

## **Renewable Energy**

**The Editor  
The Financial Times**

*From Mr Anthony Cowgill,*

**20 January 2003**

Sir

Martin Wolfs' article (January 15 - '*A Fanatical Environment in which Dissent is Forbidden*') very correctly reflects the almost religious fervour whipped up against anyone attempting to question the assumptions of organisations and politicians in the environmental field concerned with climate change.

Stuart Pimms' disingenuous attempt in his letter (January 20) to justify the attacks on Mr Lomborg does nothing to help ease the current disquiet about the way any adverse comment against major environmental projects is treated as tantamount to heresy.

Indeed, even a recent paper by the Royal Academy of Engineering prepared by eminent and experienced engineers advising caution in the proposed rapid expansion of renewable sources has been savagely attacked by the Imperial College 'Centre for Energy Policy and Technology' (ICCEPT) for "discrediting renewable energy using technically inept and irrelevant calculations" and (shock horror) "accompanied by irresponsible comments to the press" and finally concluding "we strongly suggest that the DTI ignore the Report".

This is hardly the atmosphere for a considered and rational review of matters which crucially affect the long term viability of our energy supplies.

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