

I am Andrew Clarke, I run an Iron craft business at Gallonboy, Kingscourt, Co. Cavan. Business name is Rock Forgings Limited.

In recent years I have seen the price of electricity rise even though we were told the price would come down. There is 4000 MW of wind generation installed creating a duplicate system. The grid is a machine like any other machine and while it can be run on various energy sources, its output is required 24 hours a day every day and every second of every day. No renewable source can provide that and the building of data centres is creating more and more demand for electricity. Data centre owners claim they can use renewable sources but this is not how the system works. Add to this it is proposal to convert motorists from petrol and diesel cars to electric transport.

The old system was tried and proven over many years. It diversified the countries fuel requirements between imported gas through pipes with the valve in Britain, coal which in plentiful supply and heavy oil which is a by product of oil production. It is now realized that the policy will cause blackouts and the government said it would install OCGT and CCGT generators to replace a sudden drop on wind speed. It is also going to install more and more diesel generators to provide fast back up. When all of this is done, we will end up with a bloated electricity capacity several times requirements. All will have to be profitable. I fear the result will be high electricity prices and an unreliable supply. I will soon have to decide if I should plan for this by installing my own diesel generators. Because my business is very busy, I do not want this extra effort and expense.

Like all business owners I through the plan was to become prudent with the creation of co2 emissions to try to reduce them in line with targets. Now the country is inn the process of installing data centres which will use up to 35% of our electricity and increase emissions. This is very disheartening because while I am expected to reduce my emissions, the government is inviting in data centres. Essentially data centres are given priority to me.

Here is a look at one data centre in the USA. I believe it is not the way to go and no assessment has been make from an engineering viewpoint of how this will develop. Crypto currencies could impact the ability of government to collect taxes and facilitate fraud. You need now to accept the drive for renewable energy is not improving our electricity service. In this video there is hydro power form fast flowing rivers, in Ireland there is only wind energy 20% of the time with no predictability. We can imagine the impact of blackouts on a place like Tara Mines where staff are working deep underground. There were reports that businesses like mine should provide emergency power . back into the grid. I am not in that business and don't want to be. if there is an economic downturn there will be fuel poverty. I am active in the North East Pylon protest to put the cables underground. Building all this cabling now appears to be to power data centres with fossil fuel. Engineers need to be ungently employed. The EIA Directive and Article 94 of the Planning and development Regulations 2001 requires their input to all Environmental Impact Assessment Reports.

No more data centres should be approved until there is a full public debate. I know the law on assessment is being by passed but you will not rectify that.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-z4qbKQ3cK8>

Andrew Clarke of Rock Forgings