

Carl Sargeant AM  
Minister for Natural Resources  
Welsh Government  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

23 November 2015

Dear Carl,

### **Funding for Community Energy Schemes in Wales**

The Environment and Sustainability Committee is carrying out an inquiry into 'A Smarter Energy Future for Wales'. The Committee has heard evidence from community energy groups - Ynni Padarn Peris and Abergwyngregyn Regeneration Company - on the issues they faced when establishing their projects.

All of the representatives spoke about the difficulties of financing their projects. They praised the way in which the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) in Scotland works. They mentioned that the Scottish Government has offered to share their expertise in this area with the Welsh Government.

The Committee would like to learn more about this, in particular, it would be helpful to know :

1) whether or not officials have had discussions with the Scottish Government about a 'toolkit' or 'framework' for promoting renewable energy schemes, which can be applied in Wales.

2) if you are pursuing any options for establishing a similar scheme in Wales? If so:

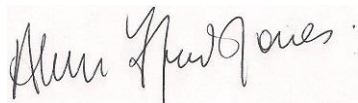
- Are there any plans to give specific priority or support to clean energy programmes that are community owned?
- What proposals have been looked for promoting Welsh exemplars within the European movement towards 'Smart' (energy self-sufficient) cities, and



- If there are any other measures the Committee should be aware of in which Wales helps to distinguish between community schemes and private or commercial proposals?

We look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background, reading "Alun Ffred Jones".

Alun Ffred Jones

