



Energy without End - UK Renewables

And what's really going on?

Paul de Zylva

Slide 1

Energy without End - UK Renewables (And what's really going on?)

In the 1980's Friends of the Earth published a report called 'Energy Without End'.

Written by Dr Michael Flood, the report showed how the UK could invest in clean energy that we get from free from the sun, the wind, the seas and so on.

We were - of course - mocked.

That was in the 1980's. Even a few years ago – in what might be more insight to his nursery games than his competence and ability to grasp detail - PM Boris Johnson dismissed wind energy as lacking the power to 'blow the skin off a rice pudding'.

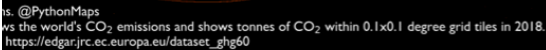
A few years later he appeared to change his mind, but it was too late to effect the change he could have pioneered.

And instead of supporting clean renewables the government cut public subsidies and in the case of wind power on land (onshore wind) put up blocks in land use planning policy.

Sure, wind energy as sea (offshore marine renewables) did grow, but the government eschewed the least costly option – onshore wind, which would have meant more locally generated energy by communities, more income, more local jobs, skills and supply chains.

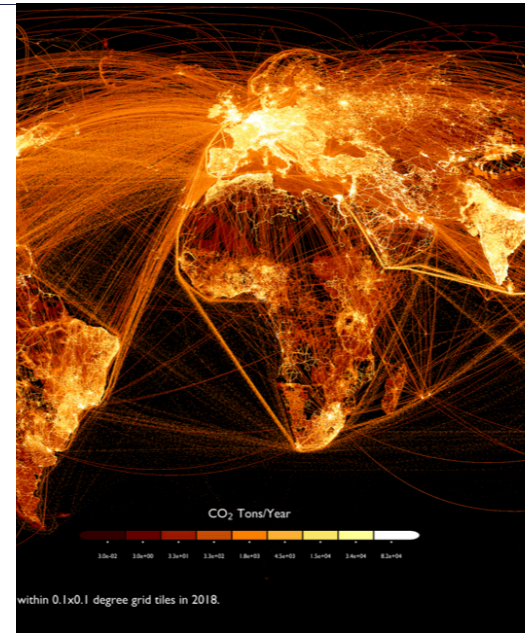
The government continued to give huge public subsidies to polluting energy sources – oil gas and nuclear – as it has done on taxpayers' behalf since the 1950's.

And politically, a negative narrative around the environment was constructed which came to be summed up as ‘Cut the Green Cr*p’.



You can see the flights, the major shipping lanes, and the energy use in towns and cities.

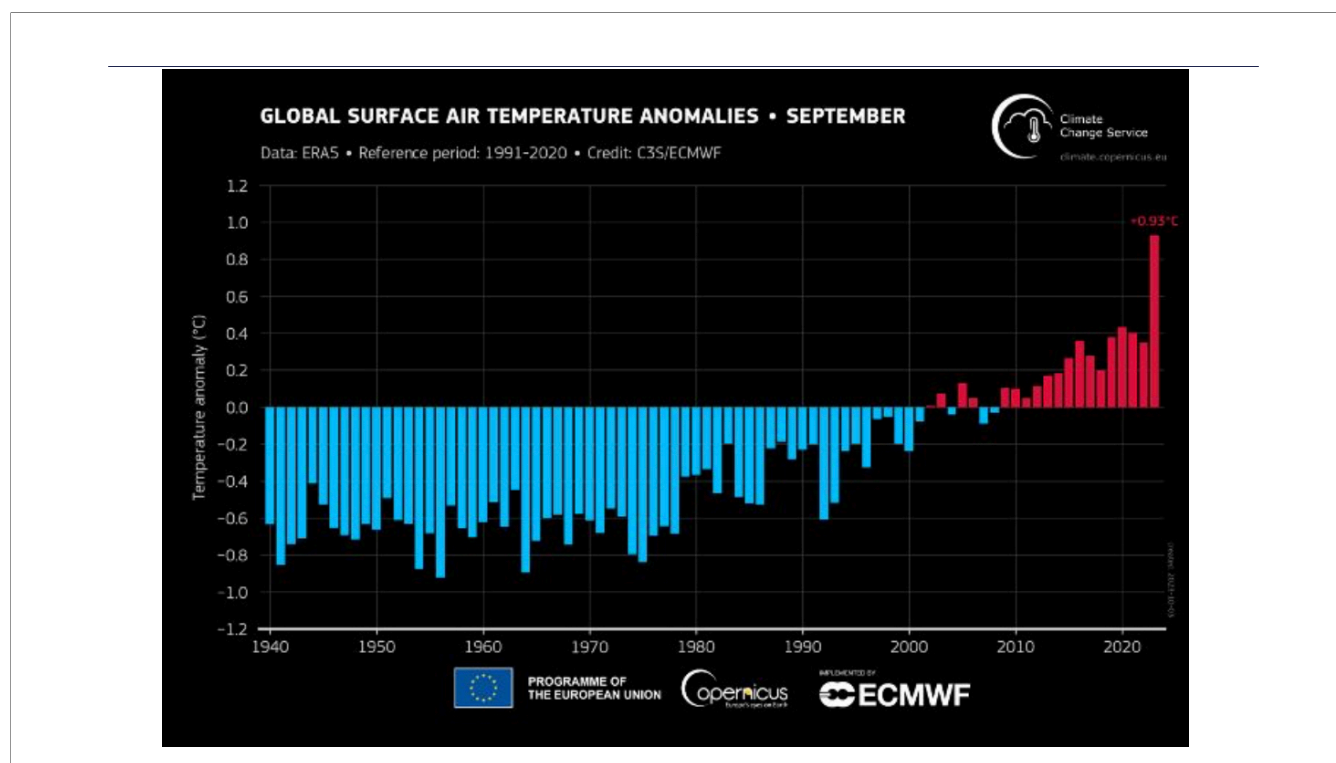
Who's using all the climate-harming energy?



Slide 3

Who's using all the climate-harming energy?

This helps us see how climate-hearding CO2 is being generated by our energy use, and to wonder how much of that can be altered.



Slide 4

September 2023

This shows Global Surface Air Temperatures in September 2023 and all Septembers since the 1940's.

