



National Strategy for Policy and Abatement Measures
Relating to the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

FEEDBACK

Stefan Said

Submitted on: 15/03/09

Hearing that deep sea offshore wind farms are not yet feasible irks me. One ought to go through these sites that prove that engineering developments are permitting the setting up of wind turbines in deeper waters.

Three examples:-

Sway - a Norwegian company that claims it can set wind turbines at depths of 80-300 metres; <http://inoceanconstruction.no/>

Blue H - waiting authorization for the world's first deepwater wind farm. <http://www.bluehgroup.com/company-newsandpress-090312.php>

Portugal has just signed an agreement with an American company for deep offshore wind energy; <http://www.greenbang.com/portugal-signs-on-for-deep-water-wind-energy/>

I apologise for the delay in acknowledging receipt of your Webmail. I thank you for your comments and interest. I acknowledge receipt of your Webcomment. Your feedback is being assessed by the climate change committee - which in the near future will present an analysis of all feedback received and its position on such feedback.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Robert Azzopardi

Submitted on: 09/03/09

I completely agree with the use of energy saving lights but has one considered the environmental impact when all these bulbs will need replacement? The CFL lamps contains roughly 4 micro grams of mercury each and if this is multiplied by the number of bulbs that the government will be issuing to our households and the ones that have already been purchased, this will result in an impact on our environment.

Today one can buy LED lights at a good price, these LED lamps will produce the same amount of light and consume about 50% less than an ordinary CFL lamp and about 90% less than an incandescent lamp and the lifetime that one achieves with LED lamps is much greater than any other type of lamp.

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David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Joe Calleja

Submitted on: 08/03/09

Dawn huma l-osservazzjonijiet tieghi lill-kumitat b'riferenza ghar-rakkomandazzjoni numru 21 fir-rapport, li tghid li ghandna nhejju biex minflok biz-zejt, il-power stations, mill-2015 inkunu nistghu nibdew nhaddmuhom bil-gass naturali. L-iskop huwa li nimpurtaw dan il-gass permezz ta' pipeline minn barra l-pajjiz

Inhoss li qabel, ta' min jinvestiga bis-serjeta rapporti li saru, fosthom dak tal-Geologista Jean Laherrere, li janticipa li l-produzzjoni tal-gass naturali fid-dinja tkun lehqet il-quccata sa' qabel l-2030, imbaghad tibda tonqos (b' konsegwenza zgur fuq il-prezz), filwaqt li dan diga qed jigjri fl-Ewropa, apparti r-rikatti kontinwi tar-Russja fil-provvista lejn l-istess Ewropa.

Barra minhekk l-enerġija Āġenerata mill-gass naturali hija l-aktar wahda ghalja (eskuza l-ispiza kapitali) kemm mill-faham, u wisq aktar mill-fuel nukleari. Iz- zejt bhalissa huwa rhas mill-massimi tas-sena l-ohra, izda jibqa' dejjem vulnerabbli ghall-ispekulaturi, u l-kapricci tal-produtturi.

Ghalhekk tajjed minflok il-gass nikkunsidraw bis-serjeta' l-energija nukleari x' nimpurtaw, u niehdu mizuri biex tigi assicurata l-infrastruttura u l-kapacita' logistika necessari, kif ukoll it-teknologiji xierqa ghall-konverzjoni sa' l-2019. Ghaliex 10 snin ohra?

Ghax bhalma thabbar fi Frar, l-Italja ftehmiet ma Franza biex, sa ghaxar snin ohra, jkollha anki hi power stations nukleari, li allura nkunu nistghu naghmlu uzu minnhom ahna wkoll. Bhalma qal il-prim ministru Taljan f' dik l-okkazzjoni, l-energija nukleari llum hija alternattiva nadifa, bl-iskart imnaqqas ghal minimu, zgura aktar minn qatt qabel bil-gġenerazzjonijiet gġodda tal- power stations, u wkoll aktar irhisa. Hu kkalkulat li fi Franza, fejn 80% tal-energija gġejja minn nukleari, il-konsumatur ihallas in-nofs ta' dak li jhallsu t-Taljani.

Ahna mbaghad ikollna vantagg ghax sempliciment naghmlu uzu minn dan l-energija, u ma jkollna x' naqsmu xejn ma' l-ispiza kapitali tal-bini tal-power stations nukleari, u lanqas mal-manteniment taghhom u l-iskart. Bejn l-2015 u l-2019 mhemmx tul wisq, u zgur li val la pena nistennew l-erba' snin. Sabiex naqilbu gÅ§an-nukleari minflok il-gass naturali.

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David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Mark Bajjada

Submitted on: 07/03/09

Everyone agrees that alternative energy is on the very top of the European agenda including that of Malta yet I think that a lot still needs to be made and definitely must be very well planned- My main concern is related to substantial funds that are being forwarded to Maltese agriculture and industries (EERDF). We are still missing out the most fundamental things that cradels such projects such as policy from Mepa for wind turbines, feed-in tariffs, guidelines for standards to ensure that such products are up to standard since they are relatively new products for our island, and finally we need to have public consultations to have a better understanding of what could or could not be done- my suggestion is to do what can be done, and quickly if we need to reach the targets

I apologise for the delay in acknowledging receipt of your Webcomment. I thank you for your contribution which is being assessed by the Climate Change Committee. It is the intention of the Committee to be presenting to Government an analysis of the contribution and feedback received and its position in their regard.

I thank you once again

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

John Pace

Submitted on: 24/02/09

Introduction – The structure of the report

The main objective of the report is to persuade government to accept its recommendations and authorize the action and the expenditure required for the measures to be applied. Other interested parties are NGO's and the general public.

The report is very long and complex and will discourage stakeholders from actually reading it. There is a danger that it will suffer the fate of the First National Communication report, which was approved by Cabinet and promptly forgotten, none of its recommendations being actually implemented. So it is better to replace the executive summary and its full list of recommendations with one which describes only the recommendations which have the greatest impact and concentrate on the areas where the real decisions need to be taken.

The introductory chapters

The most important content of the report is in chapters 4 and 5, the other chapters being introductory or supportive chapters. I have the following observations on these chapters:

There is a very comprehensive list of European and international legislation regarding climate change, but what I did not find was a summary of Malta's obligations. Such a summary would be a point of reference related to all the recommendations in the report.

