

PRESS RELEASE

PEMBROKESHIRE FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

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Energy Wasting Trecwn Power Plant Should Be Rejected

A proposed power station at Trecwn should be rejected as it would waste too much energy and could be fuelled by timber from environmentally damaging sources, according to Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth.

A spokesperson for the group said:

“The proposed Trecwn electricity generating plant would waste almost three quarters of the energy in the fuel in the form of waste heat. It would not be economically feasible to supply Trecwn’s few local dwellings with this heat and the area has no large-scale demand for it.

“We believe that all new power stations should be Combined Heat & Power (CHP) plants which use both the electricity and the heat generated. We opposed the Pembroke power station because it wastes large amounts of energy by failing to do this, but have welcomed the decision to use the waste heat in the proposed South Hook CHP power station near Herbranston.

“The threat posed by extremes of weather, as a result of man-made climate change, means that we should only use the most efficient forms of energy generation in order to reduce the emissions of carbon dioxide and other climate-changing gases.

“We also share the growing concern that timber used in biomass power stations might be obtained from environmentally damaging sources. The developer anticipates that the majority of the wood may be imported, at least 'initially'. They don't indicate from where but the vast majority of UK wood imports for power stations comes from the southern US and British Columbia, i.e. from regions where biodiverse, including oldgrowth forests are being clearcut, increasingly for wood pellets.(1)

“ All of the wood will be transported long-distance by road, which will mean more CO2 emissions and more HGV traffic .”

The group argues that a site close to one of Pembrokeshire’s oil refineries could be a better location, provided the fuel source is proven to be environmentally acceptable, as the refineries could use the waste heat from the power station.

ENDS

Note to the Editor

(1) <http://www.biofuelwatch.org.uk/2013/biomass-faq-2>

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