- September 2023 saw THE largest recorded jump in temperature
- 0.93 degrees centigrade – might seem small but it isn't. We need to start understanding how seemingly small changes are a disaster for our natural world.

The UK saw the joint warmest September ever:

- There was a heatwave – because the month saw 7 successive days above 30 degrees C
- That is the joint warmest in UK records with a average mean temperature of 15.2 degrees, which matches 2006's record figure.



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COP26 comes to Glasgow

In November 2021, the UK hosted the 26th world climate talks – the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Chancellor Rishi Sunak on Net Zero, at Glasgow COP26, November 2021

“We’re talking about making a tangible
difference to people’s lives.
About cheap, reliable and clean electricity...
About everyone, everywhere having fresher
water to drink...
...cleaner air to breathe...
...better insulated homes in which to live.”



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The ‘Green Chancellor’

At the UK-hosted climate summit in Glasgow in 2021 (COP26), Rishi Sunak posed as ‘the Green Chancellor’ and said:

“We’re talking about making a tangible difference to people’s lives. About cheap, reliable and clean electricity... About everyone, everywhere having fresher water to drink.....cleaner air to breathe.....better insulated homes in which to live.”

If only he made his Budget speeches as green as he sought to claim that that event.

“There is no long-term prosperity without action on climate change. No energy security without investing in renewables.”

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak
at COP27, November 2022



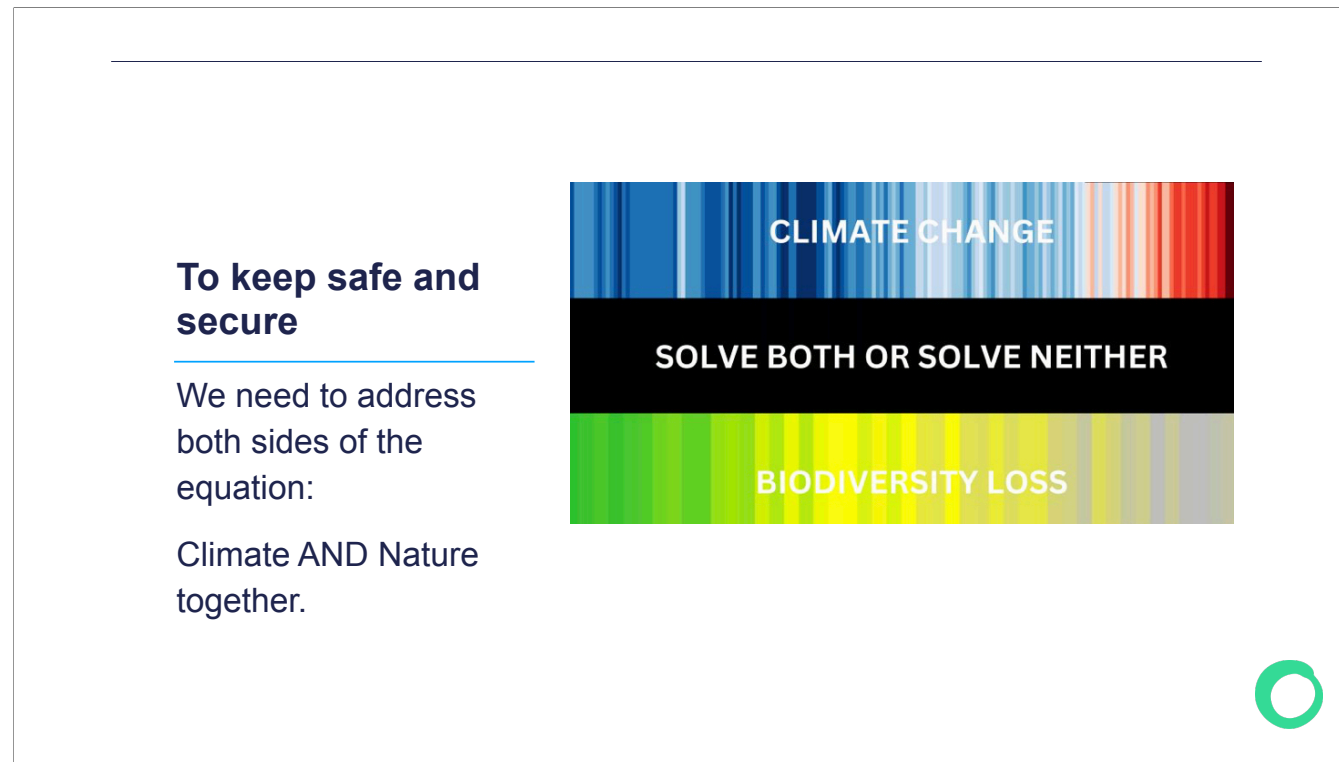
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The next COP

Having dithered about whether to attend the next Climate COP - COP27 in Egypt – the UK’s new Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak said:

“There is no long-term prosperity without action on climate change. No energy security without investing in renewables.”

For context around PM Sunak’s decision on whether to attend the COP27 talks see article:
<https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/insight/climate-threats-uk-health-and-security-show-cop27-vital>



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Climate AND Nature together

If we are to keep our lives as safe and stable as we would like for ourselves, we need to deal with both sides of the equation we face – climate AND nature together.

In good condition thriving nature can be an ally in addressing climate change.

For example, peatlands, soils, grasslands, wetlands, trees etc absorb and store carbon.

But if they are not in good condition, because we have depleted peatlands, drained wetlands, etc, their ability to provide that free service is also depleted.

Indeed, UK peatlands are starting to leak the carbon they have stored for millennia, and we risk them turning from being a carbon store to being a source of carbon.

Nature – our natural environment – therefore is weakened in its ability to be an ally – and as climate change advances and we see more severe storms, floods and unseasonal events, nature is less resilient to that change.

For example, soils in poor condition are more easily eroded by the harsh wind and hard rain likely with the climate change-related weather events that we are already seeing.

The UK State of Nature reports



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The State of Nature in the UK

And the last piece of content is the UK State of Nature reports.

The first of these was produced in 2013 by environment and conservation organisations including the RSPS, The Wildlife Trusts, Friends of the Earth and many more.

The report drew on the UK's wealth of records of nature – of individual species, of when trees first formed leaves, and other data and observances by organisations, institutions and by individual specialists including amateur botanists, ornithologists etc.

