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Sent: 02 December 2008 18:05  
To: liz.kirk@forestry.gsi.gov.uk  
Subject: consultation

Q.1

Whilst I support the generation of renewable energy, using timber to create electricity that will then be transported to houses and used to create heat is a very wasteful use of a resource that could be used much more efficiently to supply heat directly (due to the energy losses during chipping, electricity generation and transport). The public need to be educated about accumulators which can be used to store heat from a log-fired stove and provide heat and hot water on demand. This is far more efficient than using energy to create woodchip or pellets.

I support using the forest estate for wind generation, hydro, and micro generation.

2. This sounds good in theory, but I fear that it will mean a loss of forestry jobs which will impact rural communities in a negative way. I think a lot more detail is needed before informed comments can be made.

3. Also sounds good in theory, but need more info.

4. There are a lot of people trained in Permaculture who would be only too happy to have access to land on which they could create 'forest gardens' to support themselves and their families whilst helping to combat climate change. If Ministers were willing to facilitate such ventures - which should include the opportunity to build low impact timber housing - rural areas could be re-populated, new forests would be created and Scotland could lead the way in creating truly sustainable communities.

Whilst new legislation allows the creation of forest crofts which could conceivably meet this need, currently communities wanting to pursue this avenue are dependant on lottery funding to purchase woodland, and it is still unclear whether the lottery will support such bids. Furthermore the relevant funding stream is now closed.

If the 'not-for-profit' body was to support such ventures and make land available to rural communities and communities of interest such as Permaculture groups for free, or at a low rent, then I believe the proposal would gain support.

Yours  
Chrissie Sugden  
Craignish Community Company

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