on the UK renewables industry since the election. It demonstrates a systematic demolition of the support structure for an industry which created over 12,000 high value jobs in the South West alone, based on arguments which are, in some cases, demonstrably false. The evidence in the report suggests that the government may have acted contrary to rules requiring a fair and competitive electricity market for renewables, including by favouring fossil fuels. Molly Scott Cato's intention to raise questions regarding this with the EU Competition Commissioner is to be applauded".*

### Emma Bridge, Chief Executive, Community Energy England:

*“This report demonstrates clearly the negative impact that the last 12 months of government policy changes has had on the renewable energy sector and, in particular, community-led projects. We need to be able to work with government to help them to understand not only the benefits of community energy but also the risks inherent for those developing these projects. Our research shows that a sample of 80 community energy schemes are providing £25m in community benefits which are used to support a range of local initiatives including energy advice for people in fuel poverty, providing computers for low income schools, improving wildlife areas and providing local healthcare services. For these schemes to continue we need a clear, long-term government energy policy that encourages investment in clean energy generation and efficiency.”*

### Local PV Company based in Wiltshire:

*“Continual changes to energy policy, and ongoing uncertainty about what will be changed next has been extremely damaging to the renewables industry. This doesn’t just affect big players in the business, but small family-owned businesses that provide valuable local employment. There appears to be strong government support for the fossil fuel sector and much less for renewables”*

### Bob Meier, Corporate Finance Director, Francis Clark Chartered Accountants, offering advice to renewables businesses:

*“We all recognise the laudable aim of government in minimising bills for businesses and consumers, within a context of needing to make energy less polluting. The challenge is squaring that stated aim with apparent actions to promote expensive forms of low carbon and fossil fuel energy being developed at the expense of cheaper low carbon alternatives, such as solar, biogas and onshore wind.*

*One of the long term drivers of bills is the cost of finance for new projects, and for finance to be cheap we all need a stable and predictable public policy environment. An example of where public policy has fallen short recently is the abolition of important tax reliefs for certain community energy schemes, removed in peremptory fashion without any proper consultation with industry. It was disappointing to see many schemes – some of which had benefitted from many hours of dedicated work from volunteers – suffer from such a major step without even a reasonable transition period to bring existing plans to fruition.*

*Hopefully government will use this moment of uncertainty to articulate a clear and credible new set of policies which deliver both energy security and a smarter, low carbon energy system, while minimising bills. With those new policies needs to be an evidence base justifying them which stacks up and bears scrutiny – otherwise funders will smell political risk and deploy their capital elsewhere.”*