The 1st report found that in the past 50 years, more than half (56%) of wild species in the UK has declined.

Imagine the Chancellor having to report that alongside their Budget speech. But they never do.

4th State of Nature report - 2023

THE 2023 REPORT SHOWS:

- “no let-up in the decline of our wildlife, with **1 in 6 species** at risk of being lost from GB.”
- 10,000+ species assessed - 16% now at risk of extinction from UK
- species studied have, on average, declined by 19% in the UK since monitoring began in 1970.

THE DRIVERS OF DECLINE:

- Insensitive farming practices
- Clumsy development - for housing, roads, and other infrastructure
- Exposure to pollution – air, soil, water
- Rising effects of a changing climate such as weather extremes and shifts in seasons disrupting the availability of food, tolerance to heat etc



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The 4th State of Nature report, October 2023

- “no let-up in the decline of our wildlife, with **1 in 6 species** at risk of being lost from GB.”

(Down from 1 in 7 species in the 3rd report in 2019, and 1 in 10 in the 1st report in 2013)

- 10,000+ species assessed - 16% now at risk of extinction from UK
- species studied have, on average, declined by 19% in the UK since monitoring began in 1970.

The drivers of decline continue to be:

- Insensitive farming practices
- Clumsy development - for housing, roads, and other infrastructure
- Exposure to pollution – air, soil, water
- Rising effects of a changing climate such as weather extremes and shifts in seasons disrupting the availability of food, tolerance to heat etc

Too cheap to meter?

Banded about for decades

Especially by the nuclear industry



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Too cheap to meter?

Imagine not paying energy bills – or paying very little – and your home being, in effect, a power station.

It's not so odd to ask.

Low-cost energy was the great promise of the 1950 and 60's.

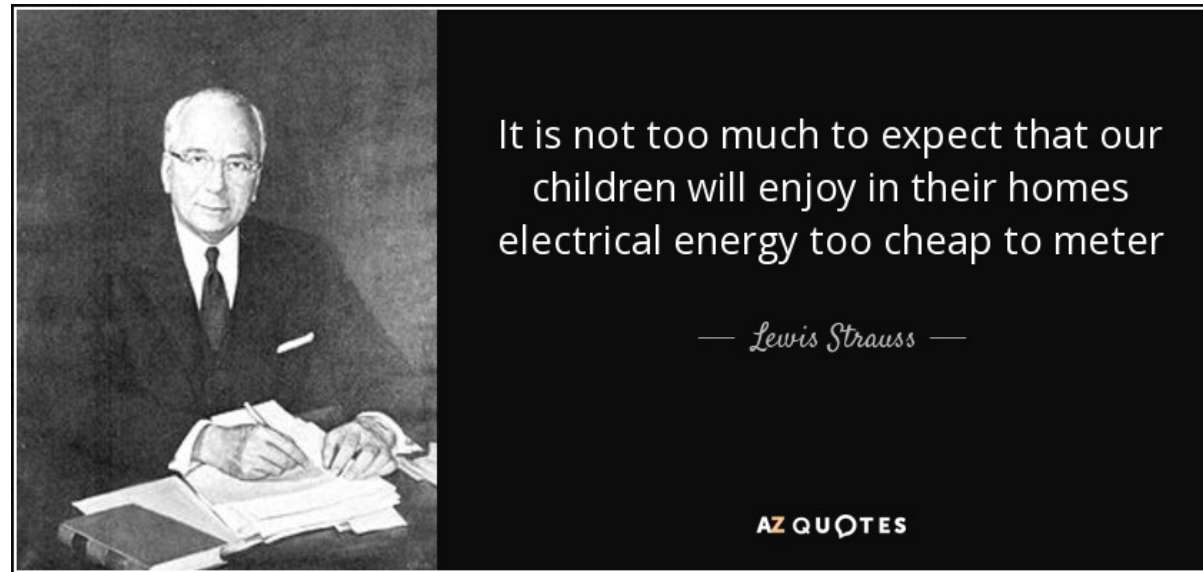
The slogan was 'Too cheap to meter'.

It did not work out that way – of course. Hype rarely does as the latest political classes are finding out.

The bills kept coming. And they weren't low.

But the slogan was used in the UK to promote use of nuclear power.

It was done alongside claims that the lights would go off unless we had nuclear plants. That was the line being used even in the 1980s and 1990s.



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Too cheap to meter – Lewis Strauss

The line came from Lewis Strauss, US nuclear boss in 1954.

But if you want cheap energy nuclear isn't the way to go.

Not for the first time with nuclear sleight-of-hand and public subsidy was rife.

The line by government and its backers is that we need nuclear for baseline energy, for when the wind doesn't blow, and the sun doesn't shine.

The nuclear sector has neatly transformed itself as a solution to climate change by claiming it's no or zero carbon, which is a big claim given the amount of energy that goes into building one nuclear plant, let alone the family of plants successive governments have sought to locate around the UK.

And that doesn't include the dodgy supply chain of uranium and the unresolved waste problem.

On time, on budget?

Nuclear has never been delivered on time, on budget – even with vast public subsidy.

Nuclear guzzles £billions – and has done for almost 80 years.

That means ***that*** money is not available to renewables or energy conservation, or anything else we might think needs proper funding – e.g. libraries, social care.

Every home a power station

By contrast with costly dangerous nuclear.

Not so pie-in-the-sky now.



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Every home a power station

That is now within our grasp.

Imagine really paying much lower energy costs. It's no longer so pie-in-the-sky.

For years, successive government have talked about switching supplier to save, but that's not a lasting solution, and the way the energy market is set up – some might say 'rigged' – works against properly steps to cut energy use and costs.

Especially if you're on a lower income, renting etc.

The UK's heat-leaking homes

Data + mapping helps
target what to do,
where.

Huge for jobs, skills,
training, supply-chains.



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The UK's heat-leaking homes

The UK continues to miss a massive opportunity to install renewables for some energy needs and to cut the UK's poor record of homes in poor condition.

Successive government have missed this.

At the start I mentioned how we were mocked about clean renewables being the future for the UK.