In Recommendation 5, where the UNFCCC Clean Development Mechanism is discussed, it is not clear from the report if the CCC recommends that Malta will be the donor or the recipient country in CDM projects, i.e. should Malta obtain carbon credits by financing projects in other (non Annex1) countries, or should other countries finance projects in Malta to obtain carbon credits for themselves? I get the impression that the second alternative is the one recommended. This will only benefit Malta financially and will not in any way contribute to achieving Malta's emission reduction targets, and may actually take up resources which would otherwise be used as part of Malta's effort. However I may have the wrong impression and the CCC should be clear about this point.

The concept of a shadow price for carbon (Recommendations 7 and 8) is one of the most important recommendations in the report and its mandatory application will change the way decisions on energy related matters are made. Up to now many decisions were often made according to the gut feeling of the man in charge and were sometimes wrong. The CCC should stress the importance of this measure, which, if ignored, would render much of the rest of the report useless.

Electricity Generation

The report comes at a time when no new investment in power generation has been made for longer than any other period since the early fifties. However there is every indication that this will change following the reform in the electricity tariffs which will allow Enemalta to have the necessary finance.

With the mandatory closure of Marsa power station, future electricity generation is planned to be as in the charts in figures 34 and 41. The present sources will be virtually replaced by the Sicily cable and by new plant. This brings to mind a similar report about ten years ago that envisaged four combined cycle gas turbine blocks at Delimara by 2012. This plan was submitted to the Italian firm ENI who had made a proposal for a natural gas pipeline from Sicily in 2003. The CCGT program was not implemented for lack of funds and the gas pipeline project fell through with a change in the ministry. So, in order that this history will not be repeated, it must be ensured that the necessary funds will be available for implementing these ambitious projects.

Figure 31 shows how the CO₂ of the projected plant will be lower than the 1990 base figure. This assumes that the new plant will run on HFO and that the electricity derived from the cable will have no GHG debit. I doubt if the latter assumption is correct, unless the electricity imported comes from renewable sources, which in turn will totally change the economics. Still it is surprising that the decrease to pre 1990 levels is achievable, considering the fact that electricity demand rose by 86% since 1990 (see figure 12).

The CO₂ emission factors of HFO, gas oil, natural gas and imported electricity are not given, so that it is not possible to check the tables.

To date it is not known what the new plant at the next stage of the expansion of the Delimara power station will be, though the announcement is said to be imminent. It is hoped that the decision has been made taking into account the cost of the emissions when assessing the lifetime costs of the new plant.

The prospects for an electricity link to Sicily look good. It is hoped that the necessary feasibility study has been made as otherwise it will be too late for an alternative.

The resurrection of the natural gas pipeline project is also good news. The alternative of liquefied natural gas should be avoided as it is not only complex and hazardous, but any savings in the price of the raw material are wiped out by the prohibitive transport cost.

Both the cable and the natural gas pipeline will probably be owned and operated by private enterprise and this will change the way the public will pay for its electricity in the future. However this is not a matter for this report.

As stated in Recommendation 07, electricity generation will have the greatest impact on GHG emissions, by far overshadowing all other factors. Therefore government should see that it should be given top priority. It is also, as shown in the tables in the report, good economics.

Renewable sources

Malta is committed to generate 10% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. This is a difficult target and its objective is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is not clear in the report if this is a

percentage of electricity generation or of all energy use (including hot water). I assume it is the former.

The CCC recommends that 4% will be achieved through photovoltaic technology. This would look plausible considering the amount of sunshine we have in Malta. However the cost and the area required are prohibitive.

The amount of pv required for 4% is approximately 28 000 kWp, which, at €6 000 per kWp would amount to €168 million. This contrasts with the € 05 million budgeted this year for assistance to individuals installing such panels.

Unless very favourable feed in tariffs are instituted, it will not be economically feasible to install such panels and there will be no sudden jump from the present penetration of just 227kWp. So the figure of 4% is highly optimistic and definitely not practically achievable.

Wind energy is possibly the only cost effective source of renewable energy unless heavy fiscal charges are imposed on fossil fuels.

It is a fact that government has declared itself against land based wind farms, but this should not deter the CCC from stating its views. It is my belief that government's opposition to windfarms comes from pressure from land speculators who view any ODZ area as a potential site for golf courses/tourist complexes/open air discos etc, and fear that wind farms would spoil their dream projects.

The ideal location for a wind farm is Marfa ridge. It is admirably located to receive the prevailing wind, it is sufficiently large in area, and no objection was found for a radar station on it, so why would a wind farm be different?

Another favourable location, larger in area but slightly inferior wind-wise is the Xaghra I-Hamra area between Golden Bay and Popeye Village. Both these areas are rocky uninhabited areas and of no economic use, though the Xaghra I-Hamra has hydrological importance, which will not be effected by the wind farm.

A third area, suggested by Prof E Mallia, is the Wied Rini area, near Bahrija, which is already 'spoilt' by wireless masts, so wind turbines would not be out of place there.

There is no reason why wind turbines should all be in one location, so that once the principle is accepted, individual wind turbines would be possible in remote areas.

The proposed wind farm at the Sikka I-Bajda will be beneficial, but will present problems in its construction as well as in its operation and maintenance. Far better to start with a land based installation and progress to the offshore wind farm after experience is gained in its operation.

Government states that the Sikka I-Bajda wind farm will cost € 130 million, i.e. of the same order as a PV installation of comparable size. Given the expected load factor of both PV installation and the offshore windfarm, together with the operation and maintenance costs, government should make a comparative study and determine which option is the more cost effective. It is also significant that the PV installation gives the best output in summer when it is most needed.

Of course, land base windfarms are by far the cheaper option.

Water use

The report deals with the matter of water conservation, and questions the practice of not excavating wells in newly built dwellings. In this respect it is also known that a large proportion of existing wells are in bad repair and are not being utilized. Government should encourage house owners to maintain their wells and should device a grant scheme to assist the owners to repair their wells.

Transport

Recommendation 64, on the revision of the single lane road policy now needs to be extended further. The new speed camera policy which, for fiscal reasons, has reduced the speed limits to 60 kph in

dual carriageways, will mean more congestion as described very well in Sections 04.51 and 05.52. The CCC should state clearly that this is unfavourable in a climate change context.

