

CLIMATE CHANGE NEWS - Mar 24

UK Spring Budget 6 Mar 24

UK chancellor Jeremy Hunt failed to mention the term “climate change”

The government is freezing fuel duty on petrol & diesel for the 14th year adding 7% to UK emissions

The chancellor announced a year-long extension to the windfall tax on oil-and-gas companies, but did not commit to spending it on new climate investments.

No new policies to help boost rollout of low-carbon technologies electric vehicles, heat pumps...

No changes to the government’s plan to maximise UK oil and gas production.

Council Climate Action Scorecards 21 Mar 24 Climate Emergency UK advisory body

The report assesses how well councils in the UK are taking action towards net zero emissions:

Local authorities directly control 2-5% of local area’s emissions but influence >1/3 of UK emissions

Local authorities are reducing emissions but not fast enough to deliver reductions needed by 2030

41/430 councils scored +50% climate action with the average score 30%

Report also identifies key success factors:

- (1) Political leadership & good climate governance
- (2) A dedicated portfolio councillor for climate increased result by 11%
- (3) Published climate strategy with targets embedding in key documents
- (4) Work in partnership with local businesses & gain external funding

Also joined up thinking between local & national government:

- (5) Climate action to be statutory for all UK local authorities
- (6) National governments to provide more funding and simplify funding pots for net-zero

South Sudan School Closures

South Sudan's government is closing down all schools as the country prepares for a wave of extreme heat. The country's health and education ministries advised parents to keep all children indoors as temperatures are expected to soar to 45C

Global Meat Production Increase

Global meat production rose 9% between 2015 and 2021, while dairy production increased 13%. Financiers provided \$77bn (£60bn) to grow meat industry despite anti-deforestation policies

Climate Change Red Alert

As we approach 1.5C warming the UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) issued a "red alert" on climate change, citing increases in greenhouse gases, land and water temperatures and melting of glaciers and sea ice. WMO confirms that 2023 was the hottest year on record and says that there is a "high probability" that 2024 will be another record-hot year.

Europe Unprepared For Climate Change

European Environment Agency (EEA) Climate Risk Assessment reported Europe is not prepared for climate change citing wildfires, flooding & extreme weather

Note: In UK CCC reported July 23 only 5/45 policy areas have adequate climate change adaptation plans

US Vehicle Emissions Legislation

US president has moved to reduce car pollution by bringing in new tailpipe emissions limits designed to compel car makers to boost sales of battery-electric and plug-in hybrid models

UK Energy Plans

Oil & Gas

Five oil-and-gas fields in the North Sea marked for accelerated development - Cambo, Murlach, Talbot, Affleck & Victory. Nearly 900 locations are being offered for exploration & 100 licences awarded.
A future Labour Government promises to halt further oil exploration & accelerate green transition.

Wind Power

Ambition is x5 increase in wind power to 50 GW by 2030 with continued expansion to 2050.
Offshore with approval times cut from 4 years to 1 year *Labour to lift onshore ban*
Wind powered electricity nine times cheaper than current gas prices

Solar Power

Grow UK solar power currently 14GW to 70GW including rooftops - TBA

Nuclear

Increase UK nuclear from 16% to 25% by 2050 (x3 nuclear capacity) *Not on track*
Up to eight new reactors to be built on existing sites producing additional 24GW by 2050
Small nuclear reactors
West Burton home of STEP fusion plant

Hydrogen

Double UK hydrogen production to 10GW by 2030 (50% green hydrogen large coastal facilities)

National Grid

Solar, wind and local power schemes to wait 7 years max for connection to national grid.