



RESS Consultation  
Electricity Policy Division  
Department of Communications  
Climate Action & Environment  
29-31 Adelaide Road  
Dublin D02X285

McCumiskey House  
Richview  
Clonskeagh Road  
Dublin 14  
D14 YR62  
Phone: 01 2680180  
Email: [info@climatecouncil.ie](mailto:info@climatecouncil.ie)

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To whom it may concern,

**RE: Climate Change Advisory Council Response to the Design Consultation on the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme**

The Climate Change Advisory Council considered the proposed Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) at its meeting of the 19 October. The Council view the development of RESS, the Economic Assessment of Renewable Technologies and An Assessment of Models to Support Community Ownership of Renewable Energy in Ireland as a welcome beginning to moving Ireland on to a pathway consistent with a low-carbon economy and society. This may be achieved through the engagement of local communities, the diversification of renewable technologies, and assessing the cost effective way these objectives will be met as proposed in the RESS.

The Council welcomes the use of an evidence-based economic analysis which supports the assessment presented and the importance placed on the role of citizen ownership in providing some of the opportunities and benefits that come from renewable electricity projects. The assessments of new options for the RESS, community ownership and participation models result in the ranking of several options, with their strengths and weaknesses being well developed. The Council will be interested to follow the development of these options in the finalised version of the new scheme.

The Council would like to note that micro-generation is part of the solution and as such should also be considered. The Council realise there are issues of broader concern in

relation to this issue, including how electricity services are remunerated. While there will always be barriers to supporting initiatives at a small scale, it is not sufficient for these barriers to be highlighted without putting forward recommendations for their removal. The energy system is in transition and if reforms are necessary, then those reforms should be made. Ireland can learn from developments that have occurred in other countries in this regard and make considered recommendations on options for micro-generation in Ireland.

Supporting a range of renewables at every level of society is critical for decarbonising electricity generation in Ireland. Actions enabling people to play a direct role as an energy citizen and engage at both a community and household level should be prioritised.

Decarbonising all components of the energy system in Ireland will be required to achieve our national ambition as set down in the National Mitigation Plan. Urgent action in this area is needed to put Ireland on a pathway to a decarbonised economy and society.

Yours sincerely,

**Prof. John FitzGerald**

Chair

Climate Change Advisory Council