

EIR 12/1768 - BREAKDOWN OF 'OTHER RENEWABLES' IN DECC'S UPDATED ENERGY AND EMISSIONS PROJECTIONS (UEP)

Request

"is it possible for the breakdown to show the split of "other renewables"

Response

The attached spreadsheet contains breakdowns for the electricity sector renewables totals published in October in DECC's Updated Energy and Emissions Projections (UEP)¹. The further information provided² is a disaggregation of the 'other renewables' category by new build, total capacity and generation.

The other renewable technology breakdown to 2020 is broadly based on modelling that underpinned the Renewables Obligation banding review analysis, and the Feed in Tariff government response for Phase 2a and 2b that was published summer 2012. The modelling is based on a number of assumptions (which are set out in the accompanying impact assessments) including assumptions as to fossil fuel prices, technology costs and the investment behaviour of individual households, and electricity suppliers.

Most technologies are assumed to have a relatively flat profile post 2020 (with some reductions due to retirements) reflecting policy uncertainty post 2020. The exception is geothermal, which was assumed to experience some growth out to 2030, given the potential for sharp cost reductions between 2020 and 2030 (see Arup report <http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/ro-banding/3237-cons-ro-banding-arup-report.pdf>). These are very broad, illustrative profiles, which are intended to give an indicative mix of technologies that could potentially make up a renewable generation mix by 2030.

The UEP projections are intended as high level long run projections for energy demand, emissions and electricity generation under current firm and funded policies. Therefore, the analysis does not look at all the possible scenarios to achieve DECC objectives. There is a wide range of uncertainty over fossil fuel prices and technology costs, and the rate at which costs of different renewables technologies will change over time is particularly uncertain. This means the projected generation mix should be viewed as indicative of more general trends. It is changes in the relative costs of different technologies that will drive actual future deployment but it is not possible to predict which technologies will achieve faster cost reductions and those where technological progress will be slower. The UEP projections to 2020 are based on central projections for reductions in costs over time, and use a different approach from the potential ambition outlined in the Renewable Energy Roadmap³ which reflected the impact of a range of factors on deployment such as: changes to fossil fuel prices; future cost reductions and the success of overcoming non-financial barriers to deployment. The Roadmap ranges for particular technologies were not constrained to a total level of renewable electricity, and therefore the total of the high end of the Roadmap ambition will exceed the level of renewables in the UEP by 2020.

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http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/ec_social_res/analytic_projs/en_emis_projs/en_emis_projs.aspx

² Further to the information provided in EIR 12/1645.

³ http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/renewable_ener/re_roadmap/re_roadmap.aspx

