



# Renewable Energy in the United Kingdom

2002 to 2013

Performance, Costs, Warnings

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Director

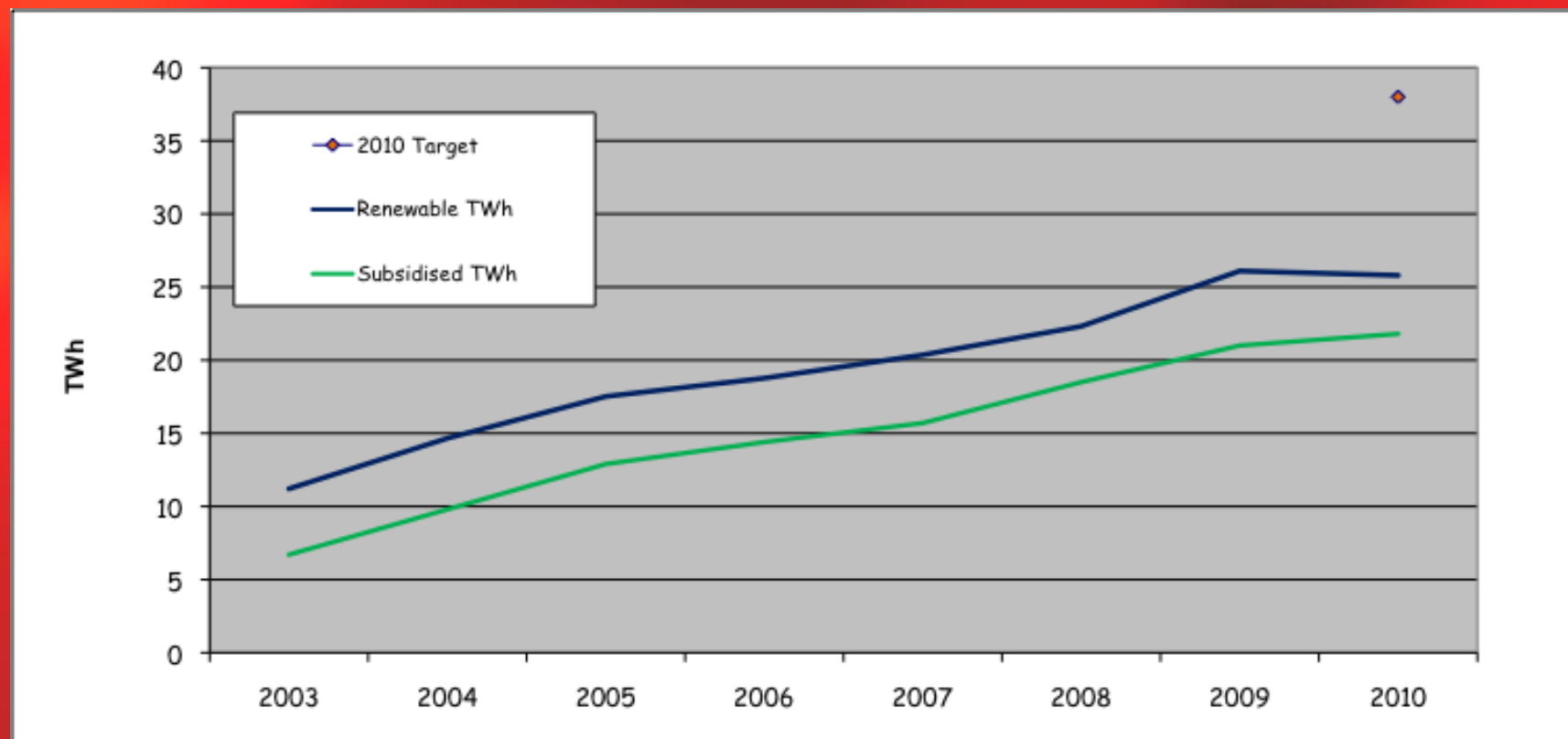
October 2013

# 2002 Renewable Electricity Target for 2010

- 10% of electricity to be renewable
  - Instrument: *Renewables Obligation* (RO)
  - Subsidy = £50 / MWh
    - In addition to wholesale price (£25 / MWh)
- Subsidy level set by least economic technologies / sites
  - ➔ Major over-support for lower cost technologies / sites
- Rising wholesale price (↑ £50 / MWh) created hyperprofits and overheated the renewables sector
  - ➔ Poor site choice; Bad PR; Rent seeking...