Street Lighting

While the use of energy saving lamps in households is being encouraged, the trend in street lighting seems to be the opposite. At various places, especially on the coastline, street lights are being installed consisting of a mercury halide lamp pointing upwards with the light reflected from an often rusty plate which is supposed to diffuse the light. The overall efficiency of this system must be a small proportion of that of a SON lamp.

The inefficient method referred to is being used in the new seafront road at Xghajra, where dozens of lamps are being installed. The proximity of the sea ensures that the 'reflectors' are already rusting, with the lamps barely installed. I have seen such lights at Paceville, Marsalforn and the Bugibba raised beach. Such lamps should be banned.

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I thank you once again.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

John Sammut

Submitted on: 14/02/09

I read with interest the report, especially the areas related to substituting Fuel Oil as an Energy Source for vehicles. There are several advantages when using LPG, mainly it is non toxic, non-corrosive and free of tetra-ethyl lead or any additives and has a high octane rating. It burns more cleanly than petrol or diesel and is especially free of the particulates from the latter. A diesel engine produces about 20 times as much NOx as an LPG engine, thus having a huge impact on air quality. A diesel engine produces about 120 times as many ultra-fine particulates as an LPG engine. These nasty little particulates lodge in our lungs and cause respiratory problems that tend to build up over the years. A petrol engine produces around 20% more CO2 than an LPG engine. Three really good environmental reasons for choosing LPG.

In some countries, LPG (more commonly known as autogas) has been used for more than 40 years as an alternative fuel for spark ignition engines and more recently it has also been used for diesel engines.

What is the Maltese government waiting for to legalize the use of LPG as autogas and make the necessary infrastructure? By the way, I hope that the legalization of LPG use will not be accompanied by extra high gas prices!

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I wish to bring to your attention that to the best of the Committee's knowledge, MRA in the process leading to the commercialisation of the Gas Division of Enemalta Corporation to Liguigas (Malta) Ltd draw up regulatory guidelines for the importation of autogas.

I thank you once again.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Silvio Aquilina

Submitted on: 13/02/09

Recommendation 56 requires that all new buildings should have reservoirs. Although this is the way forward, when there are underground car parks or garages, the practice is to locate the reservoir below street level with no overflow to the street. This type of reservoir is rarely used since few building owners want to risk directing the rainwater stacks into the reservoir knowing that they have to constantly monitor the water level in the reservoir particularly when the building is leased. The use of pumps to keep the water at a safe level is neither energy efficient nor foolproof. As such reservoirs should be built in such a way that their highest water level is above road level.

Apart from the areas where the new pharmaceutical factories have been established, Hal Far is an area that lost its natural integrity and has large areas in a dilapidated state. In the report no reference is made how Hal Far can be used for renewable energy plants where the dilapidated factories can be replaced with solar or wind farms rather than spoiling agriculture land.

No reference is made to Energy Performance of Buildings similar to the British Regulations Part L whereby a new building is certified that it does not exceed the target CO2 emissions. This certification must be part of the compliance certificate for all new buildings exceeding a certain floor area.

Furthermore, although Enemalta already gives incentive rates to Power Factor Correction units, in the report there is no reference to power factor correction.

Lastly, public awareness should be increased regarding switching off electronic appliances such as television sets and personal computers both at home and at work and not leaving them on standby.

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I thank you once again.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Tony Mifsud on behalf of the Malta Unborn Child Movement

Submitted on: 11/02/09

In a review of a book *Environmental Justice and the Rights of Unborn and Future Generations* by Prof. Laura Westra Ph.D Professor Emerita (Philosophy), University of Windsor, Canada it is stated that: The traditional concept of social justice is increasingly being challenged by the notion of a humankind that spans current and future generations.

The book is a systematic examination of how the rights of the unborn and future generations are handled in common law and under international legal instruments. It provides comprehensive coverage of the arguments over international legal instruments, key legal cases and examples including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, industrial disasters, clean water provision, diet, HIV/AIDS, environmental racism and climate change.

In another review of a United Nations University book *Environmental Change and International Law: New Challenges and Dimensions* (UNU, 1992, 493 pages) it is stated: There is clear evidence that the approach adopted by the international community to environmental rights corresponds to that applied to human rights generally.

The international community has reached a stage where the individual is held entitled specifically to a natural and cultural environment ensuring the development of the different dimensions of his personality.

Recently a Maltese social worker highlighted the dangers for the young of energy drinks, especially mixed with certain other types of drink. He told youths that the drink cocaine is lethal for them. Yet, the social worker contended, our children are knocking it down whatever they can lay their hands on.

At the same time a leading local economist drew attention to the fact that our early teenagers have been identified as among the most addicted to drink in Europe.

Local demographic indicators show that Maltese teenagers, plus some others, are the bearers of a little less than one third of newborns, born out of wedlock, in the Maltese islands at present.

Paediatrician in many parts of the world have been saying that innocent children are being devastated by alcohol, drugs and tobacco; that binge drinking does a lot of harm to a developing baby and that society is today creating a group of children who will be unemployable.

A leading UK daily paper reported that research has revealed that "babies in the womb were being exposed to cocktails of toxic chemicals and that their blood was swimming with dangerous compounds found in everyday household cleaners, perfumes and even pans and furniture".

A consultant oncologist at Northampton General Hospital in the UK writing about exhaust fumes and their link to cancer declared... the most striking association I have come across is the link between the incidence of childhood acute leukemia and the parental exposure to exhaust fumes around the time of conception, as a result of damage to the sperm DNA. He urges the powers-that-be to think before routing large volumes of traffic through residential areas.

The UK Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health indicated in 2005 that research had shown that gas emissions were the main cause of the incidence of childhood cancers. The Journal recommended that future research into the causes of cancer in children should focus on environmental exposure in the womb as well as during childhood. According to the same Journal the findings of the UK report was backed by ongoing research focused on babies in the womb in the USA.

On paper local legislation already protects unborn children from any type of harm...and death. However, no official statistics ever reveal what type of injuries are inflicted on unborn children by the misuse, or abuse, of toxic substances, by parents before and during pregnancies, and by employers and/or managers on the places of work. And the Health and Safety Authority never pronounces itself on this subject.

