

PRESS RELEASE

PEMBROKESHIRE FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

13th of July 2015

BUDGET FAILS ON CLIMATE CHANGE, MP'S TOLD

Measures announced in the recent budget shows that the government is failing to take climate change seriously, local MPs have been told by a leading environmental organisation.

In a letter to MPs Simon Hart and Stephen Crabb, Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth has listed five policies which, they claim, will further weaken the government's ability to cut emissions of climate changing gases and to reap the economic benefits of clean technologies.

Campaigner for the group, Gordon James, said:

"Taxation changes announced by the Chancellor in his budget will impede the development of renewable energy systems, such as wind and solar power, while benefiting polluting fossil fuels.

"One example of this is the expansion of tax relief for oil and gas exploration while businesses will now have to pay a tax, the Climate Change Levy, on energy it uses from renewable sources. Previously, cleaner sources of energy had been exempt from this levy, which had been introduced specifically to encourage the use of low-carbon technologies.

"Similarly, money raised from vehicle excise duty will now go into a road building fund, which can be expected to increase traffic levels and carbon emissions, rather than into better public transport or cycling.

"These measures follow on from the government's ending of subsidies for onshore windfarms and large-scale solar farms, its announcement of cuts that will fall on energy efficiency measures, and warnings from the Committee on Climate Change that the UK is on track to miss its carbon reduction targets.

"Extremes of weather are increasing and impacting on Pembrokeshire's coastline in places like Amroth, Little Haven and Newgale. The government should be doing more, not less, to address the causes of climate change."

ENDS

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