

Government has blown pretence of climate leadership with 'max out' fossil fuels pledge say Greens



30 January 2024

A report by the Climate Change Committee (CCC) has accused the UK government of giving 'mixed messages' at the COP28 climate summit held in Dubai in December [1].

The CCC said: "The international perception of the UK's climate ambition suffered from mixed messages following announcements on new fossil fuel developments and the prime minister's speech to soften some net zero policies. The committee urges a continued visible presence at future Cops and even greater domestic climate ambition to reinforce the UK's international standing."

Responding, co-leader of the Green Party, Carla Denyer, said:

"Through its drive to 'max out' on North Sea fossil fuels, the UK government has blown any pretence of global leadership on tackling the climate crisis. Ministers have been forced into admitting that their energy security defence of the Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill was nonsense because oil and gas corporations sell to the highest bidder on the open market.

"So at odds with the government's target of reducing emissions is this dangerous Bill that it has led to the resignation of Chris Skidmore who chaired the government's Net Zero Review.

"We need to call time on all new licences for fossil fuel exploration, accelerate the move towards renewable energy and implement a large scale home insulation programme. That is how the UK can show climate leadership."

Notes

1. [COP28 outcomes must lead to acceleration of action in the UK – Climate Change Committee \(theccc.org.uk\)](https://theccc.org.uk)

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Green Party reacts to International Court of Justice ruling



26 January 2024

Green Party co-leader Adrian Ramsay said the International Court of Justice interim ruling underscored the need for a renewed political initiative to secure an immediate ceasefire, the release of hostages and a long-term peace.

Ramsay said:

“The International Court of Justice is right to insist that Israel must ‘take all measures within its power’ to prevent all acts contravening the genocide convention, must ensure ‘with immediate effect’ that its forces do not commit any act of genocide, and immediately improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

“The court is also right to call for the immediate, unconditional release of all hostages

“It is the highest court of the United Nations, its decisions are binding, and if we are to have a rules-based international order, its findings must be respected and acted upon.

“Now is the time for new peace initiatives to create the conditions for a lasting peace across the region.

“Ultimately, it is for the Israeli and Palestinian peoples to agree the long-term solutions that will offer each security and peace, but the UK government can do much more now to encourage that process to begin.

“The UK government must show it respects the international institutions that offer peaceful, legal and diplomatic avenues to end conflicts.

“It should begin by unequivocally backing an immediate ceasefire that ends fighting by all sides, frees the hostages, lets in humanitarian aid and creates space for dialogue.”

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Poverty is a political choice: Carla Denyer reacts to Joseph Rowntree Foundation report



23 January 2024

Responding to this year's poverty report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, which says that it is now 20 years and six prime ministers since there was a sustained fall in poverty [1], co-leader of the Green Party, Carla Denyer, said:

"This latest report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation makes for grim reading. Over one in five people in the UK were living in poverty in 2021/22. That's almost 14 and a half million people, with over eight million working-age adults and over four million children.

"For years, successive UK governments have allowed poverty to become entrenched and for inequality to widen. The super-rich have seen their incomes soar during a time of increased hardship for millions of people.

"It doesn't have to be this way. Poverty is a political choice.

"There are things that can be done quickly to address the sickening levels of poverty in our society. For example, the Green Party would increase Universal Credit by £40 per week and abolish the two-child benefit cap. A wealth tax on the super-rich, along with tax reforms such as changes to Capital Gains Tax and abolishing "non dom status," could pay for these and other measures to reduce poverty.

"As Labour finalises its manifesto, there's little indication that they will make the right political choices to help the millions enduring grinding poverty. Which is why we so desperately need a group of Green MPs in parliament after the next general election to put pressure on Labour to do the right thing."

Notes

[1] [Hardship deepens as millions find the poverty line further out of reach | Joseph Rowntree Foundation \(jrf.org.uk\)](#)

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NHS needs increased funding, not Labour's 'reform and efficiency' savings say Greens



23 January 2024

Responding to comments by the shadow Health Secretary Wes Streeting that the NHS needs reform and efficiency savings, not extra money [1], Carla Denyer, co-leader of the Green Party, said:

“Labour’s fiscal rules are clearly bad for your health. Blaming the Health Service’s ills on inefficiencies rather than on chronic underfunding is an insult to thousands of dedicated and hardworking staff who are underpaid and struggle because they are under-resourced.

“The Green Party would restore the public health budget by increasing spending by £1.4 billion and immediately increase NHS spending by £8 billion, to ensure NHS staff can be paid decently. Reforms to the tax system – including through changes to Capital Gains Tax, National Insurance and the abolition of “non dom status” – could raise the billions needed to properly invest in our health services.

“Successive governments have pointed the finger of blame at ‘inefficiencies.’ It’s regrettable to see Wes Streeting treading this well-worn path rather than pledging to increase funding for the NHS which is so desperately needed.”

Notes

1. [Wes Streeting says Labour has been too nostalgic about NHS as he argues for reform – UK politics live \(theguardian.com\)](#)

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Steel jobs cull underscores need for a just move to greening industry



19 January 2024

The Green Party has called for a green industrial strategy offering a clear road map toward creating sustainable, green jobs following confirmation that Tata is slashing 2,800 jobs at its steelworks in Port Talbot.

Wales Green Party leader Anthony Slaughter said:

“This is devastating news for the local community and beyond. Wales knows only too well what happens when communities are abandoned by government and industries. We saw it with the coal industry and now it is happening again with the steel industry.

“Decarbonisation of industry is vital, but communities and people’s jobs must be protected. That means putting unions and workers at the heart of a just transition.

“The government has provided Tata with £500 million toward the cost of future steel production. It has a responsibility to ensure that money is used to protect Port Talbot and the wider Wales economy.

“Instead, it is allowing the company to ignore viable alternatives to these job losses put forward by the unions. That is unacceptable and must be resisted.”

Green Party deputy leader Zack Polanski, who recently visited Port Talbot with Anthony Slaughter, said:

“The steel industry is a crucial part of the UK’s economy and has been the backbone of communities up and down the country for generations.

“It is simply inexcusable that the government is willing to inflict real damage on this south Wales community, with a deal that will see thousands of jobs lost. This is not the fair transition to a greener future that people across the UK need or deserve.

“What is happening in Port Talbot underscores the need for a green industrial strategy from government, led by trade unions and communities, that provides a clear road map toward creating the sustainable, green jobs of the future.

“It is workers in these industries that have the skills and experience to help lead the industrial conversion.

“Planned transition is possible. By 2030, the European Union is expected to be home to nearly 50 green and low-carbon steel projects, facilitated by governments working together to deliver a planned strategy to move away from fossil fuels. [1]

“However, we have a government that simply doesn’t care about the enormous and exciting possibilities for people that the green industrial revolution we are undergoing offers. It seems happy to see jobs and communities go to the wall rather than plan to protect Port Talbot, its people and the planet.

“Neither the Conservatives nor Labour have faced up to the need to future-proof our economy and ensure we are able to transition to a greener, more sustainable future while protecting people and communities.

“We know transitioning to a green economy could create up to a million jobs. If the government had invested in the transition over the last few decades, we could have avoided the potentially devastating consequences we are seeing in Port Talbot today.”

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

[1] [Green Steel Is Coming. Europe Is Leading the Charge Thanks to New Carbon Taxes. – WSJ](#)

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