# 2010 Target Was Missed

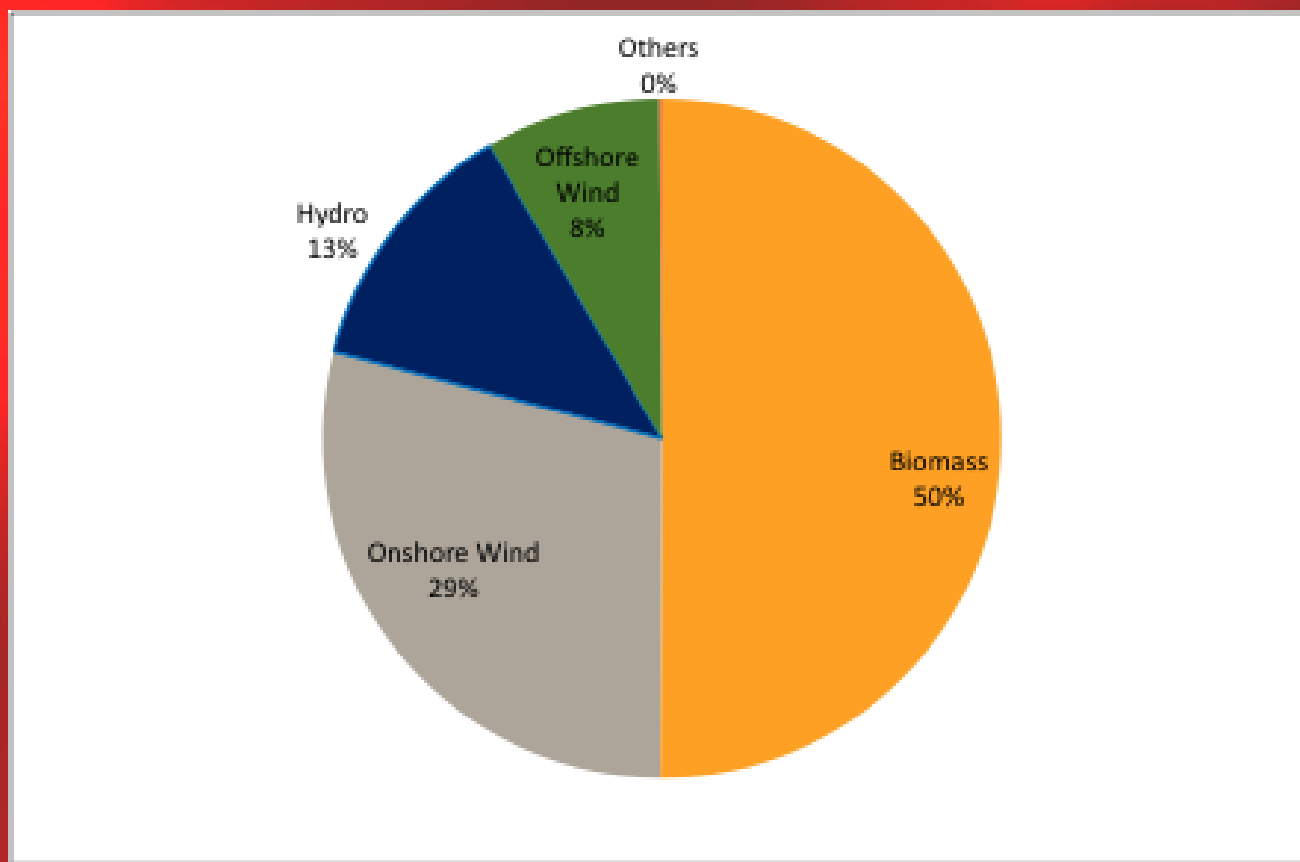
- 6.5% of UK electricity consumption was renewable in 2010
- Total subsidy cost: £5 billion (2002–2010)
- Annual cost: £1.1billion (in 2010)



Source: DECC, Ofgem data, REF estimates. Chart by REF.