To show how absurd we were, Friends of the Earth also advanced the crazy idea of insulating people's cold homes to that people did not freeze, become debilitated, with children unable to do their homework, or people fearful of putting on a one-bar heater.

Again, the idea of 'investing' in energy conservation was largely derided – not sexy enough.

We persisted and worked with Conservative MP Sir David Amess to get the Warm Homes Energy Conservation Act.

But decades on - in the 2020's - we are still calling for a national programme to retrofit our leaky homes – still the least well insulated in Europe.

Fuel poverty

A national scandal -
decades before recent
price rises, the war.

Saving energy should
be the first step.



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Fuel poverty remains a national scandal

And fuel poverty was a problem long before recent price rises and the Russian war.

Our political leaders never mention that. Again, it's a Cinderella issue treated as though it can never be addressed.

One of Rishi Sunak's u-tuns on Net Zero was to say landlords did not need to improve the energy performance of their rentals.

He pitched it as a burdensome cost forgetting that fuel poverty is a cost too.

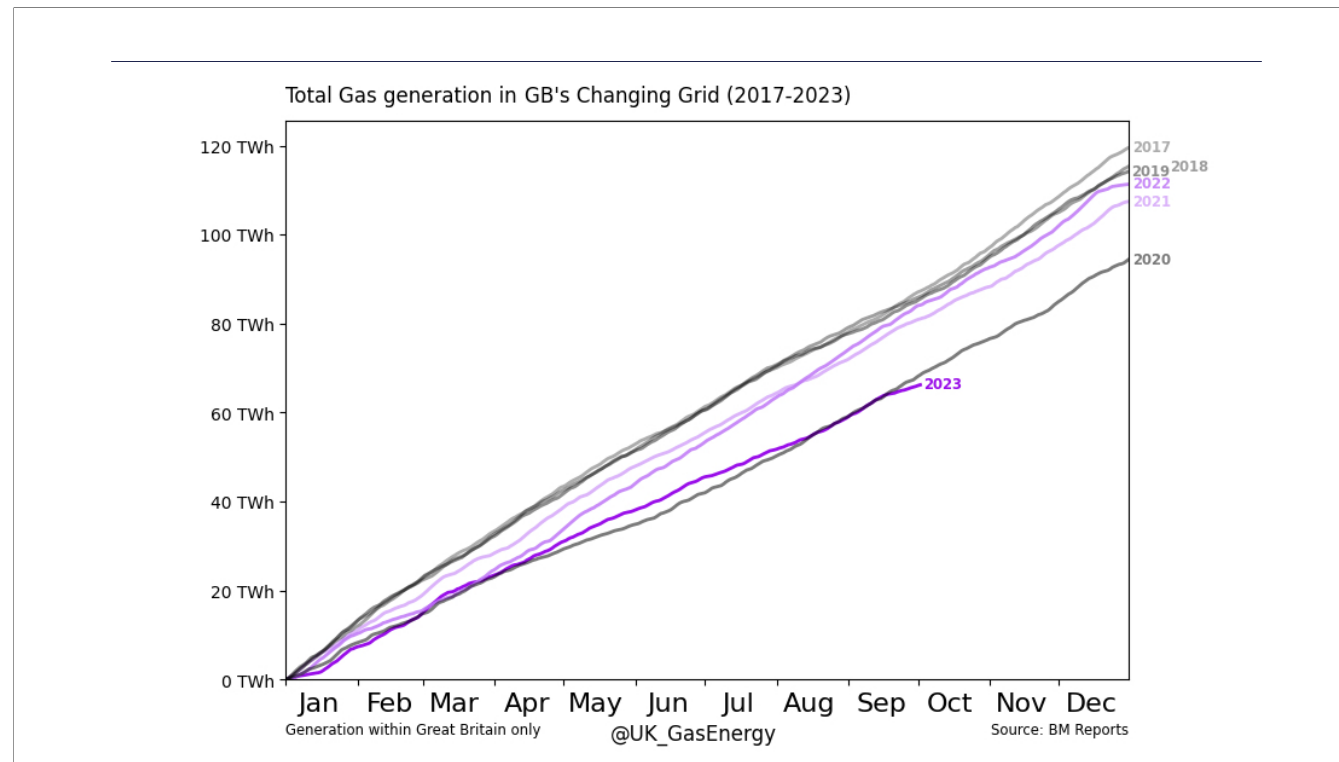
So, no real change in leadership there.

Saving energy should be the first step.

Nearly two thirds of UK homes fail to meet long-term energy efficiency targets.

More than 12 million homes fall below the C grade on Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) graded from A-G.

That means householders spend more on energy bills and pump more CO2 into the atmosphere than necessary to stay warm.



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GAS

A word about gas. The UK's heavy dependence on gas is coming down.

Well, it was until Rishi Sunak's granting of more licenses (although most of the licences are for oil rather than gas).

Talking of guzzling, oil and gas have been expensive and volatile in price even before Russia's war in Ukraine.

Volatile world markets, along with political power plays such as if the Saudis and OPEC oil producing countries decide to limit supplies - mean that prices rise on whim.

Up like a rocket, down like a feather, you could say – as we see at the petrol pumps.

In that sense, PM Sunak's line about UK boosting its own oil and gas sounds sensible except it is flawed because:

- UK gas and oil will still be sold on the world market - the idea that more domestic production will mean lower and / or stable energy prices is incorrect
- UK production will still fuel climate change – a tonne of carbon produced in the UK is no different from a tonne of carbon produced in the Middle East.
- Claims that UK oil and gas will not be dirty because any carbon will be captured and stored by Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) plants is unproven at scale.
- And besides, the fossil fuel industry promotes CCS as a way to pump more oil and gas i.e. oil and gas fields which may still have some supplies but are uneconomical to continue working, can be pumped as captured carbon is put in. CCS is, therefore, a handy, green-sounding 'technical fix' to the subsidised fossil fuel industry claiming green credentials, while continuing to pump even more climate-changing fuels, when we need to see actual reductions in emissions at source.

- We need to cut emissions now, not just in 2050.

Decarbonise the Grid

= reducing the grid's carbon intensity - the amount of CO₂ emitted per unit of electricity generation - close to zero

In 2021, low carbon sources generated half (49%) of electricity:

- Wind: 19%
- Nuclear: 14%
- Biomass: 12% wood pellets burnt - Lynemouth, Northumberland and Drax, Yorkshire, + landfill gas, sewage gas or anaerobic digestion
- Solar: 4%



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Decarbonising the grid

This is also part of cleaning up our energy use.

