



Free Democratic Movement Energy and Environmental Policy

Introduction

The Free Democratic Movement (FDM) is committed to protecting Bermuda's natural environment while addressing the urgent need for affordable and reliable energy solutions. Our energy and environmental strategy seeks to enhance Bermuda's sustainability without compromising economic efficiency or overburdening citizens. We advocate for pragmatic and reasonable policies that embody stewardship and empowerment.

Energy Policy

1. Transition to LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas)

Background

BELCO's North Power Station was designed for LNG but continues to burn heavy fuel oil, resulting in high emissions and rising electricity costs. Transitioning to LNG offers a cleaner, more reliable, and cost-effective solution for Bermuda.

Key Initiatives:

- **Feasibility and Infrastructure:**

LNG, identified as the least costly option in Bermuda's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), reduces operational costs and emissions significantly. Two delivery options will be explored:

- **Containerized LNG (ISO Tanks):** Delivered via container ships and directly transported to BELCO's North Power Station, using existing port facilities to avoid expensive regasification terminals.
- **Small LNG Carriers:** These vessels deliver LNG in bulk to a dedicated storage facility, minimizing shipping frequency.
A detailed assessment will determine the most practical and cost-effective option for Bermuda's needs.



- **Benefits of LNG:**
 - Lower and more stable pricing reduces electricity costs for households and businesses.
 - Lower emissions improve air quality, particularly benefiting communities near BELCO's North Power Station.
 - **Encouraging Private Renewable Energy Adoption:**
 - While LNG will provide Bermuda's base-load energy, renewable energy sources such as solar and wind will continue to play a role in private and decentralized energy generation.
 - Encourage private sector investment in renewable energy through streamlined regulatory processes and technical assistance.
 - Promote energy efficiency measures to reduce overall energy consumption and reliance on fossil fuels.
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Environmental Protection Policy

1. Waste Management

Objectives:

- Implement a streamlined waste separation program to enhance recycling and optimize the Tynes Bay Waste-to-Energy Facility.
- Increase waste collection frequency to improve cleanliness and efficiency.

Simplified Waste Separation System:

- **Mandatory Separation for Tin, Aluminum, and Glass (TAG):**
 - TAG items must always be separated from other waste.
 - Households, public entities, and businesses will adhere to mandatory separation guidelines.
- **Collection Schedule:**
 - Residential TAG items collected weekly.
 - General waste collected twice per week.

Promoting Composting:

- Encourage composting initiatives using organic waste to support agriculture and improve soil quality. Local examples like Greg's Food Forest highlight composting's potential to reduce waste and enhance food security.

Benefits:



- Prompt waste collection reduces illegal dumping, improves public health, and minimizes rodent populations.
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Agricultural Development Policy

Objectives:

- Utilize unused arable land for farming to reduce Bermuda's reliance on imports and lower its carbon footprint.
- Offer longer leases on government farmland to incentivize agricultural investment.
- Permanently protect Agricultural Reserve land.

Key Initiatives:

- Transition to a model where the Bermuda Farmers Association self-regulates with support from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, creating accountability and autonomy.
 - Enhance food security by:
 - Incorporating edible plants on public land for the common good.
 - Leveraging facilities like Tulo Valley Plant Nursery to increase food production and donate produce and starter seedlings to seniors.
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Ecological Protection Policy

- **Mangroves and Coastal Protection:**
 - Launch a national program to plant mangroves along vulnerable coastlines to prevent erosion and support carbon sequestration.
 - **Biodiversity and Habitat Restoration:**
 - Support sustainable management of Bermuda's unique ecosystems to protect flora and fauna.
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Lithium Battery Disposal Policy

Plan:

- Establish dedicated facilities for lithium-ion battery disposal to prevent improper waste handling at the airport dump.



- Investigate opportunities for recycling or repurposing used lithium-ion batteries.
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Transportation and Mobility Policy

Vehicle Policy Adjustments:

- Allow households to own a second vehicle if it is over 20 years old or an electric vehicle, reducing wasteful scrappage practices.

Encouraging Electric Vehicles (EVs):

- Support voluntary EV adoption by enhancing charging infrastructure.
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Benefits to People and the Environment

For People:

- Lower electricity costs and stable pricing through LNG implementation.
- Improved air quality, reducing health risks for communities near BELCO's North Power Station.
- Cleaner neighborhoods with enhanced waste collection services and reduced rodent populations.
- Greater access to locally grown food, improving food security and affordability.
- Greater energy independence for homeowners and businesses through increased adoption of private renewable energy.

For the Environment:

- Reduced emissions and soot through LNG, enhancing environmental quality.
 - Preservation of Agricultural Reserve land and promotion of sustainable farming.
 - Expansion of mangrove ecosystems for coastal protection and carbon sequestration.
 - Better waste management through recycling, composting, and reduced landfill dependency.
 - Increased private adoption of renewables reduces the demand for fossil fuel-based power generation.
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Conclusion

The Free Democratic Movement is dedicated to balancing environmental stewardship with



economic pragmatism. By addressing Bermuda's energy and ecological challenges, we aim to build a sustainable future that benefits all Bermudians.