# RO Output (Apr. 2002–Mar. 2012): 149.3 TWhs

## 50% of all RO MWhs were from Biomass

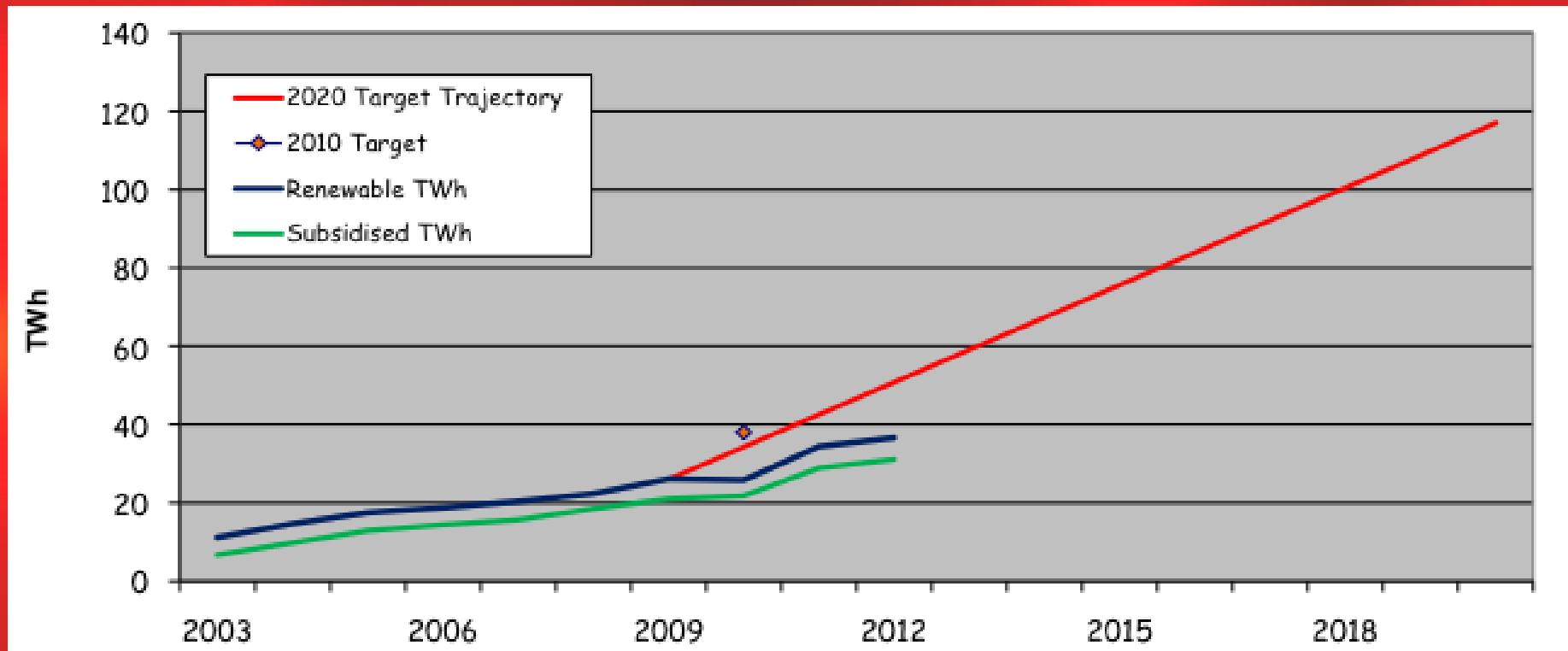


Source: REF Calculations from Ofgem Data

# European Union Renewables Directive (2009)

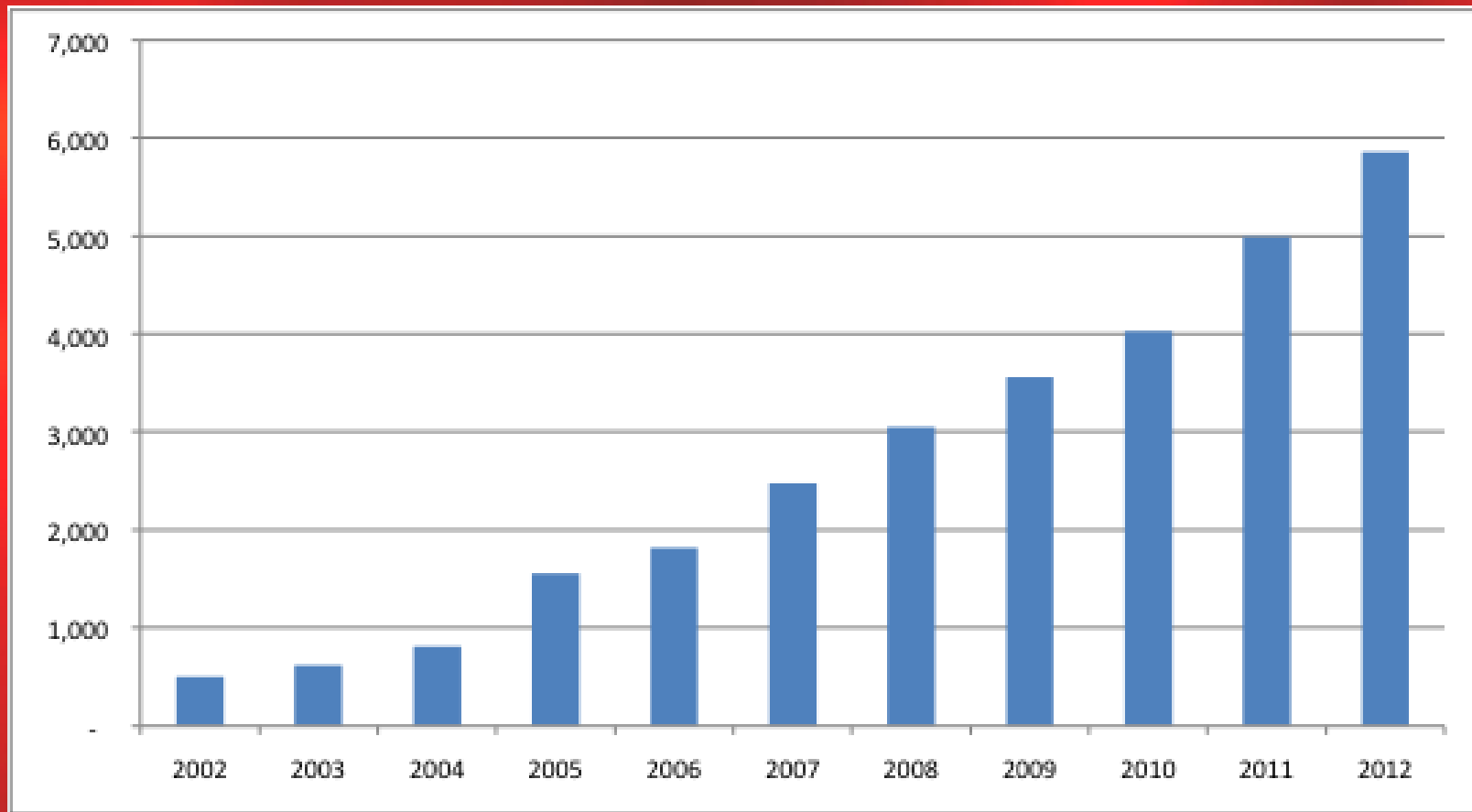
- 20% of EU 27 Final Energy Consumption (FEC) in 2020 to be from renewable sources
- UK burden share: 15% of FEC
  - Largest increase of any major state
  - > 25% of EU-wide costs fall on the UK
- UK FEC = 150 mtoe  $\times$  0.15 = 22.5 mtoe = 260 TWh
- Electricity target 120 TWh (30% of UK electricity)
- 140 TWh from transport fuel (10%) and heat (12%)

# Can the 2020 Electricity Target be Met?



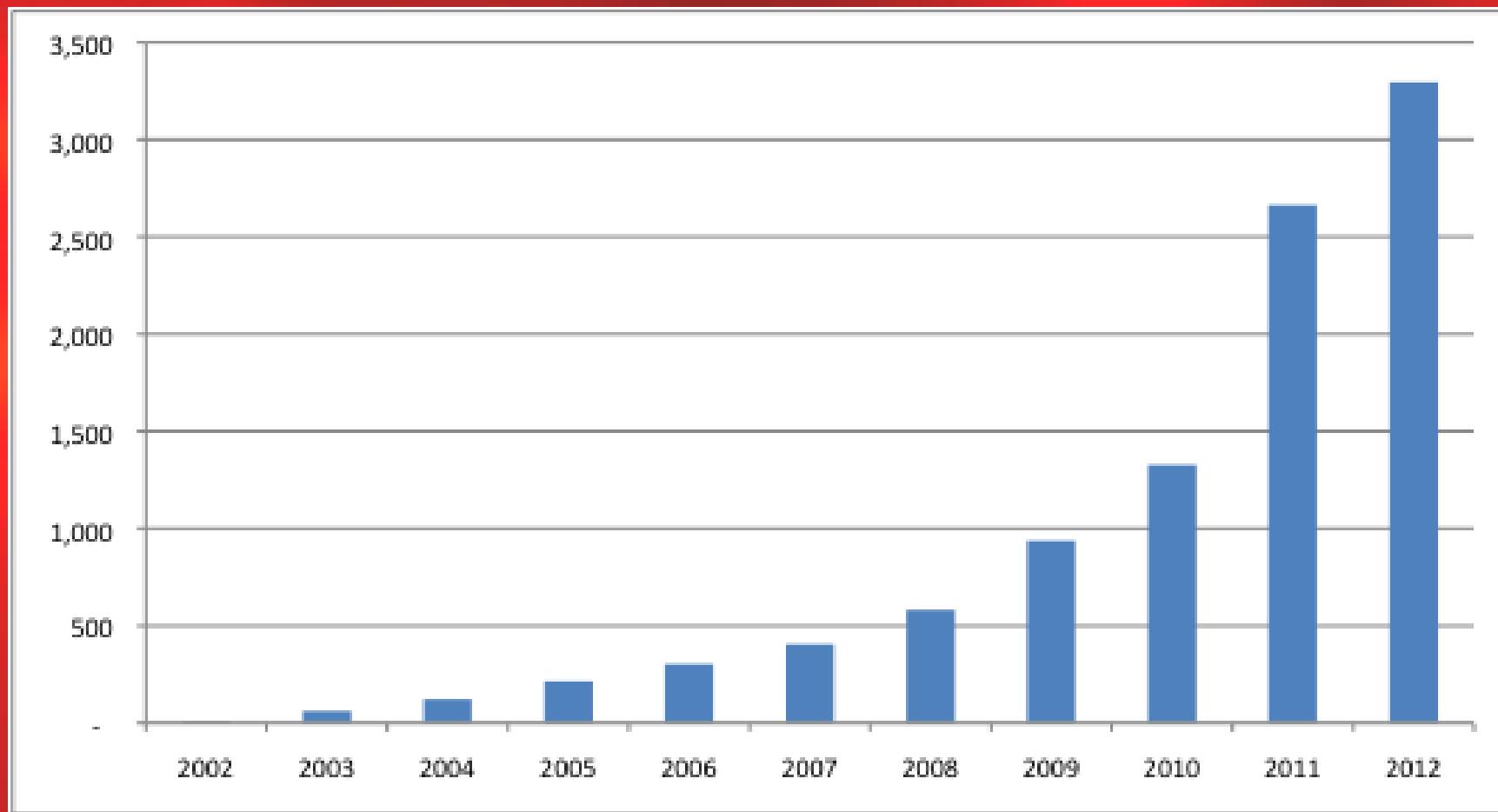
Source: DECC, Ofgem data, REF estimates. Chart by REF.