The government aim is for a decarbonised power system by 2035.

Is it on track? Is the government blowing hot / cold?

In 2021, low carbon sources generated about half (49%) of UK electricity:

- Wind - 19%
- Nuclear - 14%
- Biomass - 12% wood pellets burnt - Lynemouth, Northumberland and Drax, Yorkshire - + landfill gas, sewage gas or anaerobic digestion
- Solar – 4%

Fossil fuels, primarily gas, supplied around 40% of the UK's electricity - some 130TWh (Terra Watt Hours)

Trends 1:

- More use of gas
- More imports

Trends 2:

- About half of gas used in the UK is imported
- Some gas is used directly, but some is also used in power station to produce electricity (!!)

Trends 3:

- Expensive nuclear getting more costly
- Renewables are getting cheaper

Trends 4:

- More UK domestic oil and gas (PM Sunak wanting to 'max out' the North Sea)
- Not entirely clear that all of this will be used in the UK as claimed, rather than sold on volatile global markets.

Fully decarbonising the electricity system by 2035 means:

- Reducing the carbon intensity of the grid – the amount of CO₂ emitted per unit of electricity generation – close to zero.
- Fossil fuels, primarily gas, supplied around 40% of the UK's electricity last year – some 130TWh.
- To meet the government ambition, this would all need replacing.

There Has been rapid and steady progress towards this goal over the past decade, with eight years of successive falls in carbon intensity from 486gCO₂/kWh in 2012 to just 183gCO₂/kWh in 2020.

However, last year's increase in fossil fuels to compensate for the fall in low-carbon output means the carbon intensity of UK electricity increased by 9% to 199gCO₂/kWh.

To fully decarbonise the grid by 2035, low-carbon sources will need to replace the roughly 40% of demand that is currently met by fossil fuels.

At the same time, demand is expected to rise by around 15% by 2035 as a rising share of heat and transport is electrified.

What is 'long term'?

Long term was being used in the climate debate in 1980s and 1990s

We have squandered time, resources and money.

Now, we lack the luxury of time.



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What is 'long term'?

Too many of our political 'leaders' and politics in general talk about climate change as a 'long term issue'

Well, the long term has a funny habit of coming round quickly. And meanwhile, our 'leaders' are still playing petty politics with our lives, our money and our futures.

Of course, there are costs to hitting what we know we need to keep our climate safe and stable.

Everything costs. Inaction costs.

And, yes, things take time, but saying it's a 'long term' issue is no longer credible.



We have SOME time (but not much)



We have the REAL solutions NOW

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Time and solutions

We do still have some time.

We also have all the solutions we need to deploy – we have them now.

We don't need to experiment with offsetting, carbon capture and storage etc to start properly installing clean renewables at scale – in our homes, on our streets, in town centres, etc, and energy saving measure in all sub-standard homes.

It's Doable - Now

It will cost. Everything costs. Inaction costs. There are also huge opportunities.

Things do take time, but to say it's a 'long term' issue is no longer credible.



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Yes, it will cost

Sure, it has a cost, but it can and should be a way to instil skills, training, apprenticeships, local supply chains etc.

And money saved by not spending on energy will be spent in our economy in other ways.

To portray action on climate change,. Renewables, energy conservation as a cost and a 'burden' completely misses the point.

It is a distraction and a delaying tactic and needs to be called out.

As explained earlier, the UK has also had decades of subsidising the problem.

There are slight shifts. For example, UK government subsidies since 2015 have been:

- Fossil fuels £80bn
- Renewables £60bn

Note that support (subsidies) for renewables only exceeded support to fossil fuels in 2020.

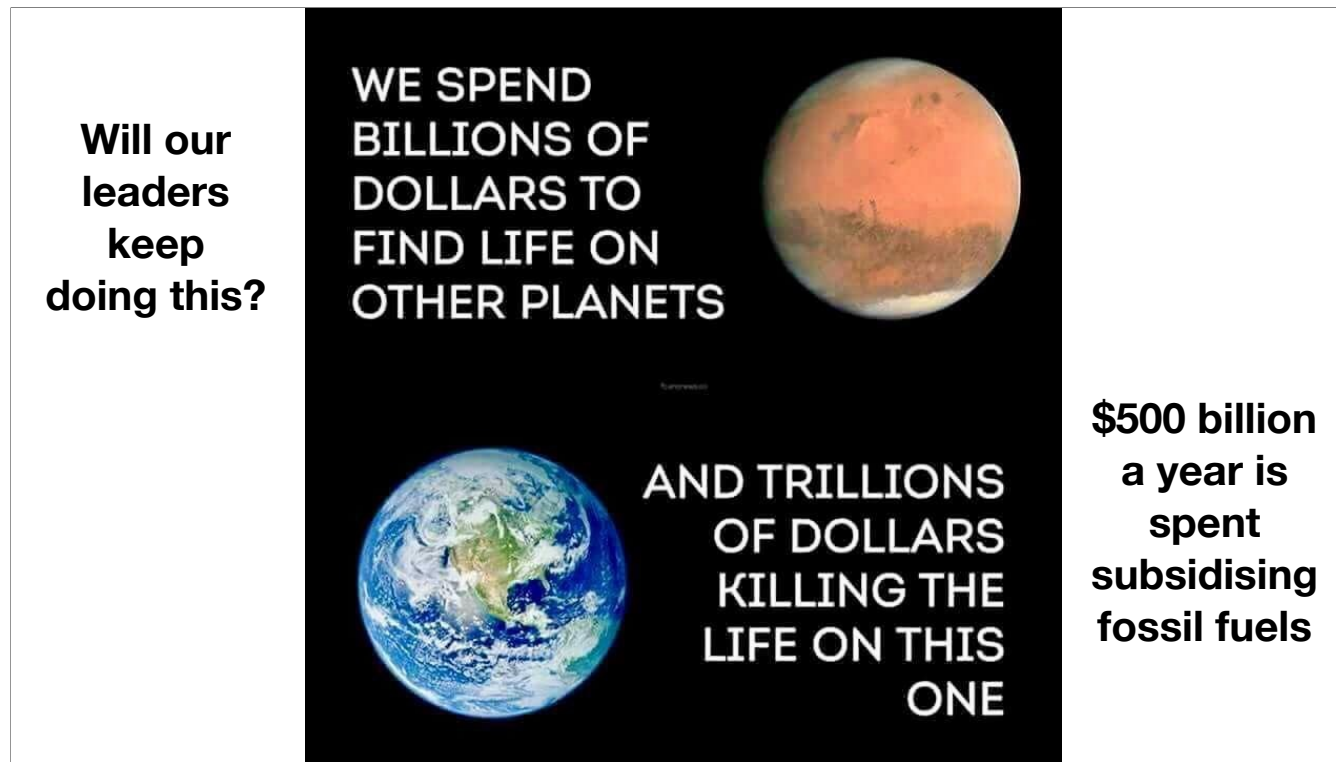
But note that The House of Commons library reports that 20 pence in every £1 (a fifth) of government funds to the fossil fuel industry was to directly subsidise new exploration and extraction.

