
Infowood Technologies (Retail) - 1992 Enterprise V8-10-11



Category:1993 software Category:Home computer software
OPINION: I want to issue a warning before I start: I am not going to be patronising or condescending or mocking when I refer to the energy sector. I will not be talking down to my readership either. For those of you who are interested, let me put it very simply: this week I have some rather extensive research into the potential for renewable energy technology in New Zealand. And what I have found is rather worrying. But let's back up for a moment. How can there possibly be any potential for clean energy in New Zealand? The average New Zealander doesn't pay a cent to the electricity company. We pay our own power bills and that's it. So how can we possibly expect a sector that's only in existence because the Government picks up the tab - and for which it pays nearly \$10 billion a year in subsidies - to offer us any good? New Zealand has about the same amount of renewable energy as what was produced in New Zealand last year. And, according to my research, that's pretty impressive, as we produced about 31.5 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent last year from renewable sources - about a third of what the country produced and about a quarter of what we produce on an annual basis. Putting aside the fact that renewable energy sources produce no CO2 themselves, with the new three-stage Maori coalmine, the new Liddell coal-to-liquid plant and the Longford coal-to-liquid plant all now producing, we are producing more coal-based power than we ever have in New Zealand. The Government and new energy minister Simon Upton have been rather deceptive in using figures that are not even directly comparable - the country's worth of renewable energy at the moment is only about 30 per cent of what is actually produced and, according to my research, it would have been far lower than that if it wasn't for the government's subsidised and over-subsidised subsidies. That's the real case. So why bother, then? Well, the government is desperate to cling on to its idea of being an environmental leader - and, in particular, to get a leading role in efforts to stop global warming - and the only way to do that is to jump on board with renewables. This is a government that believes that developing clean energy will save the planet, that signing up to the Paris climate change treaty will be the big