# Onshore Wind Capacity Build (Cumulative MW)



Source: DECC, Ofgem data. Chart by REF.

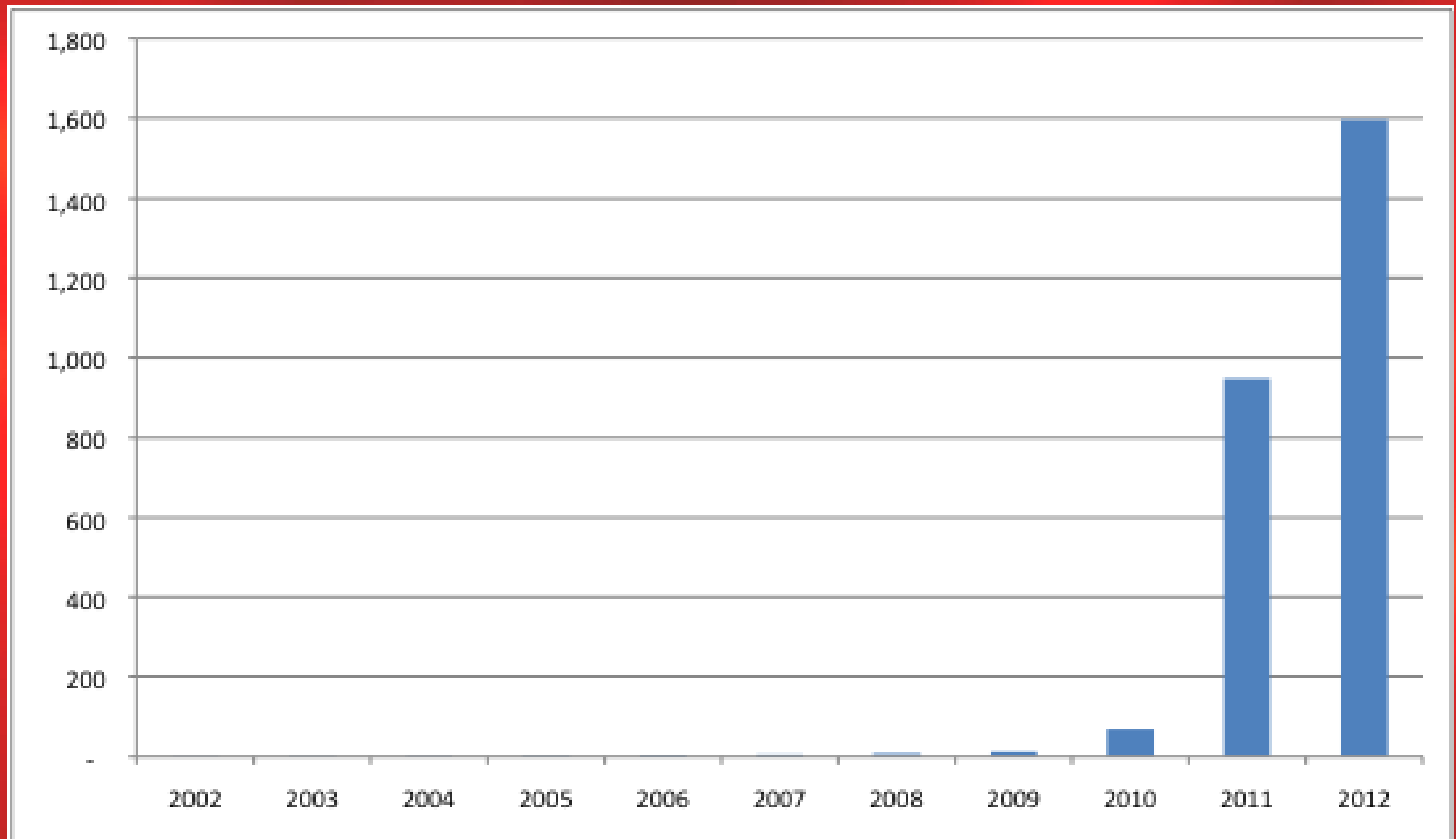
# Offshore Wind Capacity Build (Cumulative MW)



Source: DECC, Ofgem data. Chart by REF.