Some people say there's no money.

But there seems to be plenty to keep locking us into a dangerous dependence on fossil fuels – while failing to insulate leaky homes and scale up renewables in ways that'll support new jobs and more – which we CANNOT use if we're to keep our climate safe and stable.

In 2022:

- Shell profits = £32 billion
- BP profits = £23bn
- Shell invested nearly £10bn in oil and gas projects but just £3bn in its renewable energy division.
- BP scaled back its targets to cut climate changing emissions (from 35-40% by 2030, to just a reduction of 20-30%).



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Subsidising pollution

Will our government continue subsidising fossil fuels?

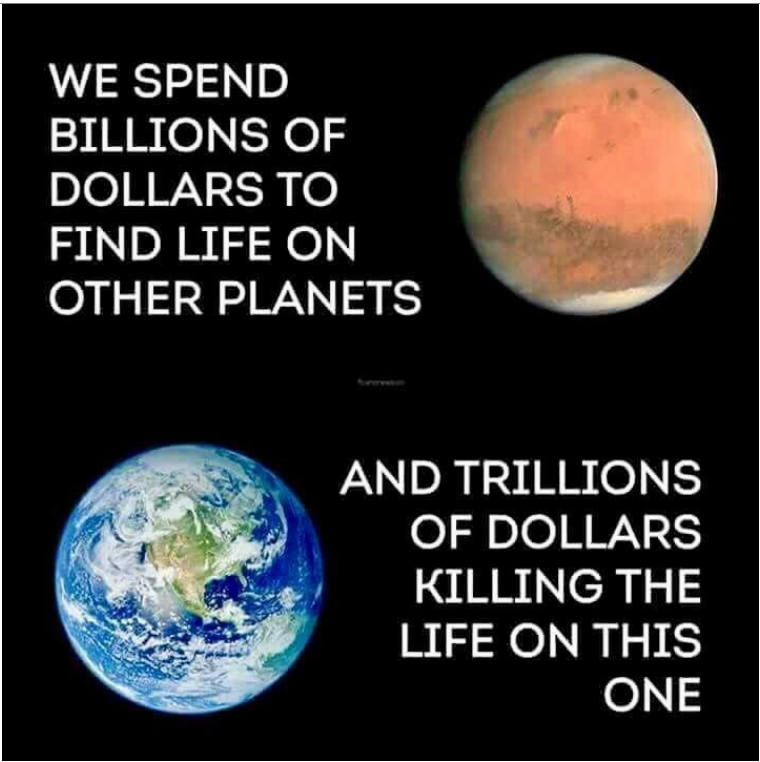
Probably:

- The sleight-of-hand of PM Sunak 'maxing out' North Sea oil and gas
- Claiming any carbon will be avoided by the use of unproven Carbon Capture of Storage (also subsidised by the UK taxpayer)
- Also allowing fossil fuel firms to keep over 90 pence in every £1 in windfall tax if they continue to invest in oil and gas exploration and exploitation.

Our leaders never say

“Many of the climate change impacts that the UK faces have the potential to create serious socioeconomic consequences”

WE SPEND BILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO FIND LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS



AND TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS KILLING THE LIFE ON THIS ONE

The cost to the UK of current energy + climate policies:

- Cost of current policies: £24 billion a year (1.1% of GDP)
- In 2050: 3.3%
- In 2100: £73bn pa (7.4% of GDP)

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What our leaders never tell us

When politicians claim climate action will cost a lot, they never say that current policies are already costing us, and that the cost will rise.

One recent study (2022) identifies the huge cost to the UK of CURRENT energy and climate change policies:

- The cost of current policies: £24 billion a year (1.1% of GDP)
- In 2050: that will rise to 3.3%
- In 2100: that will be £73 billion a year (7.4% of GDP)

The study says:

“Many of the climate change impacts that the UK faces have the potential to create serious socioeconomic consequences”

See: What will climate change cost the UK? May 2022, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, Imperial College London,





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Discussion



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Spare slides:

- What the State of Nature reports say
- How the government is being negative about climate action and net zero
- How UK national security and public health are at risk – and the government knows this.

State of Nature reports 1 and 2 2013 + 2016

THE 2013 REPORT FOUND:

- 3 in 5 of the UK's wild species (plants, fish, insects, mammals) are declining
- 60% of species declining since the 1960s
- 31 per cent are in strong decline.

THE 2016 REPORT FOUND:

- The abundance of wildlife in the UK falling
- 1 in 6 animals, birds, fish and plants having been lost
- **More than 1 in 10 of wild species facing extinction**
- The number of the most endangered creatures falling by two-thirds since 1970.



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The first and second State of Nature reports found:

2013

- 3 in 5 of the UK's wild species (plants, fish, insects, mammals) are declining
- 60% of species declining since the 1960s
- 31 per cent are in strong decline.

2016

- The abundance of wildlife in the UK falling
- 1 in 6 animals, birds, fish and plants having been lost
- **More than 1 in 10 of wild species facing extinction**
- The number of the most endangered creatures falling by two-thirds since 1970.

3rd State of Nature report 2019: 1 in 7 wild species faces extinction



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The third State of Nature report

2019:

1 in 7 wild species faces extinction from the UK.