In a recent declaration on "current global issues" on the website of the Malta Ministry of Foreign Affairs (www.foreign.gov.mt - unborn child) in a section devoted solely to children, the Ministry declared that "Malta will continue to actively support the protection of the basic human rights of children in the world particularly as laid out in the International Convention on the Rights of the child: the right to survival, to develop to the fullest, to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; and the right to participate fully in family, cultural and social life.

Malta will continue to support international actions and policies that respect the rights of the unborn child and foster the best interests of children. In this context, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will seek a proactive engagement in the activities of UNICEF and other international bodies and initiatives dedicated to the welfare of children."

Please note the Malta Government's declaration, displaying its determination, that it will "support international actions and policies that respect the rights of the unborn child and foster the best interests of children."

This is why the Climate Change Consultation Committee of the Ministry of Resources and Rural Affairs should consider making provisions in its report to government on an eventual strategy on climate change also in the womb, the first environment to man, his first world.

I thank you for your mail. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I assure you that the Climate Change Committee is assessing the feedback presented by the Malta Unborn Child Movement. The consultation process has formally concluded on 16th March 2009; and we have now start to formalise the assessment process.

It is the intention of the Committee to prepare a report on all feedback received and to subsequently present a report together with its position on such feedback.

The Committee plans to complete this work by the end of the Easter period.

I thank you for your interest and participation in the consultation process.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Stefan Gorg Said

Submitted on: 07/02/09

1.) Why not install small wind turbines atop all government buildings as they are doing in NY?
<http://www.cnbc.com/id/28978247/for/cnbc>

2.) Moreover, during this legislature, the government ought to install PV cells on the roofs of all of its buildings.

Thanks

I thank you for your recommendations. I wish to bring to you attention that one of the recommendations in the Report is that public buildings are utilised for the installation of PVs - with accessibility to be provided for citizens at large (primarily those who have no access to a roof).

Thank you.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Raymond De Battista

Submitted on: 06/02/09

Although happy with the service the 'Park & Ride' facility is providing, may I suggest that a Tram Line be considered in replacement to all the mini-buses working on this same and constant route. Using trams on a fixed route line will definitely reduce the carbon emissions generated by all the mini-buses used. Perhaps it might be a capital expenditure at first but it would definitely payout in the long run.

Thanks

I thank you for your feedback - which I shall bring to the attention of the Climate Change Committee. Thank you once again.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Clinton Caruana

Submitted on: 04/02/09

I am doing a dissertation entitled "Are Maltese entrepreneurs aware of climate change?" which will find out the extent of the Maltese entrepreneurs' perspective and awareness about this subject. I would appreciate if you can give me the following information:

Are there any current legislation, laws or directives in Malta which deal with climate change and greenhouse gas emissions? If yes can you pls give me such documents or links for such legislation? I only found the climate change committee report and a search on gov.mt yielded no result.

Thanks a lot in advance for your feedback.

There is no legislation on Climate Change, GHG, et al in Malta. In the report by the CCC we proposed that a specific legislation would add value if taken within the context of an overall programme of abatement measures for climate change. Our position is that a legislation on its own would add little value.

Should you wish to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact me.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Leonardo Ellul Bonnici

Submitted on: 03/02/09

Half heartedly I'm in the process of converting my car to fully electric propulsion, contacted ADT and was told that they never registered fully electric car converted locally. Chances are that after conversion I would not be able to drive my car on the road. Electric cars are very practical in Malta due to short distances. ADT are willing to register India toy cars such as Reva but find it very hard to register a better performance car with more safety features converted locally.

Talk is cheap.

I thank you for your comments. I shall bring these to the attention of the Climate Change Committee.

Thank you once again.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Margaret Azzopardi

Submitted on: 02/02/09

Recommendation 56 Section 04.3.8 deals with Malta's chronic water supply shortage and the great expense of desalination. What I would like to ask is whether any thought was given to collect much of the rainwater that is currently being lost to the sea as runoff. If I am not mistaken it is quite a large percentage and it is a pity that nothing is done to collect this precious water. Our roads should form part of a system where rain water is collected in underground cisterns that will in themselves feed Malta's water-table, as the water is allowed to seep through the soft, porous limestone during the long summer months. I am sure that this is technically possible!

With regards to the public transport system, I believe that a more efficient system that gives prompt and punctual service would go a long way in increasing its users. I, for one when I had to use the public transport found it extremely annoying and inefficient that I had to wait for approximately 40 minutes, because it was during 2- 3 pm! On the other hand the park and ride service is very efficient and I am sure, that the public would not be averse to a minimal fee when parking there to help continue and support the good service provided there! If the public transport was to increase its efficiency and service, copying in some way what happens at the park and ride, I think there will be more passengers who will use its service, for the benefit of all!

On behalf of the Climate Change Committee I thank you for your feedback. I assure you that I will bring this to the attention of the Climate Change Committee.

Thank you once again.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Bernardine Spiteri

Submitted on: 31/01/09

- (1) Use of recycled paper in office to print documents etc.;
- (2) Re printing of dissertations, assignments etc (secondary/post-secondary/tertiary level of education), printing should be on either side of the sheet of paper and not on one side and wherever possible to opt for submission of CDs or to send via email to reduce use of paper;
- (3) To introduce on a frequent basis a no-car day in every single locality of Malta and Gozo;

(4) For the MRRA to seek to work hand in hand with the expert conservators and restorers who concentrate on preserving and safeguarding our cultural heritage in order for the latter to learn to adopt eco-friendly measures which would simultaneously safeguard our natural heritage, hence our environment, our climate.

On behalf of the Climate Change Committee I thank you for your feedback / proposals.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Kenneth azzopardi

Submitted on: 31/01/09

In my opinion, climate change is very important and essential because, one must have a very clean and a excellent climate.

I thank you for your feedback. Sincerely.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Brian Azzopardi

Submitted on: 31/01/09

These are some of my recommendations on the Climate Change Committee Report:

Recommendation 39: The University of Malta has been given importance in this recommendation. My comment is that if MCAST as well as University of Malta are the two pillars of our education system for a knowledge based economy, we need to give the same importance to MCAST.

