

From: danny burke [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 February 2017 09:46
To: National Planning Framework
Subject: Submission 2040

Dear Sir/ madam,

I would like to make my submission for the nation framework.

I believe that as a state, we need to become more independent. Our reliance on external markets, especially financial & fuel make us very vulnerable. We need to have a more indigenous market place, supporting growth from within. Below I will outline how I believe this can be achieved.

a) Our housing stock - Most of our housing stock is over 30 years old, with poor insulation, damp & poorly heated. Many households are wasting energy unnecessarily through heat loss, inefficient boilers, using old incandescent lightbulbs, inefficient appliances and poor draughtproof doors and windows.

Although there has been some movement towards resolving this with grants for improvements, the uptake is nowhere near the level it should be at.

I propose that there is a fully funded programme to bring every home in the country up to a reasonable standard, with the ultimate goal of every home being carbon neutral. This can be a 2 phase programme.

1. Lower fuel demand: This includes insulating, replacing old lightbulbs with LED, new windows, draught proofing, dampproofing etc.
2. Meet this lower demand with renewable sources: Providing solar panels, micro wind turbines, water conservation, air source heat pumps to meet this lower demand.

The above could be carried out on a phased basis, starting with the elderly, poor & low income.

The benefits from such a programme would be significant and include:

- Lower fuel demand
- Eradicate fuel poverty
- Better health
- Provides employment by creating an energy efficiency industry
- Boosts the economy.
- Meets EU requirements for lower CO2.

b) Transport - With the exception of a few short miles of electrified rail lines, Ireland's transport network relies heavily on petrol and diesel, with the result being increased fares as the price of fuel rises. There has been some trials of other fuels (hydrogen, electric) but none of these have been successful.

Ireland should push for a low carbon economy, not just through the increase of taxes (carbon tax), but through the introduction of a biofuel industry.

Bioethanol - Brazil has already proven that Bio-ethanol can be used as a replacement for petrol. There sugarcane husks are converted to ethanol. All the major vehicle manufacturers already have the technology to produce cars able to run on this fuel.

Biodiesel - Already present in our diesel network, bio-diesel is a renewable source of fuel with zero emissions.

Most vehicles on Irish roads are already capable of or with some minor modifications would be capable of running on these fuels.

Ireland should promote the introduction of these fuels, with the phase out of regular petrol and diesel. We should create an industry of biofuel production, with the raw materials required being grown locally. Petrol stations should be required to have 1 pump designated to biofuels, increasing to more as vehicles are converted.

Irish farmers should be encouraged to grow crops such as sugar-beet, rapeseed and other veg, suitable for conversion to fuels.

The benefits of this include:

Jobs through the creation of a new biofuel industry

Reduced dependency on external fuel markets

Better air quality

Better health of the nation

Increased/ improved income for farmers

If the 2 suggestions are implemented above, Ireland would be in a much better position, with lower unemployment, less poverty, lower pollution, and more resilient against market fluctuation.

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Regards,

Daniel Burke