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## About the Conversations

The conversation effort in Gippsland saw more than 20 local volunteers from the Latrobe Valley and Wellington Sustainability Groups having almost 600 conversations in several parts of the electorate between April and June of this year

**Locations** covered were:

The Latrobe Valley towns of Moe, Morwell and Traralgon as well as Churchill, Boolarra, Tyers, Glengarry, Rosedale, Maffra, Briagalong, Stratford and Sale.

**Nationwide:**

It was part of a national effort that saw at least 72 groups conduct over 14,000 Conversations nationally. A report on these conversations was presented to MPCCC members at Parliament House, Canberra on June 15, 2011<sup>1</sup>.

Conversations took place wherever participants chose to conduct them

- at people's doors
- in their lounge rooms,
- at community events and markets,
- in workplaces,
- at footy matches
- at railway stations, etc.

Conversations took place using a loose script which provided information on the potential of renewable energy, asked a series of questions and gave people an opportunity to express their views.

The script formed only the basis of the conversations and volunteer participants were free to conduct the conversations as they saw fit.

<sup>1</sup>

The full report is available at <http://100percent.org.au/blogs/taking-14000-conversations-canberra-full-report>

## RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

### QUESTIONS:

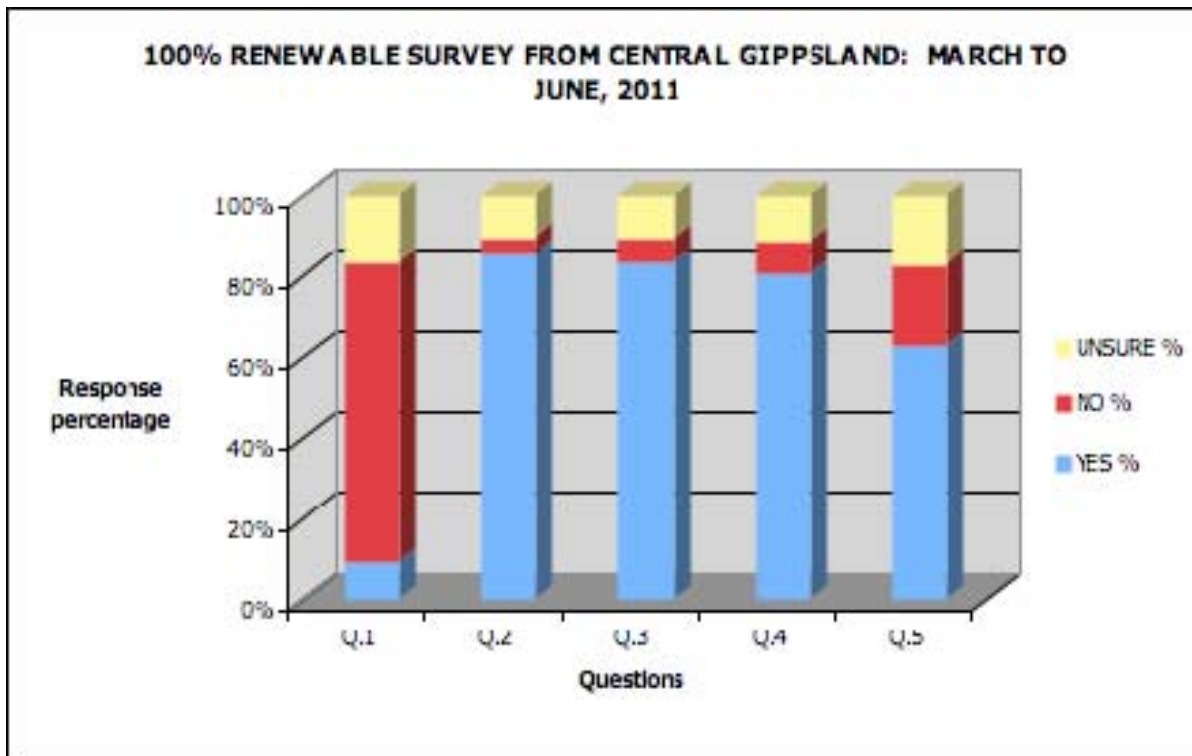
- Q.1 Is the Government doing enough on renewables?  
Should the Government implement a renewable energy policy?
- Q.2 Do we need renewables to help manage energy prices?  
Should the Government develop a plan to transition to 100% Renewable Energy eventually?
- Q.3 Should we put a price tag on carbon pollution?

