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Letters

Feed-in tariffs a big incentive to go green

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Wind farms in in Stirling, Scotland. Photograph: Jeff J Mitchell/Getty

You rightly point out the massive benefits of feed-in tariffs (In praise of ..., February 25). Giving generous long-term payments to people who supply renewable energy to the grid would be an enormous incentive for households and businesses to install green power systems. In Germany this policy has helped deliver more than 200 times more solar power and 10 times more wind power than we have in the UK.

It defies belief that our government still refuses to embrace a successful policy that could play a major part in delivering a low-carbon economy. UK carbon dioxide emissions have risen since Labour came to power, despite repeated promises of substantial cuts. The government must do far more if we are to play our part in tackling climate change. And this must include amending the energy bill to ensure that it includes a feed-in tariff.

Ed Matthew

Friends of the Earth

Feed-in tariffs may sound dull, but when scientists say we have fewer than 10 years to prevent runaway climate change, doing the right thing becomes more important than a catchy name. It is in part because of feed-in tariffs that Germany gets 7%, Spain 9% and Denmark a whopping 20% of their electricity from wind. In addition, almost all Danish wind farms are cooperatives, so local people have a financial interest in them. The equivalent of 6% of the UK's electricity supply is stuck in the planning system because of local opposition.

Two other things that would help with renewables generation in the UK: first, the electricity regulator Ofgem should be obliged to make sustainability as important as its current priority - value for the customer. And second, Ofgem should be required to prioritise renewables when they are online. This latter policy is known as "connect and manage". Not very sexy, but it would do wonders for the renewables industry in this country.

Cllr Alexis Rowell

Chair, Camden Sustainability Task Force

Whatever catchier name may be devised for feed-in tariffs, the proceeds will clearly have to be paid into a current account.

Chris Osborne

Marldon, Devon

Ian Jack (February 23) quotes the president of the Country Land and

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