Recommendation 49: I am not aware that the Malta Council for Arts, Science and Technology exists in Malta. I think this was mistyped instead of Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology. Meanwhile MCST (Malta Council of Science and Technology) may take the lead to encourage research in a multi-disciplinary and international arena on climate change.

We need to revise our priorities on Solar and Wind renewable energy technologies that are only suitable for our island. The MRA in its reports has completely obliterated other emerging renewable technologies such as: wave energy and others. Italy our neighbouring country is investing heavily in wave energy research development. I do not think we are too far away from Italy that such energy we cannot capture! On the other hand passive systems and geothermal technologies need to be also given their due attention to minimise CO2.

Thank you for this opportunity.

I thank you for your feedback which I shall bring to the attention of the climate Change Committee. In terms of Recommendation 49 - you are correct: this is a typo on our part and should read as the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology as you rightly say.

I thank you once again. Best regards.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Mark Spiteri

Submitted on: 29/01/09

Some scientists see climate change as one of the greatest risks to the survival of the human race. It is now generally accepted that human activity has had an impact on the climate across the world. The nature and extent of that change is subject to heated debate. The debate seems to have polarised with the US government advocating wait and see and collect more data, and the rest of the world contending that there is more than enough data to justify action being taken immediately.

What is clear, however, is that there has been a dramatic rise in global temperatures in the latter part of the 20th century and the first few years of the 21st century. While fluctuations in the earth's temperature have occurred regularly since the planet was formed, what is causing concern about this particular phase is the rapidity of the rise.

The average global temperature rise between 1900 and 2000 was around 0.60C which doesn't seem very much but it is the greatest rate of temperature change for the last 1000 years. In the period from 1840 to 2000, the 10 warmest years occurred since 1983, with the warmest 8 years in that period occurring in the 1990s (World Meteorological Organization, 2000).

There are two questions to be answered, what are the implications of climate change and why is it happening? Unfortunately both questions are very difficult (or even impossible) to answer definitively. The global interactions between the weather, the sea and the land are not well understood and even the most confident predictions are full of uncertainty.

The implications of climate change are potentially catastrophic. It is anticipated that some regions of the earth will see less rain leading to accelerating desertification, while at the same time other regions will be see increased rainfall but weather patterns are anticipated to become more violent. Hurricanes and typhoons are expected to become more frequent and flash floods, tornadoes, etc will also become more commonplace.

Concern is being expressed about the impact that global warming will have on ocean currents, for example the Gulf Stream which provides Great Britain with its temperate climate. If the Northern Polar Regions heat up sufficiently, the Gulf Stream may be disrupted resulting in Great Britain and other parts of Europe have a much more extreme climate that it has at the moment.

Rising sea levels may occur through a variety of mechanisms, perhaps the most obvious being melting continental glaciers. Other causes of rising sea level include thermal expansion of the water as it heats up and increasing storm surges as a result of the changing weather patterns.

It is estimated that the sea level has risen by between 10 and 20cm over the last 100 years and projected to rise a further 9cm to 88cm by the year 2100. This will have serious impact on low lying coastal communities and may even lead to the evacuation of some areas, including some islands in the Indian Ocean and elsewhere. Whole communities may be displaced as a result of rising sea levels.

Finally, climate change will have an impact on biodiversity. It is likely that some species will become extinct as they fail to adapt quickly enough to increasing temperatures. Some of these effects may have already appeared with changes in bird migration patterns and the appearance of hibernating amphibians and other animals earlier than in previous years. There is some concern that cod in the North Atlantic have already migrated northwards to cooler waters but stock depletion through over fishing makes this suggestion difficult to prove.

Ecosystems, including ancient forests in tropical and temperate climates, mangroves, arctic tundra, wetlands, etc, are all at significant risk since their rate of evolution and adaptation is measured in millennia, not in decades or even centuries. The impact of climate change on the world's ecosystems will vary in both intensity and severity but it is almost inevitable that most will be subject to some degree of negative impact.

If ecosystems are subject to serious damage, it is inevitable that the flora and fauna that co-exist with them will also suffer. There is already considerable concern about species extinction through loss of habitat, hunting, etc, and it is inevitable that this process will accelerate as the earth's climate continues to change.

I thank you for your feedback which I shall bring to the attention of the Climate Change Committee.

Best regards.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Jesmond Darmanin

Submitted on: 28/01/09

Thanks for your reply I also have another small point. To avoid uselessly cluttering the maltese roads with useless traffic, why not organise transport buses for public school students too (obviously at a fee) so parents wouldnt have to drive their children to school everyday, saving all the fuel for the parents (and that can go towards the payment for the transport). But most importantly, stopping all the extra emmissions from the trips the parents have to drive their children, and reduction in traffic, therefore less emissions. + a couple less unemployed people.

Small points that can be extremely valuable.

I thank you for your recommendation which I shall bring to the attention of the Climate Change Committee.

Best regards.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Duncan Dimech

Submitted on: 28/01/09

Thanks for reading my rather lengthy feedback. Could you please be so kind to let me know the outcome of the committee review when this is available?

Should you require more information on some areas, I would be glad to furnish you with any documentation I may have on the subject. Please note that my line of business is not related to the environment in any way and the information given was based on my research on the topic as I am highly interested in the subject.

I thank you for your mail. The consultation process is open till, I believe the 15th of March 2009. Subsequent to this the Committee will review its report and draw up a new one.

The report will subsequently be placed by the Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs for Cabinet discussion. Subsequent to this the Government has publicly stated that it will place the final report at

the House of Representatives for debate and approval as the national strategy for policy and abatement measures related to green house gases.

I thank you for your kind invitation.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Jesmond Darmanin

Submitted on: 27/01/09

All this talk on climate change grand projects is good, but at the same time, no one is able to take a stand to resolve even the tiniest of issues!

Lets take a simple example this morning. My usual 20/30 minute drive to work (from Siggiewi to St. Gwann) was increased to 1hr 15 min today as some genius commissioned some works to be done in Regional Road, right during peak time!! (at about 8.30am!!) This completely blocked out traffic. Now, setting aside the fact all the inconvenience and people arriving work late, and dangerous driving related to this, i would also be concerned about the fuel wastage and double the amount of emissions from everyone's cars, all those who were stuck in traffic.

These works should be performed in off peak times or at night to prevent blockages.

I really do hope that you would be able to cover these tiny - common sense issues before even attempting any super large scale projects.