	Back-off	Stand up to them	Don't know
Q.6 How should the Govt React to Scare Campaign	97	391	105

### SURVEY RESPONSES

	YES	YES %	NO	NO %	DON'T KNOW	DON'T KNOW %
Q.1	56	9.4	437	73.7	100	16.9
Q.2	507	85.5	25	4.2	61	10.3
Q.3	492	83.0	39	6.6	62	10.5
Q.4	475	80.1	51	8.6	67	11.3
Q.5	374	63.1	117	19.7	102	17.2

### GRAPH OF SURVEY RESPONSES



Question 6 also talked about misinformation about renewable energy and discussed the need for the government to stand up to the big polluters lobby. We also discussed the potential of renewable energy to help tackle energy price rises.

# Messages to Darren Chester and State Representatives from the voters

## Just get on with it

- Stop bickering and get on with it
- Get it right on renewables
- Hurry it up a bit. Too slow up till now
- Make it happen. Forget the polls
- Get out there and do more

## Acting for our future

- Stop global warming
- Be open to new technologies and opportunities
- Please encourage reduction of coal. Don't be scared about job losses
- Current fuel is finite. We need to replace it before it runs out or face ruin

## Climate Change shouldn't be a political issue

- Work together with all parties
- Act now. Have a vision beyond the 3 year election cycle
- The coalition needs to do more on renewables
- Move the argument outside politics. Rational debate only

## Yearning for Leadership

- See if you have the balls to stand up against big coal.
- More renewables ASAP. More govt incentive for solar panels
- Build more solar power stations
- Expose the issues more in a truthful way
- I have no idea why the govts can't see the urgency to become carbon free

## Opportunities for the Future

- Renewables are good investment. WE should do all we can
- Encourage govt's to look at renewables as a business opportunity.
- Eventually phase in 100 % renewable
- Basis of future development should not damage the environment
- Develop RE industry in Australia instead of importing it. Pull finger out
- RE is free, will create jobs and get moving ASAP

# What the carbon price package needs to deliver for renewable energy

If designed properly and accompanied by appropriate complementary measures, putting a price on carbon represents a huge opportunity to drive new investment in renewable energy. The carbon price package should provide the right conditions to see hundreds of new small, medium (including community) and large scale renewable energy projects.



## Allocation of carbon price revenue

Carbon price revenue should not be returned to polluting companies but should be allocated to the development of the clean, renewable energy sector.

Ross Garnaut has recommended a total of \$2-3billion per year for this purpose, however this campaign believes this figure is not sufficiently ambitious and that there is no justification for over-compensation of polluting industries.



In addition it is imperative that money allocated to the renewable energy sector is new money, not just a reallocation of existing renewable energy funding . It is also important that this revenue goes to renewable energy programs only, not 'low emissions technologies' such as gas-fired generation, so-called 'clean coal' plants and carbon capture and storage.

These funds should be supplemented by the winding back of subsidies to polluting industries, particularly diesel fuel rebates currently being paid to mining companies experiencing windfall trading conditions<sup>2</sup>.



A solar thermal power plant operating in Spain since 2005.

### **Complementary measures**

The carbon price package also needs to introduce measures that will provide transparency, longevity and consistency for the stable long term development of the renewable energy sector.

A national feed-in tariff, or similar measures such as loan guarantees administered at arm's length from government by a renewable energy finance fund, is essential for providing the stimulus for renewable development that has been proven to work in other parts of the world<sup>1</sup>.

