

CLIMATE ASSEMBLY

Jersey Electricity's 10-point perspective

Does Jersey want to lead or follow?

- 1. Striving for carbon neutrality is not only the right thing for Jersey to do, it is also a huge economic opportunity.** Carbon neutrality should not be viewed as a straight cost but an *investment* in a sustainable future.
- 2. Although it will be immensely challenging to achieve carbon neutrality¹ by 2030, we believe it can be done** with a clear and bold vision and a high degree of engagement, commitment and partnership between Government, business, community and individuals. A sense of collective ambition is needed with a focus on immediate actions.
- 3. The Island is extremely well positioned.** JE's low-carbon importation strategy has been the key driver of a one third reduction in Jersey's overall carbon emissions over the last 30 years, despite a 60% increase in electricity consumption. **Jersey's electricity is already now virtually completely decarbonised.**
- 4. The only way Jersey will decarbonise further is to switch away from fossil fuels to electricity.** The heating of our buildings and running of our vehicles are by far the biggest carbon emitters that need our immediate attention and urgent transformation.
- 5. One third of electricity we distribute is already certified renewable hydropower** from France and the remaining two thirds come from low-carbon nuclear sources (with <5% from on-Island sources, primarily GoJ owned Energy-from-Waste facility).
- 6. Local renewables are very unlikely to lower overall carbon emissions** because they are far more likely to displace imported electricity, which is already virtually completely decarbonised. JE is still investing in local 'community' renewables with a focus on reducing costs (as they are presently much more expensive than imported electricity).
- 7. Jersey's low-carbon grid is largely 'future proofed' with spare capacity and could facilitate a carbon neutral future faster and more cost-effectively than almost anywhere else.** JE is willing to make any further investment necessary in the grid and we believe this could be done without that investment driving up electricity prices. **The grid will also play a crucial role in backing up and enabling more local renewables** such as solar PV or offshore wind, which are intermittent.
- 8. JE is investing hugely in new technology** such as EV charging, heat pumps, smart metering (including digital apps), smart home and big data which will help energy efficiency, comfort and control. **Hydrogen is unlikely to have a role** in the short to medium term. **Biofuels may have a limited role** but are more expensive than electricity and come with their own environmental issues. **Batteries are not cost effective** and **the grid is still needed in any case**, effectively acting as a big, low-cost battery with the added benefit of spare capacity.
- 9. Jersey's lowest-cost solution to its carbon challenge is to hugely improve our energy efficiency and then 'electrify what's left'**, focusing on electric heating of buildings (especially heat pumps) and electrifying vehicles (alongside encouraging cycle lanes, personal e-mobility, shared and public e-transport).
- 10. Funding is needed for energy efficiency, e-transport and low-carbon solutions in homes and businesses (including help for the vulnerable) but technical solutions are already available and will, in most cases pay back over the long term.** 'Stick and carrot' (incentives and disincentives) and non-financial support are needed to help consumers make informed choices and change behaviours. For example, the polluter needs to pay the cost of carbon damage (at the moment, it is 'free' to pollute). Similarly, consumers need to see value from reducing carbon emissions.

¹Scope 1 and 2 (excluding agriculture, waste and land use) and relying on offsetting for residual balances from 2030



See more about Jersey Electricity and the Climate Debate at:
www.jec.co.uk/climatedebate



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