

To whomsoever it may concern.

I have received a complaint against me, claiming that I have been misleading in my communications that, following a request to the council's energy supplier West Mercia to provide the council with clean electricity from 100% renewable energy sources, this is not the case.

I apologise for this error and state quite categorically that there was no deliberate intention to mislead on my part. It was only after the initial agreement to continue with West Mercia on a green tariff had been made that I was informed that there was a risk that the energy supplied might not be truly from 100% renewable sources as a part of the supply will have been from purchased Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin (REGO) certificates.

Although REGOs are supposed to guarantee the renewable origin of their energy supply, apparently this is not always the case as they can be bought on the open market and may, therefore, NOT be true guarantees of a clean energy source. Consequently, there is a risk that the Council's energy may not be totally green.

I will continue to work with officers and our energy supplier to ensure that 100% clean energy is used to provide the Council with fossil fuel free electricity, and gas, as soon as is possible.

It is incumbent on us all to check the true source of the energy we buy so that we are able to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels to help tackle the climate emergency.

Yours Faithfully

Cllr Chris McFarling

Cabinet Member for Climate and Planning

Forest of Dean District Council