



NEWS RELEASE

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Clean and Green in Wales

When it comes to becoming low-carbon, Wales leads the way in the UK and new figures indicate just how much potential there really is for renewable energy in the country.

Over the last few years, the Welsh Government has given a large amount of support to ensuring the country decarbonises, and figures from the new WeatherEnergy website (www.WeatherEnergy.co.uk) certainly seem to back up the path they are taking.

Aimed at helping people better understand the effectiveness of renewable technologies, the WeatherEnergy website taps into our British obsession with the weather and translates daily UK weather into renewable energy generation figures for households across the UK. It shows both where in the UK the best places may be for generating energy through solar and wind as well as the type of weather conditions for doing so.

And figures for Wales show that households with an average solar photovoltaic (PV) or solar thermal installation could have expected almost all of their electricity and hot water needs to be met by the sun last week, despite the fact it was still technically winter.

Top of the leader board was Brecon which managed 98.9 kWh – that's 135% of an average household's electricity demand. Second on the list was Swansea with 93.6 kWh, which equates to 128% of an average household's electricity demand. Welsh wind turbines also played their part last week, by producing enough electricity to power approximately 343,000 households – that's nearly 25% of Welsh households.

Karen Robinson is an energy advisor and managing the website for Severn Wye Energy Agency. She said:

“With energy prices continuing to go up, the cost of household energy bills has become a political hot potato. Renewable energy has the potential to help bridge the ever widening energy gap by becoming a dedicated part of the UK’s energy mix.”

“However, many people are still put off by either the cost or misinformation about the relative effectiveness of certain technologies. For example, some people just don’t realise how well renewable technologies that are powered by the sun can work during the winter months. The new website is now able to prove that.

“WeatherEnergy aims to provide people with a much better understanding of the usefulness of renewables, which will hopefully enable them to make an informed decision about investing themselves.”

The site is run by sustainable energy charity Severn Wye Energy Agency, and aims to help people better understand the effectiveness of renewable technologies and overcome common myths.

The figures are provided using actual UK meteorological data at 58 points around the country – from Penzance to St David’s to Wick – and is completely free to access.

A recent Government survey reported that three-quarters (77%) of UK adults support the use of renewable energy sources to generate UK electricity, fuel and heat², suggesting there is a real appetite amongst the general public for information on how much energy renewable technologies are able to provide.

Karen explained: “Other European countries are already embracing the wind and sun as energy sources, even though the UK has one of the best wind resources on the continent. Some European countries have even taken the idea of ‘weather energy’ one step further and are now broadcasting regular TV updates, with the weather forecast, on how much energy their panels and turbines are producing for householders. Hopefully it won’t be too long before we have that in the UK as well.”

As well as being a useful resource for householders, the WeatherEnergy website also acts as a useful tool for renewable energy technology installers, and provides up-to-date evidence to policy-makers that the wind and sun are real and practical energy sources.

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Notes for editors:

¹ DECC Public Attitudes Tracker, [Wave 8](#) – 4th February 2014

² WeatherEnergy is part of the wider European EnergizAIR project (www.energizair.eu) with partner organisations in nine other European countries and is financially supported by the European Commission's Intelligent Energy Europe programme (IEE). In 2012 EnergizAIR won the European Commission's Sustainable Energy Award.

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