

PHIL EDWARDS UKIP CANDIDATE CARMARTHEN WEST AND SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE - statement to Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your request for a statement on environmental issues. I have always been interested in inventions and ideas that save money, waste and tackle pollution. Please find my statement below.

In the past I have worked in many countries worldwide as technical consultant with water-based paints and coatings. It was always a problem for me especially in the UK to promote and sell environmentally safe products when the opposition were large wealthy companies who found the arrival of new inventive products in their own market place a threat.

Firstly I would lobby to stop any government Assembly member or member of Parliament being paid by outside companies. Simon Hart said at a recent Carmarthen Hustings that this practice makes MPs more rounded. Does rounded mean being paid as a part-time advisor to a fracking company or a genetic modification project or other companies who have put profit before environmental safety? Obviously being rounded also includes Simon Hart being paid £30,000 by the Countryside Alliance to promote the reintroduction of a repeal bill to the Foxhunting Act - which I would oppose. The arrogance of Science thinks it knows all the answers and future consequences of genetically modified plants and flowers. I'm afraid Time will prove them wrong to the cost of ourselves and our environment unless we continue to oppose and insist on scrutiny and research.

There are many arguments for and against subsidising Wind Energy or paying £450,000,000 to subsidise Drax power station for burning biomass - wood pellets from the USA which is supposed to be made from scrapwood - as if! As a member of The Woodland Trust it makes my hundred pound donation to plant trees last month rather thin.

One of the points I make in my newspaper ad is that we should be making it easy for small builders and self builders to build energy neutral homes . I look at the new housing projects around Pembrokeshire and none of them look to be any great improvement as far as saving energy goes. We have in this country a large number of people with inventive minds and if I was elected to government I would propose a large cash prize for new and inventive projects to solve some of the problems facing housing or transport and new fuels - perhaps encouraging farmers to find alternatives to grow bio fuels instead of paying them to set land aside, especially in rural areas where public transport is not readily available.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you all. Should any of you wish to speak to me my mobile no is 07812 454128.

Phil Edwards UKIP Candidate for Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire.

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