

Dear Sir / Madam,

The prevalence of onsite generation for data centres raises the question of how emissions from these would be counted. As these would be off grid there is a risk that they would not be counted in energy statistics thereby understating our dependence on imported fuels.

I propose that fuel used by data centres should be counted under a separate heading so the full impact of data centres can be seen. Electricity fuel mix data should include off grid forms of electricity generation since this portion is set to increase. Demand Side Units should also be included in this.

On a side note, I talk to a lot of business people and ordinary consumers and have found that there are a lot of complaints about rising energy bills during the past year. A time when many customers were actually using less units. Something has seriously gone wrong in the electricity sector. I would advise a "Stop and Look" approach right now . More demand at this stage means more fossil fuels. The cost of more fossil generators should be borne by data centres. The priority for the CRU should now be on low electricity bills and keeping the lights on. For too long the priority was on CO2 emissions at the expense of these other factors. There is a widespread belief that the latter could be achieved without expense of the others but now we know this is not the case. We risk locking consumers into high energy costs for decades to come. The best thing now is to stop all new renewable generation and data centres and consult with independent stakeholders so as to move away from Group Think positions we now find ourselves in.

Kind Regards

Owen Martin
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