

'Road To Cop' News Highlights – Mar 23 Ian Hawker

UK Climate Adaptation Planning

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) said the government hasn't achieved any of its targets to adapt to climate change and needed a policy "step change" to avoid loss of life. Includes water supply, extreme weather, food supply chains, buildings and nature loss. They found that only 5 out of the 45 policy areas had credible climate change plans to 2030 and none were making progress to improve climate resilience.

[youtube.com/watch?v=M89Jv6Dkne8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M89Jv6Dkne8)

UK Green Industry Skill Shortages

The growing UK green industry will require 400K skilled workers in manufacture, installation & maintenance by 2030. For example in the design, construction & maintenance of green homes & electric vehicles.

UK NET ZERO Plan (New)

As ordered by the High Court the government has unveiled a new Net Zero Plan. It will not reach the Net Zero target by 2050 and says little about renewable technologies & energy efficiency (including home insulation). Places emphasis on use of Hydrogen Power (mainly extracted from North Sea Gas) & Carbon Capture & Storage (which encourages more CO2 production). No mention of fixing skill shortages. New Net Zero plan not well received by experts & the media.

IPCC UN Climate Report Mar 23

Summary of key pieces of research completed over the past five years:

(1) The world will overshoot the target of 1.5C and is not on target to reach Net Zero by 2050

Current prediction is +3C by 2100.

(2) No future for coal, oil and gas. **Why is coal, oil & gas exploration being subsidised?**

(3) Actions of individuals make a difference (food, flights...) **Why is air travel growing?**

(4) Emissions today will affect the climate for 1000s years. **Geoengineering?**

(5) The science is clear - its now about the politics!

US Approves Alaska Oil Drilling Project

Joe Biden approves the £6bn Conoco-Phillips Willow project drilling for oil and gas on the largest tract of undisturbed public land in the US. Compromise with the Republicans?.

Global Water Shortages

The Global Commission on the Economics of Water (GCEW) warns that demand for fresh water globally will outstrip supply by 40% by 2030. Key recommendations, include reshaping the global governance of water resources, scaling up investment in water management through public-private partnerships, pricing water properly and establishing “water partnerships” to raise finance for water projects in developing countries.

The War In Ukraine - Update

Short term demand for fossil fuels + accelerated green technology development for the longer term

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 set to be awarded.

Wind Power

Ambition is x5 increase in wind power to 50 GW by 2030 with continued expansion to 2050
Mainly offshore with approval times cut from 4 years to 1 year + ban on onshore wind lifted
Wind powered electricity nine times cheaper than current gas prices

Nuclear

Increase UK nuclear from 16% to 25% by 2050 (x3 nuclear capacity)
Up to eight new reactors to be built on existing sites producing additional 24GW by 2050
West Burton selected as home of STEP fusion plant to prove low carbon electricity from fusion

Solar Power

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

Hydrogen

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

Energy Pricing

Move nuclear & renewable energy to lower priced contracts reflecting their lower production costs
Up to 95% of the UK's electricity to come from low-carbon sources by 2030 (100% by 2035)