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ZERO CARBON BRITAIN 2030

A NEW ENERGY STRATEGY
The second report of the
Zero Carbon Britain project

ZEROCARBONBRITAIN2030

"In calling for a common sense of purpose, not just nationally but internationally too, it points out the benefits of society, its health, social welfare and sustainability, that will result from the pursuit of such a goal. May I urge you to study carefully its arguments and its findings."

Sir John Houghton, Former Co Chair of the International Panel on Climate Change.



Throughout human existence societies have faced many challenges. The scale and scope of the challenges now faced is greater than any in recorded history. A changing climate; diminishing fossil fuel reserves and rising energy demands are inter-connected problems that demand common solutions.

zerocarbonbritain2030 is a positive, realistic vision for a society without fossil fuels, grounded in the latest climate science. Produced by the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), the report is the first fully integrated solution to climate change and energy security for Britain. It demonstrates that society and our quality of life could thrive, whilst keeping Britain's net greenhouse gas emissions at zero.

- A transition to zero emissions in Britain is possible, and will create a prosperous and vibrant society.
- Britain is a long industrialised country and has been burning fossil fuels for 150 years. We have a responsibility to set a global lead, and we have the means to deliver it.

ZEROCARBONBRITAIN2030

"[zerocarbonbritain2030 is] a key contribution to the society-wide discussion so urgently needed"

Rob Hopkins, Transition Towns

POWER DOWN:

zerocarbonbritain2030 shows that we can reduce our energy demand by up to 55% through increased energy efficiency in areas such as buildings and transport.

Transport:

- More walking and cycling, more efficient public transport
- 63% reduction in energy use
- Electrification of transport system
- Rail and bus services will replace domestic and short haul flights
- Two-thirds reduction in aviation using kerosene fuel produced from 1.3 million hectares of short rotation coppice in the UK, grown on land that doesn't offset food production

Buildings:

- Massive retrofit programme to improve energy and insulation of houses
- By using construction materials such as wood, straw and other natural materials we can lock away millions of tonnes of CO₂

POWER UP:

We can provide a reliable 100% renewable electricity mix. *zerocarbonbritain2030* proves that by using the right mix of wind power, hydro, solar, biomass – plus an intelligent grid to manage demand – we can "keep the lights on" and supply all the energy the country needs from renewables, as well as export electricity to support the UK balance of payments. The key renewable resource is off-shore wind.

Employment:

zerocarbonbritain2030 shows that we can create hundreds of thousands of new jobs in wind power, solar energy and energy efficiency. In the peak year of installation over 300,000 people will be employed in wind power alone. Investment in renewables can be focused geographically on areas where employment will be lost as fossil fuel jobs decline. The focus on off-shore wind allows cross-over in skills from the off-shore oil and gas industry.

Land Use:

"Plenty of plants; not much meat; and maximum variety." Tudge 2006

zerocarbonbritain2030 will revolutionise our landscape and diets. An 80% reduction in meat and dairy production will free up land to grow our own food and fuel whilst also sequestering carbon from the atmosphere. The report also represents an opportunity to tackle the relationship between diet and health in the UK by promoting healthier diets and lifestyles.