3rd State of Nature report - 2019

THE 2019 REPORT FOUND:

- No let up in the declining state of nature in the UK
- 1 in 7 species at risk
- 8,431 species assessed
- 15% now at risk of extinction

AND SAID:

- UK is “among the most nature-depleted countries in the world”
- “It is widely accepted that the UK’s biodiversity had been massively depleted by centuries of habitat loss, management changes, development and persecution...”



Slide 28: The third State of Nature report

2019:

- No let up in the declining state of nature in the UK
- *1 in 7 species at risk of extinction from the UK*
- 8,431 species assessed
- 15% now at risk of extinction

The Natural History Museum’s Nature Intactness Index (NII) also found:

- The UK is “among the most nature-depleted countries in the world”
- “It is widely accepted that the UK’s biodiversity had been massively depleted by centuries of habitat loss, management changes, development and persecution...”

Pollinators:

Bees, hoverflies, moths, etc have decreased in their distribution across the nation - by 18% on average. Page 17



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The 4th State of Nature report 2023 – on Pollinators:

Bees, hoverflies, moths, etc have decreased in their distribution across the nation - by 18% on average.

Page 17

Insects:

Ladybirds, wasps, ants and other insects important for crop protection have decreased in their distribution across the nation by more than a third (34%). p17



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The 4th State of Nature report 2023 – on Insects:

Ladybirds, wasps, ants and other insects important for crop protection have decreased in their distribution across the nation by more than a third (34%).

Fish stocks:

A quarter (26.3%)
of UK fish stocks
are overfished
(2019 data). p53



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The 4th State of Nature report 2023 – on Fish stocks:

A quarter (26.3%) of UK fish stocks are overfished (2019 data).

Page 53

Forests:

Only 7% of native woodlands are in good condition.
p55



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The 4th State of Nature report 2023 – on Forests:

Only 7% of native woodlands are in good condition.

Page 55

Peatlands:

Only a quarter
(25%) of peatlands
are in good
condition. p73



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The 4th State of Nature report 2023 – on Peatlands:

Only a quarter (25%) of peatlands are in good condition.

Page 73

Polluted habitats:

73% of sensitive habitats are polluted with acidic ammonia and nitrogen air pollution. p27



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The 4th State of Nature report 2023 – on Polluted habitats:

73% of sensitive habitats are polluted with acidic ammonia and nitrogen air pollution.

Page 27

Priority habitats:

Less than half of the nation's Areas or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (A/SSSIs) are in 'favourable' condition.
p67



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The 4th State of Nature report 2023 – on Priority habitats:

Less than half of the nation's Areas or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (A/SSSIs) are in 'favourable' condition.

Depleted nature

At 42% the UK is the worst G7 nation for its nature being intact. p33 *



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The 4th State of Nature report 2023 – on UK depleted nature

At 42% the UK is the worst G7 nation for its nature being intact.

Page 33 * (see slide 38)

Funding for nature

Government funding for nature conservation has dropped by a quarter (24%) since 2018. p29



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The 4th State of Nature report 2023 – on Funding for nature

Government funding for nature conservation has dropped by a quarter (24%) since 2018.

State of Nature in the UK

*** The Natural History Museum's Nature Intactness Index (NII) measures:**

- where habitats are not fragmented
- are able to function and be resilient, including to storms, heat and other effects of climate change.
- 90% is the safe level of 'biodiversity intactness' for a healthy functioning natural environment.



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- where habitats are not fragmented
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- 90% is the safe level of 'biodiversity intactness' for a healthy functioning natural environment.



What if we...

Knew how our 'leaders' are not being straight with us?

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What if we knew how our 'leaders' are NOT being straight with us?



What we can all do

Understand what's actually going on

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What we can all do

Understand what's actually going on.

PM Rishi Sunak on Net Zero in 2023

“a burden”
“honest with the public”
“more honest debate”
“honesty, not obfuscation”
“tough choices and
sacrifices”



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PM Rishi Sunak on Net Zero in 2023

Instead of presenting climate action and progress on the Net Zero as a positive – albeit with challenges and costs – the Prime Minister has chosen to cast it negatively.

He has called it “a burden” and claims he wants to be “honest with the public”, with “honesty, not obfuscation”, as well as “tough choices and sacrifices”.

How honest is it to cast net zero in such as negative light when the evidence is that current policies are costing the UK and that these costs will rise?

How much of a “tough choice” is it, with “sacrifices”, to invest in clean renewables, in retrofitting the UK’s leaky housing stock, to create jobs and skills, to switch subsidies from polluting fossil fuel firm to the firms of the future?

How is it a “tough choice” and a “sacrifice” to help people get out of fuel poverty and the fear, disadvantage and debilitation that it brings?

Note that when he was Chancellor Mr Sunak’s budgets cut funding to insulate cold homes.

At the same time, he cut air passenger duty for short-haul domestic flights, and funded harmful new roads, many of which the government itself says are poor value for public money.

In 2022 the government itself warned about its own lack of adequate progress.

In forecasts that contrast with government claims that the UK is leading the world on climate action, the figures show we’re on course to overshoot targets we need to hit to keep our climate safe and stable by staying within the UK’s carbon budget.

The carbon budget requires a 76% cut in emissions by the mid-2030s.

But the government forecasts are that the UK is set to miss this target by a whopping 976 million tonnes.

For comparison:

- the UK energy sector = around 80 million tonnes of Carbon Dioxide a year
- UK homes emit about 65 million tonnes.

By cancelling new energy efficiency regulations for the private rental sector, the Prime Minister could cost British households almost £8bn in higher bills over the next decade, and more if gas prices spike again.

**Home Secretary
Suella Braverman on
Net Zero**

“A luxury belief”

“We’re not going to
save the planet by
bankrupting the British
people”



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Further petty politics from the Home Secretary whose speech at the Conservative Party Conference (October 2023) includes attacks on net zero alongside assaults on vulnerable people.

She continued to cast action on climate change and progress to net zero in a negative light, saying it was “a luxury belief” and that “We’re not going to save the planet by bankrupting the British people”.

How is heling people in fuel poverty to avoid high bills and to keep warm in winter a “luxury”?