# Solar PV Capacity Build (Cumulative MW)



Source: DECC, Ofgem data. Chart by REF.

# Capacity & Performance in 2012

<i>Technology</i>	<i>Sites</i>	<i>Installed Capacity (GW)</i>	<i>2012 Generation (TWh)</i>	<i>2012 Load Factor</i>	<i>Share of UK Renewable Electricity</i>
All	376,364	16.3	38.4	28.8%	100%
Wind	5,179	9.3	19.4	22.7%	51%
<i>Onshore</i>	5,157	5.9	11.9	22.5%	31%
<i>Offshore</i>	22	3.3	7.5	30.6%	20%
Biomass	716	2.8	12	48.9%	31%
Hydro	619	2.3	4.5	41.8%	12%
Solar	369,829	1.6	1.4	7.5%	4%
Waste	17	0.4	1	30.4%	3%

Source: REF Calculations from Ofgem / DECC / Elexon Data.

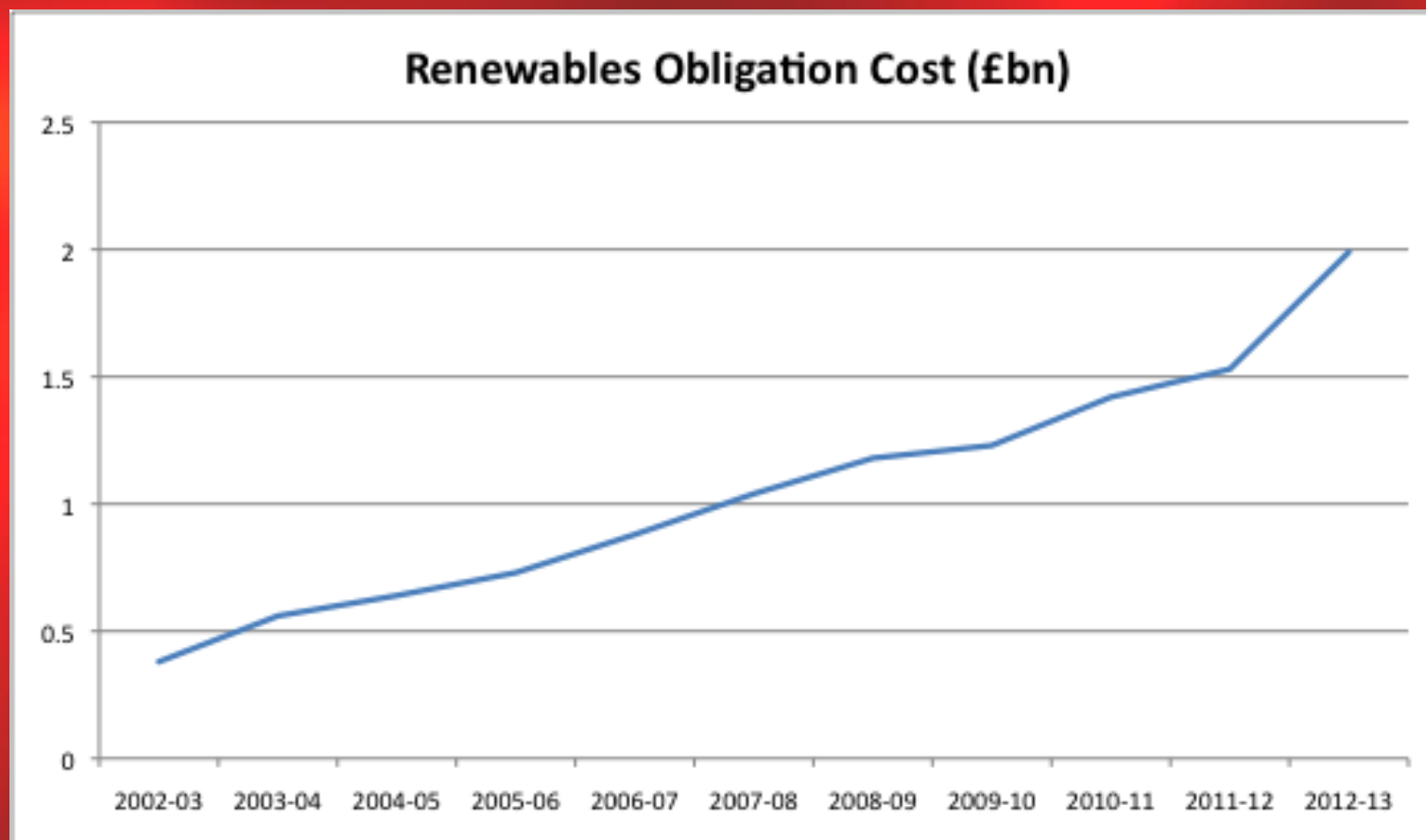
# RO, Unsubsidised, and FiT (2012)

<i>Support</i>	<i>Sites</i>	<i>Installed Capacity (GW)</i>	<i>2012 Generation (TWh)</i>	<i>2012 Load Factor</i>	<i>Share of UK Renewable Electricity (%)</i>
RO	1,664	12.6	33.3	32.2%	87%
Unsubsidized	36	1.9	3.1	29.9%	8%
FiT	374,664	1.8	1.9	21.9%	5%
<i>Photovoltaic</i>	369,518	1.6	1.4	8.8%	4%
<i>Onshore wind</i>	4,716	0.15	0.3	22.9%	0.7%
<i>Anaerobic Digestion</i>	46	0.05	0.2	52.6%	0.4%
<i>Hydro</i>	384	0.04	0.1	42.1%	0.3%

