



Backing for wind and solar power

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

A BOOST to wind, wave and solar power will be announced by ministers this week after a report proposing that Britain should become less reliant on oil and coal-fired power stations.

Patricia Hewitt, Industry Secretary, is preparing to respond favourably to a long-awaited government report suggesting that 20 per cent of

energy needs should be met from "renewables" by 2020, and 30 per cent a decade later.

It is a hugely ambitious target because renewable forms of energy currently contribute less than 1 per cent. However, a big expansion of wind farms and wave generators is in the pipeline and a target exists of meeting 10 per cent of electricity needs from renewable energy by 2010.

The plan to put Britain on the path to a low-carbon economy will be in a report drawn up through the Cabinet Office by the Performance and Innovation Unit. It will say that the switchover could add at least 5 per cent to electricity bills. Government long-term investment will run into hundreds of millions of pounds.

The report will not rule out more nuclear power stations, but will underline their heavy cost and suggest that there should be no government sub-

sidies for future reactors. It will insist, however, that the Government should keep open the nuclear option, which provides 25 per cent of the UK's electricity.

Friends of the Earth, the environment group, today claims that renewable energy is starved of funds compared with the nuclear industry. Friends of the Earth say the analysis shows that in 2000 58% of government energy research and development went to nuclear power. Only 23 per cent was spent on renewable energy.

Britain spent less in total on renewable research and development than Switzerland, Denmark, Spain, the US, Germany and Japan.

Lieferschein Nr. : 1349745; Medien Nr. : 5106; Medienausgabe Nr. : 601379; Objekt Nr. : 6885191; Subobjekt Nr. : 1; Lektoren Nr. : 14; Abo Nr. : 605011; Treffer Nr. : 9840587

