

Hand-out by Hans Schreuder at Harbertonford, 7 November 2011

David Cameron and Chris Huhne are still insisting that the future belongs to renewables. They are still signing contracts on your behalf guaranteeing huge incomes to landowners and power companies, and guaranteeing thereby the destruction of landscapes and jobs. The government's "green" subsidies are costing the average small business £250,000 a year. That's ten jobs per firm. Making energy cheap is – as the industrial revolution proved – the quickest way to create jobs; making it expensive is the quickest way to lose them.

Not only are renewables far more expensive, intermittent and resource-depleting (their demand for steel and concrete is gigantic) than gas; they are also hugely more damaging to the environment, because they are so land-hungry. Wind kills birds and spoils landscapes; solar paves deserts; tidal wipes out the ecosystems of migratory birds; biofuel starves the poor and devastates the rain forest; hydro interrupts fish migration. Next time you hear somebody call these "clean" energy, don't let him get away with it.

Wind cannot even help cut carbon emissions, because it needs carbon back-up, which is wastefully inefficient when powering up or down (nuclear cannot be turned on and off so fast).

Even Germany and Denmark have failed to cut their carbon emissions by installing vast quantities of wind.

To persist with a policy of pursuing subsidized renewable energy in the midst of a terrible recession, at a time when vast reserves of cheap low-carbon gas have suddenly become available is so perverse it borders on the insane. Nothing but bureaucratic inertia and vested interest can explain it."

Matt Ridley: Making Wind Farms Obsolete
[The Spectator, 15 October 2011](#)

Confirmation that Britain's flagship carbon capture and storage project at the Longannet power station in Fife will not proceed was greeted with dismay by environmentalists on Wednesday. Four years ago the government proposed to fund all the cost of the successful CCS project, but last year the Treasury capped its contribution at £1bn. Companies in the competition estimated a working plant would cost at least £1.5bn, and possibly much more.

Japan is reconsidering plans to cut carbon-dioxide emissions by 25% by 2020 due to a rethinking of its energy future, and the country is worried that it is spending too much on carbon-credit programs, a senior government official said on Wednesday. "Japan's wealth has been draining out" due to buying carbon credits from East European countries and China, Mr. Nobutani said. METI estimates Japan has paid as much as ¥800 billion (\$10.4 billion) to buy 400 million metric tons of carbon credits.

The European Union is for the first time clearly questioning whether it should press ahead with long-term plans to cut greenhouse-gas emissions if other countries don't follow suit, in what could herald a significant policy shift for a region that has been at the forefront of advocating action to combat climate change. The document is unambiguous about the risks if Europe acts alone. "It has to be seen clearly that there are risks associated to unilateral EU action," the commission says in its draft. "There is a trade-off between climate-change policies and competitiveness. Europe cannot act alone in an effort to achieve global de-carbonization," the paper says.

Spain's Industry Ministry has upset the country's burgeoning wind power sector by announcing that it intends to slash subsidies by 40 percent. The draft royal decree on feed-in tariffs for wind energy which is currently being debated in parliament is endangering €12.7 billion of investments in Spain planned for the period up to 2020, says the AEE.

There was growing speculation last night that the Government is on the verge of cutting multibillion-pound financial incentives to build [onshore] wind farms. It is believed that the Government could cut so-called ROC incentives for green energy projects as a means of keeping a lid on rising power prices.

UK Government is in retreat from green agenda as the Financial Times reveals deep cuts to subsidies for household solar panels.

The government's flagship electricity market reforms (EMR) will not be finalised for more than 12 months, prompting calls for the coalition to fast-track legislation that is regarded as critical to efforts to drive £200bn of energy infrastructure investment by the end of the decade. Chairman of the Energy and Climate Change Committee Tim Yeo MP issued a statement voicing his concerns over the apparent delay to the flagship energy legislation.

Contrary to the Energy Secretary's position, higher fossil fuel prices cannot explain our current very high energy bills. And, contrary to the energy companies, they are not merely passing on the extra wholesale costs of energy. Maybe the Huhne green agenda, involving huge subsidies to wind generation, which end up on all our fuel bills, is much larger than we've been told.

The Antarctic sea ice extent has been at or near record extent in the past few summers, the Arctic has rebounded in recent years since the low point in 2007, polar bears are thriving, sea level is not showing acceleration and is actually dropping, Cholera and Malaria are failing to follow global warming predictions, Mount Kilimanjaro melt fears are being made a mockery by gains in snow cover, global temperatures have been holding steady for a decade or more, deaths due to extreme weather are radically declining, global tropical cyclone activity is near historic lows, the frequency of major U.S. hurricanes has declined, the oceans are missing their predicted heat content, big tornados have dramatically declined since the 1970s, droughts are not historically unusual nor caused by mankind, there is no evidence we are currently having unusual weather, scandals continue to rock the climate fear movement, the UN IPCC has been exposed as being a hotbed of environmental activists and scientists continue to dissent at a rapid pace.

The Herald, Letters - 17 October 11

The true cost of using windfarms

Using the official data from Government sources and some basic topographical knowledge it is easy to calculate that the number of pylons required to collect electricity from any windfarm will be anything from four to 20 times the number required to collect the same amount of electricity from a conventional coal, gas, or nuclear power station.

Obviously the more remote the windfarm the greater the number of pylons constructed and the greater the distance the pylon line has to cover.

The environmental devastation is, therefore, not limited to just the windfarm site itself but is also distributed over the much wider area between the windfarm and the centres of population which it is supposed to serve.

It is a matter of regret that these simple facts are often ignored when permission is granted to build windfarms in distant and inappropriate wilderness areas in Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Northumberland or the Lake District.

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