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1 Mendonca, M., Jacobs, D., Sovacool, B.K., Powering the green economy: the feed-in tariff handbook , Earthscan, 2009

## **APPENDIX**

### **Message to Darren Chester re RENEWABLE ENERGY from 100% RENEWABLE SURVEY 2011**

- 1
- 2
- 3 Very disillusioned with politics of renewables
- 4 Not enough incentive
- 5 Stop bickering and get on with it
- 6 Get it right on renewables
- 7 Work together with other parties
- 8 Stop global warming

- 
- 9 Noise barrier when freeway opens
  - 10 Stop giving money to individuals. Invest in infrastructure
  - 11 Don't like carbon tax. Prefer carbon incentives
  - 12
  - 13
  - 14 Be open to new technologies and opportunities
  - 15 Think carefully about employment
  - 16 Please encourage reduction of coal. Don't be scared about job losses
  - 17
  - 18
  - 19 Make it happen. Forget the polls
  - 20
  - 21 Current fuel is finite. We need to replace it before it runs out or face ruin
  - 22 Get out there and do more
  - 23 Get your finger out. I can vote and so can my friends
  - 24 Hurry it up a bit. Too slow up till now,
  - 25
  - 26
  - 27
  - 28 See if you have the balls to stand up against big coal.
  - 29
  - 30 Continue with investing in renewables, but not at expense of developing efficiency in coal.
  - 31 Go renewables
  - 32 Renewables and coal power have their place in Aust. Both can co-exist
  - 33
  - 34
  - 35
  - 36
  - 37
  - 38 Ideas of renewables is good, but not sure about implementation.
  - 39 More renewables ASAP. More govt incentive for solar panels
  - 40 Build more solar power stations
  - 41 Help poorer people to get solar panels
  - 42 Put renewables in the forefront so people start thinking about them
  - 43 Get on with it
  - 44 Just do it
  - 45 Renewables - the sooner the better
  - 46 Press on to make renewable energy a reality
  - 47 Please support renewable energy
  - 48 Renewables have to happen. The sooner the better.
  - 49 It is vital to argue for renewables in the Party room.
  - 50 Renewables - go for it
  - 51
  - 52 Get into renewables as soon as possible.
  - 53 Move the argument outside politics. Rational debate only
  - 54
  - 55 Take no notice of the Greens
  - 56 Please encourage renewables
  - 57 Act now. Have a vision beyond their 3 year election cycle
  - 58 Adopt a balanced view to electorate to be more balanced about the possibilities of renewables
  - 59 Balance between softy softy to renewables and what the community needs to do
  - 60 Basis of future development should not damage the environment
  - 61 WE have to start getting sustainable

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- 62 The coalition needs to do more on renewables
  - 63 Encourage energy efficiency and solar panels
  - 64
  - 65 Improve the environment. Better educate people about global warming
  - 66 Press the issue - we need renewables
  - 67 Renewables are good investment. WE should do all we can
  - 68
  - 69
  - 70
  - 71 Hold solar panels need to be cheaper
  - 72
  - 73 Need definite costed alternatives. Open mind -bipartisan
  - 74
  - 75 Keep solar rebates to help householders
  - 76 Think renewables for the future
  - 77 Please educate the community about the options
  - 78
  - 79 Explain the issues and propose solutions
  - 80 Needs to be more community education
  - 81 Do more
  
