

Renewable Energy Record Broken

June 2015 saw a massive 33.4% of the islands electricity being generated by renewable energy. The solar farm was brought on line and now complements the wind turbines on Deadwood Plain. 33.4% last month equates to a saving of 73,000 litres of diesel fuel which is enough to fill the fuel tanks of half the islands registered vehicles!



Desalination

There has been increasing comment in the benefits of desalination as a reliable source of water so why don't we do it? The answer is quite simple; Cost. Ascension Island is a useful comparison. Electricity cost is 45.84p/kWh, only 6% above our highest tariff; they have a similar renewable mix so no surprises there. Water as many will know is produced by desalinating sea water but the tariff is £24.60/m³ compared with our domestic tariff of 93p/m³ and 62p/m³ tariff for agricultural consumers.

Here the average annual household bill is currently £76, at the rate for desalinated water that would increase to £1,795 which is a 2,261% increase, or a 3,867% increase for agricultural customers.

Consumption is on the increase and is being addressed through catchment improvements, reservoir capacity expansion, leakage reduction and increased use of boreholes. This will allow water to be supplied at more affordable levels than the desalination alternative as we are sure nobody wants to pay on average an additional £1,719 a year for their water.