I thank you for your mail. I assure you that I will bring this to the attention to the attention of the Climate Change Committee. I thank you once again for your contribution and interest.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Paul Debono

Submitted on: 26/01/09

I am no alternative energy expert, but has been interested in solar and wind energy for the last 30 years. These technologies are not yet fully developed, indeed, still in their infancy. A more developed, technologically advanced is the GEOTHERMAL system, which taps the earth's natural heat. see <http://geothermal.marin.org/pwrheat.html#Q2>

Dear Mr Debono

I thank you for your mail and the url reference you forward for our attention. I assure you that we will go through this url. Many thanks.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Duncan Dimech

Submitted on: 25/01/09

The report covers a number of agendas and provides simple solutions that could help. The climate is changing and that is a fact. Whether or not this is some natural event it does not matter. We cannot keep depending on some old technology knowing that the resources for such technology are becoming more rare and more in the control of a group of people. This is apart from the fact that such technologies are causing us harm and makes us spend more money and resources to revert the harm done.

The report addresses the generation of power from solar energy. Although solar energy is a good alternative, recently I learned that these work at about 20% efficiency. Higher efficiency panels are available only for certain applications and can be afforded only by certain entities with large budget such as NASA who utilised panels with 80% efficiency for their Mars exploration rovers. In simple terms, a 10kw solar panels installation that we have today could easily generate 50kw using the same space but the cost is phenomenal for many of us.

The report lacks in addressing some other issues such as the domestic use of wind power which would take much less space and generate more energy per square meter utilised for solar panels. Because we have a high building density, the vertical wind turbine style may be more suitable for the Maltese islands rather than the horizontal as it is not affected by turbulence apart that aesthetically the vertical is nicer than the horizontal type. For those stating that wind turbines cause noise annoyance, the vertical wind turbine system work at 4db above ground noise level. This means that if two people are talking next to the vertical wind turbine they would be causing more annoyance than the vertical wind turbine as a normal conversation is about 20db above ground noise (ground noise is at 40db). For this stating that wind is not permanent, then please not that the sun is only available during certain hours of the day providing that it is not cloudy.

The report also lacks in addressing the use of electric vehicles and recommendations to the government to aid in the introduction and use of such vehicles. While a more efficient public transport may sort some of the issues especially if electric vehicles are used, some people cannot do better than using their vehicles as their means of transport for various reasons. These people should be given the opportunity to be more environment friendly and should be motivated to change their old vehicles to new ones. The introduction of polluter pays will only be of little benefit without the proper support to improve the current situation.

It is known that Maltese people are intelligent and adaptable. Some Maltese people would come up with ideas that could help to promote more the use of renewable energy while they might also be the catalysts to create new jobs by commercialising their idea. The report does not look into such possibility and in the ways that the people would be aided to start such ventures.

The government owns a number of entities such as schools and hospitals that are so far have not introduced some of the recommendations you have proposed. The entities should be upgraded as soon as possible and the general public should be made aware of the benefits to stimulate the use of such recommendations. The government should also look into the possibility of using such entities to generate power from renewable sources in access to the amount required so that the additional power could be sold to individuals that may not be able to generate such power for some reason such as the lack of availability of a roof. This could be done through the introduction of Green Credit system which has already been introduced in a number of countries. This would allow entities with problems to generate their own green power to purchase their green power from another entity while stimulating the market to generate access power and sell it to others yielding a higher return on investment.

I thank you for your feedback - which I shall refer to the Climate Change Committee. Once again, many thanks.

I thank you once again.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Joseph Micallef

Submitted on 25/01/09

1.. The committee should be aware of the fact that the finances of both the government and the individual are finite and so the recommendations should be prioritised so that maximum effect can be obtained both for the country as a whole and the individual who can benefit from a realistic pay back period.

2.. The policies of the various government agencies should be tailored to complement the committee's recommendations. For example MEPA's policy for 3 story buildings + penthouse would both discourage individuals from setting solar/wind energy generators on their roof due to the obstruction of such buildings to both the sun and the wind. (The government should priorities - what does Malta need most, more housing or more alternative energy generators - remember 25% of Malta is built up this should be viewed as places for the potential installation of alternative energy generators.) Alternative energy does not have the same energy density as coal or oil so a distributed energy generation network would be more workable in the case of alternative energy than in the case of oil/ oil power stations.

3.. Any recommendations should take into account Malta specificities (eg climate, building, geology, cultural) and hence be based on local studies and not simply copied from those of other nations. For example most of Malta's buildings are made of lime stone (which is porous and absorbs moisture), have natural ventilation (ventillaturi), are not centrally heated but some rooms are heated by flueless gas heaters (which generate significant amounts of water vapour) or air-conditioned and also Maltese houses tend to have a significant thermal mass. Also Malta's climate is such that the outside average temperature rarely deviates from that 10 degrees C from the comfort zone of 18 to 25 degrees C. Hence does it make sense to recommend double glazed windows when most rooms have a "ventillatur" and lime stone is such a bad insulator. Why should thermal insulation be laid on top of the concrete roof instead of on the ceiling inside, thus decreasing the thermal mass of the room?

4.. Space in Malta is very limited and hence should be available for use by future generations. The use of virgin land for new developments, including alternative energy sites should be given deep thought. Also agricultural land should be viewed as a secure source of food for the Maltese in the ever more likely trend of a decrease in global food production.

5.. The government should make sure that energy efficient devices are really what they claim to be and not some Far Eastern fake.

6.. It is strange that Malta has given up on CO2 storage - one would have imagined that a geology that favoured oil deposits would favour CO2 storage.

7.. Malta has one of the highest car densities in the world. This means that compared to other developed countries Malta has room for lowering that density i.e. lower the number of cars in Malta. Hence a study should be conducted on the reasons behind the large number of cars in Malta and research into methods for decreasing the density. Such research should be done before a consultation on the reform of the public sector is done. Solutions such as teleworking look promising for decreasing the need to travel however it is doubtful whether the government agencies of the

private sector sees real value in such options. Investment to reduce the dependence of Malta on the passenger car should be favoured to road upgrades.

8.. The real sustainability of hydrogen powered vehicles is doubtful since hydrogen is not normally manufactured from "green" sources and it requires energy to store and keep (cooling).