  - 82 Why is the electricity so costly in Darwin?
  - 83 Use your own brain- Don't just follow the party line
  - 84 Speak up against big interests. Take long term interest.
  - 85 Stick with brown coal. Improve where possible
  - 86 Get into renewables. Do it
  - 87
  - 88 Expose the issues more in a truthful way
  - 89
  - 90
  - 91 Do everything possible to advance renewables
  - 92 Encourage gov't's to look at renewables as a business opportunity.
  - 93 Get on board
  - 94
  - 95 Why is it taking so long to go renewable? Why do fossil fuels get incentives still?
  - 96 Don't be short sighted. Think longer term with job creation - not immediate losses.
  - 97 Now is the time to do renewable energy
  - 98 Cut out politicking and get a plan for the future.
  - 99
  - 100
  - 101 Invest in coal. Make it cleaner
  - 102 Do bets to encourage renewables
  - 103
  - 104 Do what the people want
  - 105 Eventually phase in 100 % renewable
  - 106
  - 107 Do something top encourage renewables
  - 108
  - 109
  - 110 Do it immediately - renewables
  - 111 Invest in renewables. Listen to the public
  - 112 Clean air please
  - 113 Get a solar thermal power station please

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114 Private enterprise only. Gvernment to stay out of it.  
115  
116  
117 Take a stand one way or the other  
118 Find out as much about renewables and then promote them as much as possible,  
119  
120  
121  
122 Look after the pensioners and seriously look at renewables  
123 Make sure a good solar thermal plant gets buiolt. Don't waste the money  
124  
125 Put solar panels on every roof. Get replacement jobs  
126 Get more information in simple terms to the general public  
127 Phase in renwables gradually  
128  
129  
130 Renewables are the way of the future. Clean coal is a fantasy.  
131 Change the Opposition and Govt mindset to encourage renewables.  
132 Grass roots for renewables is growing. Ignore at your peril.  
133 Build in renewable energy energy to every new house  
134 Look very seriously about sustainable solutions. Make it work  
135 Just get on with it. Just do it!  
136 Don't leave a legacy of inaction on a sustainable future  
137 Think long and hard because there are a lot more environmentally minded people than you think  
138 What will your grandchildren remember you for? A Sustainable future?  
139 Encourage renewables as much as possible-incentives for houses and businesses  
140  
141 Look into renwables furthee esp ways in which large scale renewables are used.  
142  
143 We have to go to renewables but not with a carbon tax  
144 Stop fighting. Do something positive  
145 Do the best we can to get renewables going  
146 Don't worry about it. Let nature do the work for us.  
147 Strike a good balance - economy and environment.  
148  
149 Renewables are a good investment. They will pay back 10-fold eventually  
150 Look at the govt's action first  
151 Go for it. Support renewables  
152 Be more open to renewables and advance it as much as you can  
153  
154 Protect jobs in the Latrobe Valley  
155 100% Renewables by 2012  
156 100% Renewables by 2020  
157 Pull head out of the sand. Think of the future.  
158  
159 Use more renewables. Help develop a policy to develop renewables  
160  
161 We have to get right behind renewables.  
162 Get on with it. Renewables have to happen. Decrease CO2.  
163 Invest in renewables more than we are now.  
164 Make renewables a priority in Parliament  
165 Renewables. The sooner the better!  
166 Stop being conservative. Look towards the future



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167 Don't be bullied by big corporations  
168  
169  
170 Start renewables now. Not later.  
171 Would like more information about renewables.  
172 I would like to see more sustainable cleaner energy  
173  
174  
175  
176  
177 Invest in renewables directly by Govt - use carbon tax revenue  
178 We need renewables  
179  
180 Humans are part of the solution. There is always a cost for things we use. What is your your belief?  
181  
182 Make it happen  
183 Clean up your act. Scrap the carbon tax.  
184 Keep energy prices manageable. Carbon tax money should go to renewables  
185 Develop RE industry in Australia instead of importing it. Pull finger out.  
186 Get moving before it is too late.  
187  
188  
189 We are not educated enough about RE. And not given enough options  
190 Govt needs to be supported fro price on carbon. Abbott needs to stop bad behaviour  
191 Look at the big picture and future of our children  
192  
193 Hurry Up. Time or our world is running out.  
194 Take the hard decisions and stop trying to be popular. Australians stand for integrity not spin  
195 Go Green. We need to catch up with Europe  
196 Get with the rest of the world that care and go Green  
197 Do something to make energy cheaper  
198 I have grandchildren + it is imperative that something is done now on this issue  
199 Look at the long term and not just the next election  
200 For future generations we definitely have to have a greater input even if it costs this generation  
201  
202 It's time to make changes. Start now  
203 Just pay for it. Stop hitting reg people with taxes to cover big companies. RE is the way of the future  
204 More financial help to people to change to RE. Develop better policy to nuclear electricity.  
205 Clean energy is an answer to pollution/envrionemntal issues. Do it. Rebates for consumers.  
206  
207 Ensure there are caps on pricing of energy water and gas.  
208 Must have a clear cut plan to transition to renewables  
209  
210 RE is going to happen. Get on board.  
211  
212  
213 Pull afinger out. Develop renewables  
214 RE! Go for it.  
215  
216  
217  
218  
219

