

North Lanarkshire Council
Response to the Royal Society of Edinburgh Energy Enquiry

The following is North Lanarkshire Council's response to the consultation questions raised by the Royal Society. Our response attempts to answer the questions in the order they have been presented. Where we have not responded to a particular question, these will be marked N/R indicating No Response.

General

1. North Lanarkshire Council believes Scotland should provide for its energy needs over the foreseeable future through the development of local renewable resources to which we feel Scotland is ideally placed geographically and demographically.
2. We believe Scotland should aim to be self sufficient in energy and, in particular, Scotland's hydro generation capabilities would provide a measure of independence from European trends which are likely to be of an increasing cost nature.
3. The implications of becoming increasingly reliant on imported oil and gas have been obvious for many years and are reflected in the ever increasing cost of imported fuel, in particular, oil which leads to economic pressures. As a council, and more importantly, we believe increased dependence on fossil fuels will increase the UK contribution to the depletion of finite global natural resources.

Energy Supply

4. North Lanarkshire Council believes that research and development in the areas noted should be continued and increasingly resourced to address these and other matters fully.
5. We believe trends will be in increasing costs and uncertainty in availability will result from the continued dependence on finite resources and existing generating plant, particularly nuclear reaching the end of its useful life.
6. As a council, we believe the economic issues to be considered should be investment in the supply and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources

7. N/R

Energy Demand

8. N/R

9./

9. With increased house building, etc, we believe the demand for domestic energy will increase. In order to offset that trend, we believe further investment should be made to raise the energy and environmental awareness of the general public, along with greater availability in cost effective energy saving equipment and products to assist in major savings to be achieved. Existing investment in this area over recent years has had only limited success.

10.N/R

11. North Lanarkshire Council continuously addresses environmental concerns such as CO² emissions and waste management as a matter of policy. We believe these issues should be addressed through public awareness raising.

12. The objectives of environmental improvement and economic growth should be addressed by increasing public awareness of these issues. We do not believe increasing energy costs will address the issue. Informed debate should take place and involve the utility suppliers to encourage them to make their contribution to emissions reduction, etc.

13. We believe that domestic, social and economic issues such as fuel poverty are not being properly addressed. Rising fuel costs result in more households falling into fuel poverty while Local Authorities, including ourselves, continuously strive to alleviate fuel poverty in our area in line with the Scottish Executive aims of ending fuel poverty in Scotland by 2016.