Source: REF Calculations from Ofgem / DECC / Elexon Data

# Total RO Costs to 2013: £11.6 billion

## Annual Cost in 2012: £2 billion

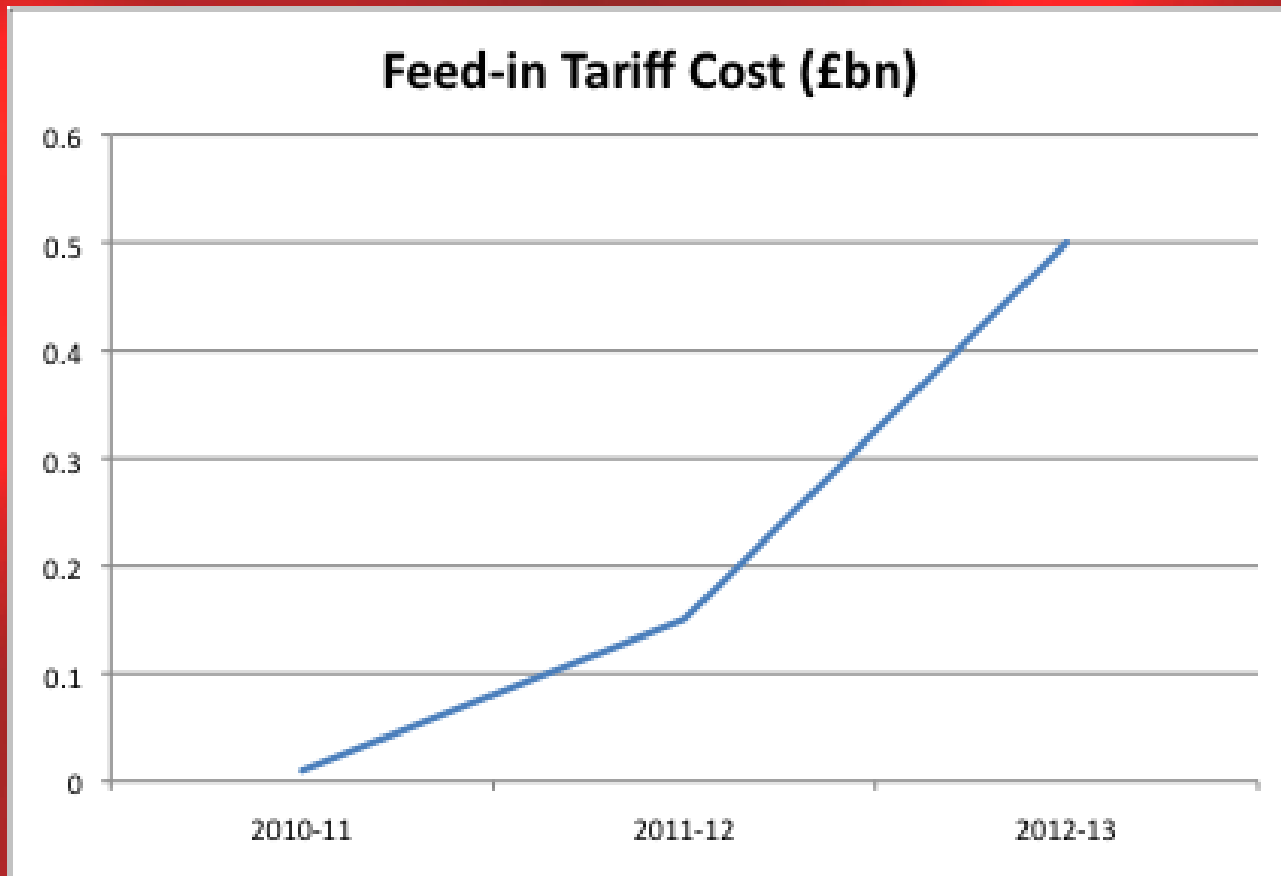


Real 2012 / 13 prices

RO years run from April to March. Source: DECC. Chart by REF.