9.. Certain countries such as Israel are investing a nation wide electric grid for the charging of electric vehicles.

On behalf of the Climate Change Committee I thank you for your feedback. I will refer this feedback to the Climate Change Committee for review.

I thank you once again.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Sina Hartland

Submitted on 21/01/09

I suggest that in the peak hours say 7 to 8 am and 5 to 6 pm public transport could be free of charge hence most Maltese people would not use their cars for work.

I thank you for your suggestion which I shall bring to the attention of the Climate Change Committee. I thank you once again.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Joseph Anthony Debono

Submitted on 20/01/09

Thank you for finding the time to reply to my comment. Please allow me to make a few comments on your reply.

As you observe, there is an unsettling lack of consensus on "climate change". This makes it all the more important for the scientific community to engage in extensive debate on the issue before adopting measures so incredibly injurious to the economy and society at large. It is in the very nature of science to debate and to accept conclusions tentatively and subject to immediate revision in case of falsification. Gospel truth is anathema to science.

Given this fact, I am astonished to read that the Climate Change Committee has no intention of embarking on any debate on the actuality and nature of "climate change". This is so contrary to the scientific spirit that it leads me to the conclusion that the Committee is not a scientific but a political body.

Since you are so uninterested in debate, I shall not cite any of the major points of dissension, I shall not append lists of the works and names of the venerable scientists who are challenging the notion of anthropogenic "climate change" on a daily basis. Neither shall I enumerate the studies by economists who point out the frightening consequences of the measures being proposed to fight what increasingly appears to be a chimera. I shall however point out the foolishness of the notion that reducing Malta's patterns of consumption, even to zero, would have any effect on any putative "climate change".

Sir, a scientific committee which permits no debate is a sham. There will be a political cost to this, especially when society at large starts to suffer the consequences of the measures being proposed. Politicians being who and what they are, I doubt they will be too keen to shoulder the responsibility.

I thank you for your mail. The position I place in the earlier mail should be taken within the context of the design of the report presented for consultation process.

In Chapter 01 of the Report, in Section 01.03 (page 39), we state the following:

"02. The science of Climate Change is an emerging one – gaining considerable impetus and global recognition over the past decade. It is important to stress that the science of Climate Change is far from unanimous in terms of the conclusions reached. The report does not enter into this scientific debate, and thus makes no contribution in this regard, save to note that there is sufficient scientific evidence that Climate Change is indeed occurring. The report takes as its starting point the fact that Malta is signatory to the Kyoto Protocol and that as a Member State of the European Union Malta has adopted strategic positions and directives as agreed to by the EU."

As you can see, and if you have read the report (www.climatechange.gov.mt) as I am sure you have, the Committee does not enter into the debate on climate change. As stated in the report, and as shown in the quote above, the point of departure was the acceptance of the scientific evidence (which we acknowledged is disputed) that climate change is occurring.

Hence, the presentation of the report for consultation is not to enter into a scientific debate on whether climate change is or is not happening; but rather to discuss whether the abatement measures presented in the report are the right measures; if not why so, whether there are other abatement measures which we should be looking at, etc.

In the event that you wish to pursue a scientific debate with the Committee, I would be pleased to bring this to the attention of the appropriate members of the Committee - and I would suggest that a meeting is held rather than a bouncing of mails.

Best regards and I look forward to hearing from you.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

John Doe

Submitted on: 19/01/09

I urge whoever is looking on to climate change to look beyond what the USA and Britain are saying that's causing these changes. Its not the carbon emissions or the greenhouse gasses as they are portraying. The whole of the solar system is heating up and not just the earth. I am not saying that carbon emissions are harmless, indeed they poison us in the most basic level of our living. Earth periodically goes through this change, every 26,000 years to be exact. Look it up!

I thank you for your view.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Ian Attard

Submitted on: 18/01/09

I would like to comment on the current feed-in tariffs for the production of clean energy. They are far from reasonable, since as things are currently, Enemalta is given incentive to continue polluting the environment with high prices charged per kWh, while who produces electricity with ZERO emissions is given much less than the lowest electricity rate through the feed-in tariff. I think that the feed-in tariff should change to at least the lowest rate + surcharge. In principle, I would say that it should change to the maximum rate + surge charge, but I don't see how this is practical, given that the current feed-in rate is so low.

Another thing, in the 2009 budget, the average consumption per capita in a household was set to 1750kWh. In my opinion, this is a great incentive to continue our wasteful habits. Speaking for my household, having all the necessary appliances (but with at least A rating) and a good solar water heater, during 2008, myself and my wife used approx. 1500kWh. Not each, but both of us. This means 750kWh each. Hence, if we really want to save our planet, and ensure that tomorrow we can still breathe through our atmosphere (without paying for clean air), the average should be set lower than 1000kWh, whatever the unions say. The unions are not the only ones with the responsibility to save the planet. It is everyone's. What is the use of having comfortable measures, when we are not sustainable? WE HAVE TO START BEING REALISTIC and TAKE our RESPONSABILITIES. Unions do a great job, but they should be careful that they realize they have responsibilities to the future generations, not only to the present PAYING ones.

Finally, due to the fact that the power stations continue providing electricity at the same rate (generation wise) during day and night time, while the consumption changes with fairly regular patterns, is it possible to make tariffs in such a way as to incentivise the use of energy when the load on our energy producers is lower, and increase prices where demand peaks? This would mean that we would use more of the energy we are still producing.

On the recycle Tuesdays scheme, I would like to point out that I am not aware that it is in action in my locality - Msida. We recycle everything we can and take everything to the bring-in site - which I don't mind at all, but I can easily see that most of the people in my road do not do the same, hence, if we have the scheme running, this may improve the people's habits.

I thank you for your mail and your suggestions which I shall bring to the attention of the Climate Change Committee.

It is pertinent to note that the report by the Committee proposes:

(i) that consumers should pay for the true cost of the generation of electricity - with the exclusion of inefficiencies - as it believes that a person will only change his or her behaviour in terms of consumption patterns or the adoption of energy saving technologies if it is comparing alternatives - including elimination of waste - if on an equal base line.