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220 Communicate better  
221 Good that this survey will bring RE to your attention  
222 Make RE more affordable  
223 Inform the Govt that the community wants action on RE and on pollution  
224 Make RE more affordable  
225 Explain alternatives to coal fired electricity generation  
226 We can't keep soiling our nest  
227 Need to think about well-being of future Australians  
228 Become better informed about the issues and science  
229 People are too concerned about the present without due regard for the future  
230 Need to do more re RE  
231 Need more and better incentives for householders to adopt geothermal, tidal etc.  
232 Plan for RE, but be mindful of the transition esp for Latrobe valley  
233 Be brave  
234 Have some backbone. Do the right thing  
235 Need to look to the long term. Not the election cycle  
236 Renewables. What are we waiting for?  
237 RE is free, will create jobs and get moving ASAP  
238 Just do it!  
239 Just do it!  
240 Look into RE  
241 We need to be investing more into RE  
242 Take the politics out of it!  
243 Don't feel safe by the success of the scare campaigns. They just mask what the people believe  
244 People in Bendigo see RE as a serious issue. We do not want to miss out.  
245 We need more RE as fast as possible  
246 Walk with the local high school students as they do the energy audits on local businesses.  
247 Accept the science. Deal with facts. Go with renewables.  
248 Listen to your constituents desires for increased Renewable energy.  
249 Bendigo is a great place for solar thermal power stations  
250  
251 RE should have been done by now. Put your focus on green energy  
252 Provide more information to the population  
253 Keep the costs down  
254  
255 Pull a finger out. Get serious on RE  
256 Use the innovation of Australians to develop best practice RE. See REW as business opportunity  
257 Help bring your political party into the 21st Century  
258  
259 Build some large scale RE plants so we can evaluate it  
260 Subsidize RE more  
261 Listen to the scientists - not science not capital, give direct  
262 Need to look seriously at RE on large scale  
263 We need to quickly look at RE and to encourage jobs  
264 Would like you to clarify your position on RE  
265 We need a transition & create jobs before any P Stn closes here.  
266 Govt not supporting renewables sufficiently  
267 Govt needs to make sure there are still jobs here  
268 Need a transition phase & encouragement to change to non polluting mode  
269 Need for renewable energy. Everyone will have to pay. Do it sensibly now.  
270 Business wants clear standards and market certainty  
271 I have no idea why the govts can't see the urgency to become carbon free  
272 RE is our only hope