The government has had all of the advice and support it needs to set out a pathway to net zero and to help communicate what that transition looks like in everyday terms and in ways that can gain public backing.

That includes working out how the costs can be managed.

But the government has failed to set things out for the public in a sustained way.

Instead, the PM, the Home Secretary and others have chosen to ignite the UK’s once leading stance on climate change and on net zero.

**"There is no doubt that
our changing climate is
a growing health
security concern."**

UK Health Security Agency
2022



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UK Health Security Agency

Even in national security and public health terms, Prime Minister Sunak and the Home Secretary Braverman have not been so “honest with the public” that they have shared that the UK Health Security Agency has reported (in 2002) that: "There is no doubt that our changing climate is a growing health security concern."

And yet they have claimed to have stopped or scrapped things which other bodies have advanced (see slide 48).

Also see: <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/insight/climate-threats-uk-health-and-security-show-cop27-vital>

**“overwhelming
evidence that the
effects of climate
change are already with
us”**

UK Parliament National
Security Committee
2022



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UK Parliament National Security Committee

Also, in 2022 the national security committee of both elected MPs and House of Lords peers reported:

“overwhelming evidence that the effects of climate change are already with us,”

Also see: <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/insight/climate-threats-uk-health-and-security-show-cop27-vital>

**“poor adaptation to
climate change is a
major threat to the UK’s
national security and
prosperity”**

UK Parliament National
Security Committee
2022



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The UK Parliament National Security Committee said: “poor adaptation to climate change is a major threat to the UK’s national security and prosperity”

Also see: <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/insight/climate-threats-uk-health-and-security-show-cop27-vital>

**“a severe dereliction of duty on
the part of the government”**

UK Parliament National
Security Committee says
ministers ARE NOT taking
the risks seriously

2022



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And the Committee lambasted UK Ministers for not taking the risks of climate change-related weather and other effects seriously.

The Committee said this is “a severe dereliction of duty on the part of the government”.

Also see: <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/insight/climate-threats-uk-health-and-security-show-cop27-vital>

“It’s hard to imagine the Government taking such a lax approach to any other recognised national security risk.”

UK Parliament National
Security Committee
2022

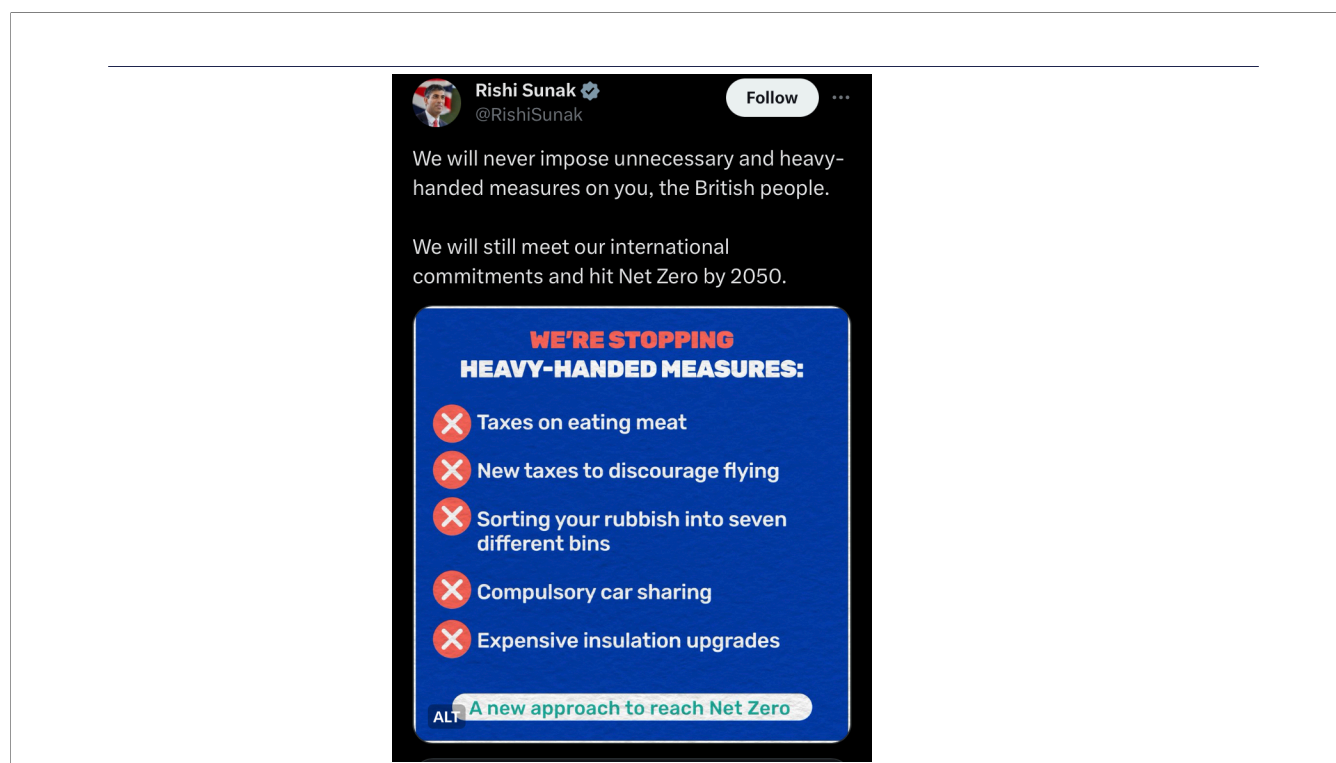


Slide 47

And the Committee added:

“it’s hard to imagine the Government taking such a lax approach to any other recognised national security risk.”

Also see: <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/insight/climate-threats-uk-health-and-security-show-cop27-vital>



Slide 48

Instead of being “honest with the public” PM Sunak’s claimed he’d scrapped or stopped things which were NOT even government policy.

The claim is based on that some of these ideas have been mentioned in papers submitted to others to government consultation and roundtable, such as in Henry Dimbleby’s proposed Food Strategy, which the government ignored. Or in papers proposed by the UK Climate Change Committee.

But at no point have any of these been official government policy.

Neither the PM nor any minister therefore has the power, ability or the means to scrap things which are not policy.

To claim otherwise may be petty politics but it also verges on demented confabulation.