(ii) recommends the introduction of differentiated multi tariffs which will allow the energy utility to create different tariff bands for different time periods such as normal; peak; and nights. The introduction of such multi-tiered tariffs would allow, for example, the energy utility to establish lower tariffs during the evening (in order to maximise utilisation of energy produced by the base load at night) in order to shift energy consumption behaviour from peak hours to non-peak hours.

The application of such multi-tiered tariffs, however, can only occur with the introduction of Smart Meters. It is to be noted that Enemalta Corporation and Water Services Corporation in September 2008 signed a contract with IBM for the implementation of energy and water smart meters over a 4 year period.

I thank you for your mail.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Joseph Anthony Debono

Submitted on: 16/01/09

More and more scientists are becoming increasingly sceptical about the theory of anthropogenic climate change. Faulty epistemology, computer s based on theories of weather prediction which cannot make predictions one month down the line and the incredible economic cost of the minimal "improvement" expected by the theory are undermining the credibility of "climate change". It is become ever clearer that "climate change" is being used to extort money from the taxpayer for ideological and political reasons. With the economic crisis whose effects are still to be felt in Malta, our country cannot afford the luxury of burning its cash reserves and impoverishing its people to make obeisance to this green idol. Bad science and bad economics are poor foundations upon which to base any policy. As a voter, I shall be paying close attention to this issue.

I thank you for your email and your views. I regret to inform you that the Climate Change Committee disagrees with your view.

Whilst you are correct that there is debate on the nature of climate change, there is a comprehensive body of scientific knowledge that shows that behaviour by humans is affecting negatively climate change. The Climate Change Committee subscribes to this school of thought.

Thus, the Climate Change Committee is of the considered professional opinion that the dissemination of information, the diffusion of knowledge and the promulgation of communication are important measures that the Government of Malta is to undertake in order to inculcate a culture at a national, enterprise, and individual level that is recognisant of the affects of its behaviour on climate change.

I wish to add that, whilst the Climate Change Committee respects scientific beliefs of persons who do not believe in the deterioration of the climate due to human behaviour, this is not a scientific view held by the Climate Change Committee; and it is not a debate that the Climate Change Committee will enter into.

Thank you.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

David Muscat

Submitted on: 16/01/09

I'm upset by such a campaign with taxpayer money. Climate always changed is a natural process and man made carbon emissions did nothing to accelerate or decelerate its pace.

I thank you for your email and your views. I regret to inform you that the Climate Change Committee disagrees with your view.

Whilst you are correct that there is debate on the nature of climate change, there is a comprehensive body of scientific knowledge that shows that behaviour by humans is affecting negatively climate change. The Climate Change Committee subscribes to this school of thought.

Thus, the Climate Change Committee is of the considered professional opinion that the dissemination of information, the diffusion of knowledge and the promulgation of communication are important measures that the Government of Malta is to undertake in order to inculcate a culture at a national, enterprise, and individual level that is recognisant of the affects of its behaviour on climate change.

I wish to add that, whilst the Climate Change Committee respects scientific beliefs of persons who do not believe in the deterioration of the climate due to human behaviour, this is not a scientific view held by the Climate Change Committee; and it is not a debate that the Climate Change Committee will enter into.

Thank you.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Victor Cauchi

Submitted on: 16/01/09

I feel that the problem of tar/bitmac roads/ streets has not been adequately addressed. The heat retention caused by these roads is very detrimental especially during the summer months. Also with consideration for the loss of albedo taking place, the use of white or light coloured road surfacing materials would alleviate heat retention and help reflectivity, even if to a small extent with regard to local roads in relation to the albedo phenomenon.

Also, I wonder why no encouragement is given to paint our roofs in white to keep the heat out, and possibly use light colours to paint the exterior of our houses. Much heat would be avoided from inside, besides helping the albedo factor, were we to suggest the use of white and light colours on the outside of our houses the same way as we see the population of Greek islands paint their houses.

I thank you for your mail. I will bring your comments with regards to tar/bitmac/roads and the use of light coloured road surfacing materials to the attention of the Climate Change Committee.

I thank you on your comments vis-a-vis the application of solar technology such as solar paint. For the record, the report presented by the CCC emphasises the use of such technologies. In fact Appendix V of the Report gives examples of a number of energy saving technologies which includes solar paint.

I thank you once again for your feedback.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Chantelle Mifsud

Submitted on: 15/01/09

Hi, I would like to attend to a project in Almeria in Spain, here everthing that is used is everthing with energy. from washing to cooking , electricty,water. it is a shame that Maltese goverment don t support people to wish to help the environment , and bringing this education with simple and complicated experimant that any person can do. this is a non profit organisation so not i m not going to work for money. but i need help from goverment to bring these ideas and share them here.

I thank you for your mail. I am afraid that I am not in a position to assist you. This feedback site has been set up to channel to feedback on the report prepared by the Climate Change Committee.

In terms of potential scholarships I would suggest that you approach the Ministry for Education.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee

Christopher Borg

Submitted on: 15/01/09

I was pleased with the report and all the recommendations given in the report, what I didn't find is the importance of bike commuting is to the environment. Although in 2009 budget bicycle sales were encouraged in this is not mentioned in this 239 page report. In Malta the distance is very favourable to cycling due to the short distance. I myself cycle to work every day, from B'kara to Gzira. We are urging people to use more transport which emits less CO2, and we are forgetting the vehicle which does not emit CO2 at all. There is no mention to any bike lane in this report, the current bike lanes are ridiculous. In my opinion it is better to put a bike lane in many roads thus encouraging bicycle transport which thus reduces congestion etc.

I hope that cycling is going to be taught of as in the US where employers are encouraged and helped financially to encourage cycling by employees (were a monthly tax reduction is given when there is a purchase for a bike to be used for Commuting). Should we look at the English transport department encouraging people to cycle and thus reduce the CO2 emissions.

Why should we focus on cars, forgetting that a parked car takes the space of 20 parked bicycles.

I hope that these recommendations do not fall on deaf ears and something is made to encourage bicycle commuting in Malta, which has the environmental aspect and the health aspect.

I thank you for your mail and your suggestion with regards to the introduction of a bike commuting policy as an abatement measure.

You are correct in saying that the report has not looked at this abatement measure. I have taken note of your suggestion and I will bring it to the attention of the Climate Change Committee.

I thank you for your suggestion.

David Spiteri Gingell
Chairman
Climate Change Committee