# Total FiT Costs 2010–2013: £660m

## Annual Cost in 2012: £500m

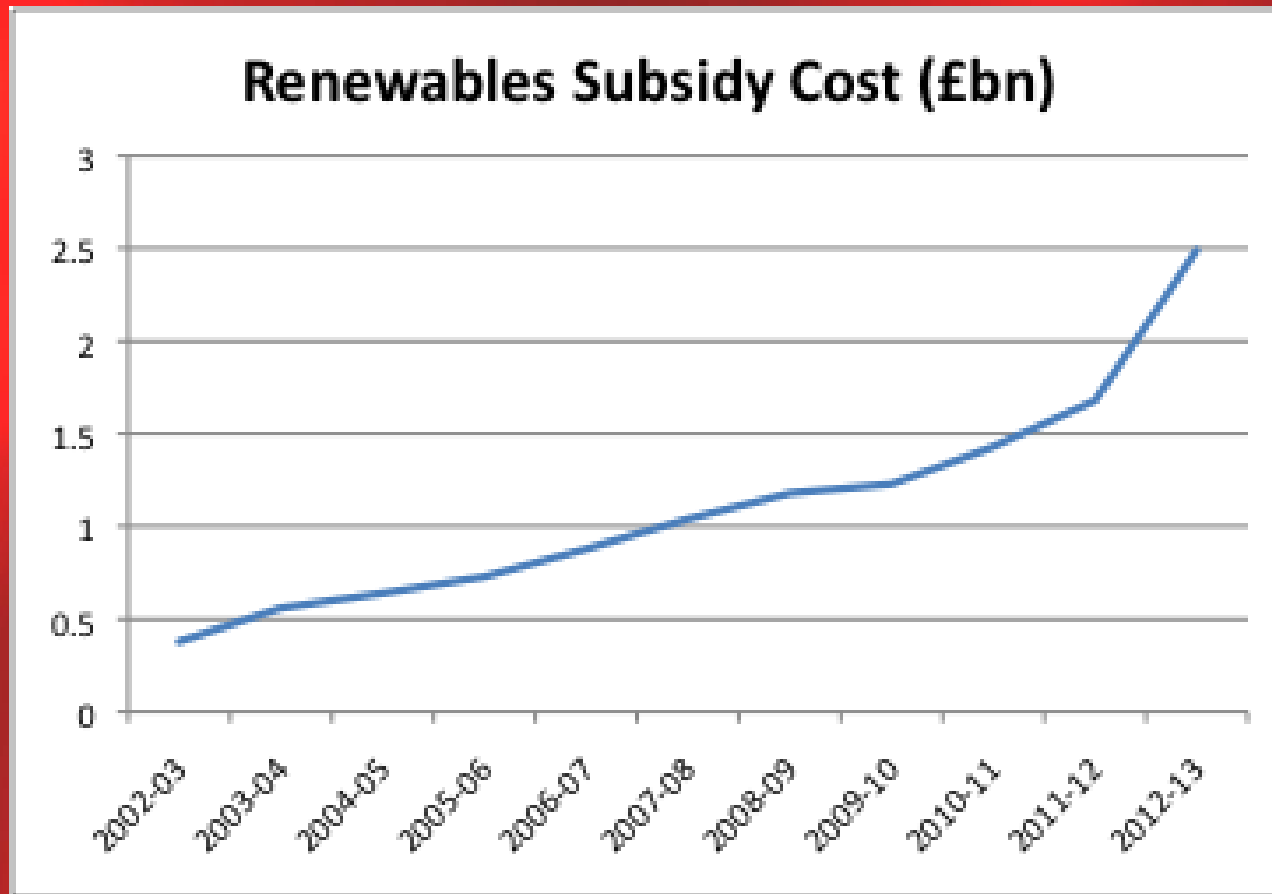


Real 2012/13 prices. Source: DECC. Chart by REF.

# RO + FiT Costs

Cumulative: 2002–2013: £12.2bn

Annual in 2012/13: £2.5bn and rising....



Source: DECC. Chart by REF. (Real 2012 / 13 prices.)

# RO and FiT Costs Compared

- FiT accounted for 5.4% of subsidised renewable electricity in 2012
  - 1.9 TWh / 35.3 TWh
- FiT accounted for 20% of renewables subsidy cost
  - £500m / £2.5bn
- Average subsidy costs:

**FiT: £260 per MWh**

**RO: £58 per MWh**

# Renewable Electricity Subsidies

- Subsidy cost: £8bn per year in 2020
- Cumulative subsidy Cost 2002–2030: ca £130bn

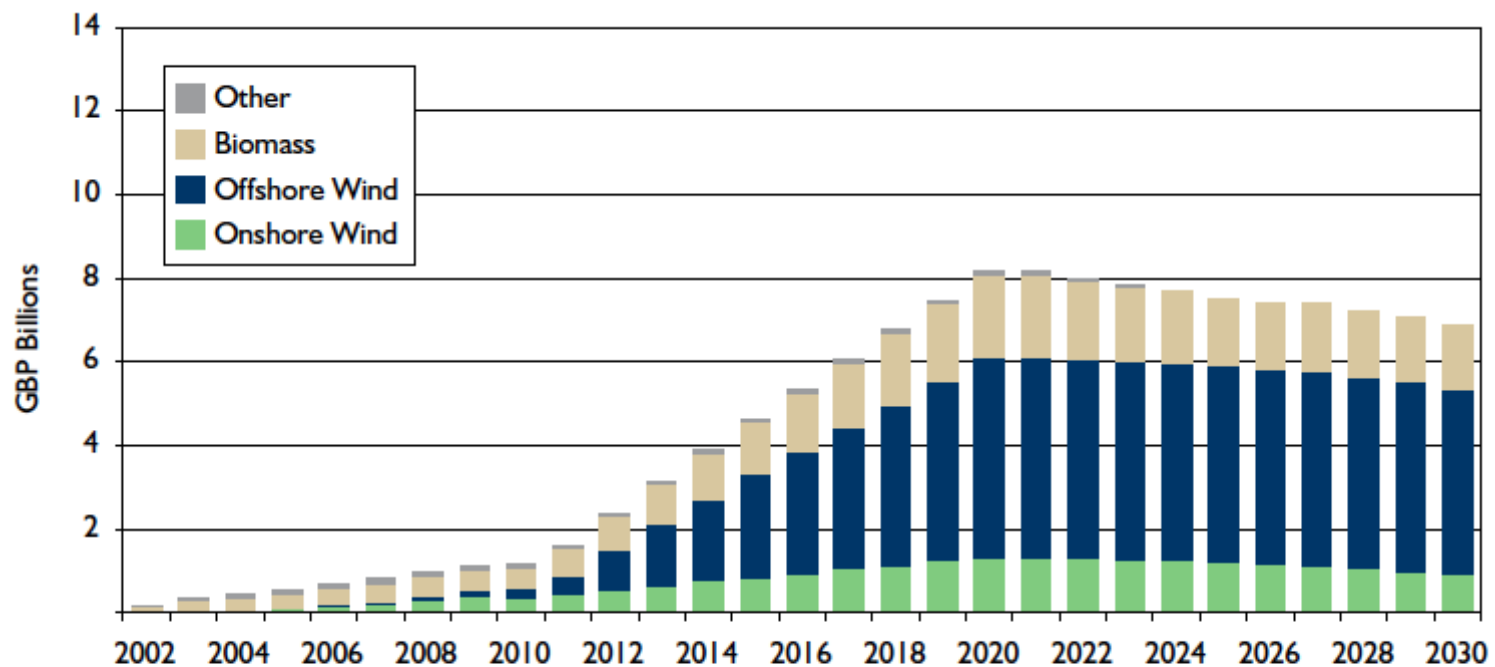


Figure 4: Projected Growth in Renewable Electricity Subsidy Costs to 2030.

Source: REF Calculations.



