

PRESS RELEASE

PEMBROKESHIRE FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

6th of May 2015

Petition Against “Inefficient and Dirty” Power Station Launched

A petition opposing plans for a wood-burning power station at Trecwn, which was given planning permission by Pembrokeshire County Council in March, has been launched by a leading environmental group.

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth, who objected to the planning application because of concerns about air pollution and inefficiency, is directing the petition at the Green Investment Bank with the aim of persuading it to withhold funding for the project.

A spokesperson for the group, Eleanor Clegg, said:

“The developer admits that the power station would only be 26% efficient in its current form; 74% of the energy in the fuel would be wasted. This would not help to cut carbon dioxide emissions. It’s more like fiddling while Rome burns.

“The power station would threaten the health of local residents with air pollution. Burning virgin wood is about as polluting as burning coal but this plant might also burn chemically treated waste wood, which is even dirtier.[1]

“Last year, 60 eminent US scientists wrote a letter to the UK Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change warning him that burning trees to produce electricity actually increases carbon emissions compared with fossil fuels for many decades and contributes to other air pollution problems.[2]

“Although the company has obtained planning permission, it needs to raise tens of millions of pounds in order to build the power station. Experience with similar proposals suggests that they will find this difficult, unless the Green Investment Bank steps in to help. The Bank is publicly owned and funded and should only finance clean, low-carbon energy projects.

“We do not believe that this proposed development is clean or low-carbon and we are urging people to sign our online petition on www.foepembrokeshire.co.uk calling on the Bank not to fund it.”

ENDS

For further information phone Eleanor Clegg on 01437 532575

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1. <https://www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/felled-fuel-46611.pdf>
2. <http://www.biofuelwatch.org.uk/2014/biomass-aq-briefing/>