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273 no comment  
274 Think of the future of your grandchildren  
275 RE with no tax and no increase costs to working families  
276 We really need to get RE going ASAP  
277 He needs to (stand up to scare campaign)  
278 no comment  
279 Look after us  
280 E -Think long-term  
281  
282 Channel more resources into RE  
283 Give me free solar panels  
284 no comment  
285 Please promote RE and make it financially viable  
286 Make RE more affordable. Make sure it is Govt controlled not privatised  
287 no comment  
288 RE will sustain our country much better than coal economy  
289 no comment  
290 no comment  
291 no comment  
292 Show me the money  
293 If it is better for the country and the environment then look into it  
294 I would like to see everyone use solar power  
295 As soon as we can RE in, the better  
296 Doing it in Holland and other overseas countries  
297 no comment  
298 List to the experts  
299 To achieve the level of fossil fuel replacement needed, we need more than amelioration programs  
300 no new coal fired or nuclear power stations  
301 Renewables will decimate employment  
302 Plenty of talk no action  
303 no comment  
304 Lack of visible evidence  
305 Keep pushing RE  
306 Wind and renewables are best  
307 don't have large schemes for RE - various - large and small  
308 I wouldn't like your job  
309 No need for carbon tax  
310 Must be proactive. Take greenhouse seriously & be measured in terms of what is reasonably achievable  
311 Ensure enough money to increase research budget  
312 Because we live in Latrobe Valley all govts should support significant transition to less carbon economy while support  
313 Look forward instead of standing still. Get a plan  
314 Not enough proper info for people to make a judgement  
315 Stand up and invest in RE  
316 Do something  
317 no comment  
318 Listen to the science regarding climate change, Take more non political stance  
319 Something has to be done Look at the natural extreme weather  
320 RE forget it Build another coal fired power stn  
321 no comment  
322 Use our vast supply unproductive land and go for solar  
323 Solar needs encouragement  
324 no comment  
325 no comment

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326 no comment  
327 Think of the future. Not just the immediate, day to day  
328 Should be backing RE and standing up to mining companies  
329 Back the carbon tax. Help the less well off with compensation  
330 Make RE more available  
331 Give public more information about successes elsewhere  
332 Don't be afraid to go with change. I'm not.  
333 We should support RE rather than the local coal industry  
334 Invest in RE asap  
335 no comment  
336 no comment  
337 Talk more to people about RE and energy efficiency  
338 Renewables should be installed all over Victoria  
339 Look after our Valley (Latrobe) and the people in it.  
340 no comment  
341 We need to do more and it fast  
342 Give even-handed, both sides view of debate on RE  
343 Be brave. Explore all options with RE  
344 Do not ignore RE  
345 Sooner we get a price on carbon gthe sooner we get action and jobs  
346 Encourage more RE by financial (investment) not just talk  
347 Find new ways of producing energy - Scared of change  
348 Coal dust is not good for peoples health. RE is totally clean  
349 We are worried if power industry is closed down jobs will disappear.Impact on economy  
350 Set a carbon tax so there is certainty for the generators and the workforce  
351 Start taking RE usly. Have PV on every building in Vic  
352 Support RE and get replacement jobs for coal  
353 no comment  
354 no comment  
355 Need to have courage and believe science  
356 Get going with RE As quickly as possible  
357 Solar panels for everyone at a low cost  
358 Do more!  
359 Get on with it  
360 Do it now. Don't wait any longer  
361 Look at the long term and stick to the program  
362 The future belongs to our children. Act now  
363 Start listening to your constituents  
364 It's more for our grandchildren I am concerned  
365 Not sure if we can rely entirely on RE  
366 No comment  
367 Listen to Scientists  
368 Need to be taking action  
369 Do something before it's too late  
370 You need to act now for the environment and the economy  
371  
372 Think of people not just the planet  
373 Stop foreign ownership of our soil and minerals. No mining on prime agricultural land.  
374 Press on with RE. This needs to be pursued for all our sakes  
375 Stop wasting money on "crap" schemes.  
376  
377 Cost of saving jobs. Fairness to those who may lose out.  
378

