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Missed opportunity on renewable energy

MP asks for better deal for Biogas production

North East Bedfordshire MP Alistair Burt has criticised the Government for missing an opportunity to promote cleaner energy. Speaking at Question Time to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Mr Burt praised local anaerobic digestion pioneers Biogen of Milton Ernest, but expressed surprise that the Government had missed an opportunity to encourage farmers to invest in similar schemes through a better “feed-in tariff” for the energy produced.

Alistair Burt said “farmers want to contribute to a new low-carbon energy future, but the Government’s tariffs are leaving only one option – and that is wind power. Onshore wind is already extremely controversial, as we know in our area, and opponents of onshore wind are often dismissed as rejecting renewables, which is simply unfair.

The use of agricultural waste to contribute to small-scale energy generation is a proven technology, and one that we lead through the work of Biogen in Bedfordshire. The Government’s announcement of new feed-in tariffs, introduced from April 1st were unambitious in relation to this form of energy, and a great disappointment. Simply pressing the community to accept onshore wind in this way will not overcome its problems, and I will continue to champion this form of renewable energy, which I think has much to commend it”.

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