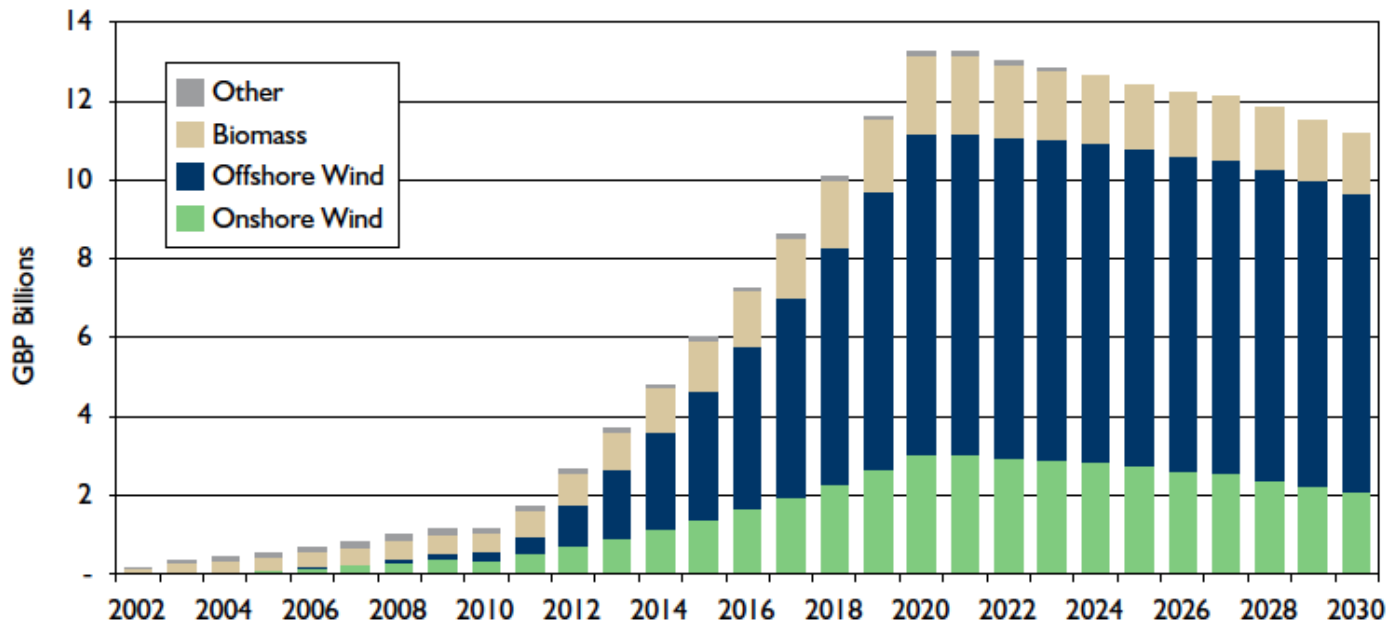
# Policy Impacts on Electricity Price in 2020

## DECC Models

- Domestic Households
  - Low fossil price scenario: + £54/MWh (+ 44%)
  - High fossil price scenario: + £45/MWh (+ 26%)
- Medium Sized Businesses
  - Low fossil price scenario: + £48/MWh (+74%)
  - High fossil price scenario: + £37/MWh (+33%)
- Even in DECC's High Fossil Price scenario prices rise by ca. 30% due to climate and other policies

# Integration Costs (+ Subsidy)

- Total cost in 2020: £13bn per year in 2020
- Total Cost 2002–2030: ca. £175bn



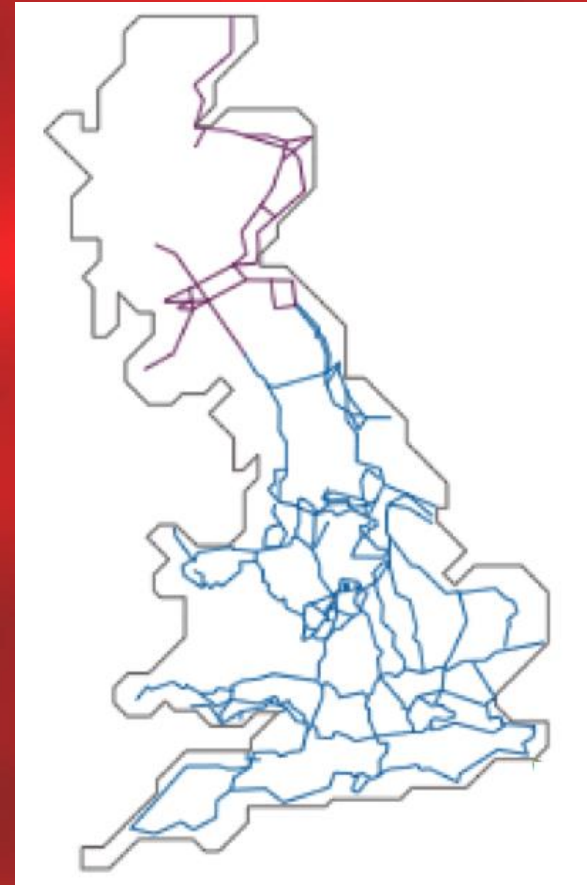
**Figure 6: Projected Growth in Total Cost of Renewable Electricity Programme**  
(Subsidy + Ancillary Costs).

Source: REF Calculations, Gibson 2011.

Source: REF, *Energy Policy & Consumer Hardship* (London 2011)

# Integration Problems: Constraint Payments to Wind Power

- Total 2010 to present day: £41.6m
  - £22.7m in 2013 alone
- Average price to reduce generation: £145/MWh
  - Three times lost income
- But constraining wind off the system may be cheaper than building more network
  - Colin Gibson, Former National Grid Power Networks Director



The UK HV Network  
Source: National Grid

# Economic Lifetime of Wind Turbines

- Gordon Hughes, *The Performance of Wind Farms in the United Kingdom and Denmark* (REF: London, 2012).
- The normalised load factor for UK onshore wind farms declines from a peak of about 24% at age 1 year to 15% at age 10 years and 11% at age 15 years.
- Significant negative implications for levelised cost and capital refreshment cycle



# Conclusion: Acute & Cumulative Costs

- Policy costs are:
  - *Acute and Chronic*: £14bn a year up 2040
  - *Cumulatively vast*: £175bn up to 2030
- Higher energy costs will be embedded in capital stocks and in cost of supporting labour
  - All “Non-energy” business input costs will rise
- UK now embarking on infrastructure renewal
  - Higher costs will be embedded in major capital stocks, increasing cost of use for decades to come



## But Acute Costs are Now a Political Issue...

- Ed Miliband, Labour party leader, has promised to freeze electricity prices for two years after the 2015 election
- Conventional and renewables investment now uncertain
- Reports suggest £4.5bn of cost (ca. 50% due to renewables) that cannot be passed through to consumers