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379 Be informed and promote alternative energy sources.  
380 Look at overseas models and look at local systems as well - transition towns  
381 Need to be more open to RE. An independent body should decide.  
382 Listen to the public and look at what other countries are doing  
383 Make RE affordable  
384 Make RE more available  
385 It will eventually be cheaper if we have RE than coal.  
386 We need to go slowly and sensibly and we don't need to destroy our environment in combination with clean coal.  
387 It's not going to happen in one term of Govt. Must be long term, significant and compulsory  
388 Need a definite time frame so that jobs from coal can be to new positions  
389 We need to look at alternative ways of harnessing energy. At the moment we are pretty tied in  
390 Get on with it. Look beyond the election cycle. Both sides need to agree for it to be ongoing  
391 Try to work towards alternative energy -away from Polluting sources  
392 "Dirty fuel" says the daughter of a coal miner. Wind energy the way to go.  
393 Have a look at global models and do what they are doing. We have plenty of windy and sunny places.  
394 Encourage RE with cost benefits to voters.  
395 It is time to act. I have no time for big polluters or climate sceptics anymore.  
396 A balanced response comprising renewables and investment in nuclear energy.  
397 Treat the issue with some urgency and put forward a plausible plan for action to fight climate change  
398 GO geothermal. It will provide baseload. Wind and solar do not.  
399 We need 100% RE to secure our future.  
400 Responsibility of every individual - worst ???  
401 Act now - tired of lack of progress and change  
402 We need to act now - not lump our children with the problem  
403 no comment  
404 no comment  
405 no comment  
406 Sustainability is very important  
407 no comment  
408 Stand and deliver  
409 Get on with introducing an ETS  
410 Move forward on an ETS  
411 It is real!  
412 Any policy should include equality with o/seas competitors ie tariffs on imports and ??? On exports  
413 no comment  
414 There is not reason why every public building doesn't have pv panels  
415 no comment  
416 no comment  
417 Stand up to the big polluters and support a 100% RE target. As Germany is doing  
418 Halve the subsidies to the coal power stns and invest the other half in RE  
419 Not enough is being done. Carbon Tax should be invested in RE  
420 Prioritize other forms of energy development  
421 I worry about our future generations health due to increasing pollution  
422 forget the cost of producing RE. Short term cost to prevent long term damage and cost  
423 RE is the way of the future. Do something now  
424 Need more investment/help for subsidies for small wind/geothermal  
425 You have to do something about climate change NOW  
426 no comment  
427 Get priorities in order on RE  
428 no comment  
429 no comment  
430 Look closer at RE  
431 Need to look at bigger picture

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- 432 Need to look at long term solution for future generation
  - 433 Do something and be progressive
  - 434 Support RE. There needs to be a stronger policy to support RE
  - 435 Invest in RE asap
  - 436 No comment
  - 437 Keep us in the loop and more information required
  - 438 Provide more education about RE
  - 439 Make it more viable for people
  - 440 No comment
  - 441 No comment
  - 442 All for RE
  - 443 Listen to what the people say. We have to do something
  - 444 Look after the pensioners
  - 445 Get on with it. Matter of survival for future. Think of grandchildren
  - 446 Should be a priority to move to RE. Price will come down in future  
Make it easier & cheaper for individuals to invest in RE. eg solar. Work strategies to develop centralised solar plants &
  - 447 codes.
  - 448 Be careful that charges on companies do not impact on ordinary people
  - 449 We need to put a price on carbon dioxide and subsidize and support RE developments
  - 450 Try and lead the way, locally in this nation and internationally
  - 451 no comment
  - 452 no comment
  - 453 Get on with large scale renewables.
  - 454 Keep working on RE sources
  - 455 no comment
  - 456 no comment
  - 457 Think long term, not just the next election
  - 458 Push RE a lot more
  - 459 Get on with it!
  - 460 no comment
  - 461 Get RE moving.
  - 462 There is a tomorrow. Take climate change seriously
  - 463 See RE energy in a positive light. It is absolutely necessary
  - 464 We are all for renewables.
  - 465 no comment
  - 466 We must go for RE for the future
  - 467 Listen to the people or lose their trust
  - 468 Listen to the people
  - 469 no comment
  - 470 There must be a strategy for a path away from coal.
  - 471 Be open to RE
  - 472 Do it for the new generation because I am one.