



Newsletter December 2015

Jonathon Porritt and Molly Scott Cato MEP join list of Stop Hinkley Patrons as UK Government energy policy goes backwards

[Stop Hinkley Press Release, 25 Nov](#)

The Government's energy policy is looking increasingly inept, as Jonathon Porritt and Molly Scott Cato MEP agree to act as Patrons to the Stop Hinkley Campaign.

The recent energy policy re-set shows the Government plans to rely mostly on imported and fracked gas and nuclear power for UK energy supplies, just as Scientific American publishes a study showing we could use renewables for all our energy needs by 2050.

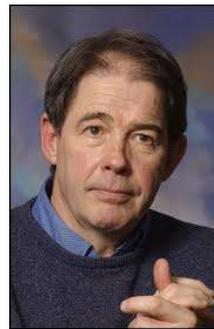
Meanwhile, the Hinkley Point C project looks more and more financially toxic. Now even the association of employee-shareholders says it could spell doom for EDF as a company. Mounting losses accrued by AREVA and EDF on the EPRs being built elsewhere have already put the future of the company in jeopardy. Investment bank Investec, Moody's and Standard and Poor have all advised clients to sell shares in EDF.

Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Amber Rudd has been busy slashing support for renewables since she came to office because she says she is concerned about energy bills. And yet she has attacked two of the lowest cost energy sources (wind and solar) just as they are making progress towards being competitive with gas, whilst subsidising one of the most expensive sources of electricity – nuclear power. Britain could have six times the power-generation capacity for the same money by investing in wind turbines instead of Hinkley Point C according to *Bloomberg New Energy Finance* (NEF). And **the Solar Trade Association has shown that solar PV could provide the same amount of electricity for half the subsidy cost of Hinkley Point C.** The future for solar and wind in the rest of the world looks bright and now the Lazard investment bank is predicting the cost of energy storage will be competitive in five year's time.

Stop Hinkley Spokesperson Roy Pumfrey said: "We are lucky to have two forward thinkers on our side now that Jonathon and Molly have agreed to act as Patrons to the Stop Hinkley Campaign.

Unlike Ministers they understand that nuclear power is seriously damaging our efforts to tackle climate change; it is expensive and won't make any difference to the security of our energy supplies for at least a decade. The Government, on the other hand, seems to have invented special glasses to help it look backwards."

Environmentalist Jonathon Porritt, campaigner, author and Founder Director of Forum for the Future, and now a Patron of the Stop Hinkley Campaign, says:



"The Government's 'energy trilemma' – tackling climate change at the same time as providing energy that is affordable and secure – can be solved primarily with renewables and energy

efficiency but it seems determined to ignore the answer staring us in the face. Instead of making a risky 35-year bet on the most expensive electricity power generation station ever proposed, it should be supporting the creation of a world-leading renewables industry that already has widespread public support."

In the run-up to the Paris Climate Talks at the end of this week, South West Green MEP, Dr Scott Cato, and also a new Stop Hinkley Campaign Patron says:



"We need to see a transformation to the way our economy works and we need to see it quickly. 100% renewable energy by 2050 is possible, and the report I commissioned on

the South-west region demonstrated just that. This transformation could create 122,000 new quality jobs in the process and add £14bn to the regional economy. Yet this Government seems to be doing everything it can to kill off any chance of achieving this."

<http://stophinkley.org/PressReleases/pr151124.pdf>

Boris Johnson slams Hinkley C nuclear power station costs as 'disgraceful'

[Western Daily Press](#), November 24, 2015

Boris Johnson has dubbed the cost of Somerset's planned Hinkley C nuclear power station and its output "a disgrace".

The Mayor of London, and close rival of Chancellor George Osborne for the future leadership of the Conservative Party, was answering questions put to him by Baroness Jones, a Green party member of the London Assembly who is opposed to nuclear power.

She was questioning the withdrawals of subsidies for renewable energy and contrasting that with the deal struck by the Government with Hinkley's developer, French-owned EDF Energy, which guarantees a price of £92.50 per megawatt hour for 35 years once the power station is operational.

The Government also announced a guarantee of £2 billion in September, to pave the way for a final investment decision by EDF supported by China.

Baroness Jones quoted the cost of the new power station at "£17 billion" (its developers put the cost at £18 billion).

Mr Johnson said "I'm totally with you on that one – it's a disgrace" and went on: "Do I think the deal on nuclear power looks like good value for money, £95 per kilowatt hour for 30 years or whatever it is? I think it looks like an extraordinary amount of money to spend."

When the China deal was announced last month, EDF Energy CEO, Vincent de Rivaz, said: "Hinkley Point C and successive nuclear projects will guarantee the UK the reliable, secure, low-carbon electricity it needs in the future. Nuclear power will save customers money compared with other energy options and provide a huge boost to British industrial strength, jobs and skills both in Britain and abroad. Today's announcements are also good news in the fight against climate change."

But Theo Simon, of Stop Hinkley, said: "Boris is right to condemn the monstrous £2 billion of taxpayers' money being used to underwrite Hinkley C's Chinese State investors. EDF's problems getting financial commitment – even with higher consumer bills – are because of the huge cost and liability of nuclear compared to the renewable technologies now available.

"Mr Cameron's pig-headed commitment to Hinkley C turns out to be at the expense of green energy, with thousands of solar workers being laid off. The irony is that even EDF's own shareholders are now calling for Hinkley C to be dropped, because they're afraid it will bring about the company's collapse.

"When nobody seriously believes in this project anymore, why aren't senior Tories like Boris telling the prime minister directly that Hinkley C must now be scrapped?"

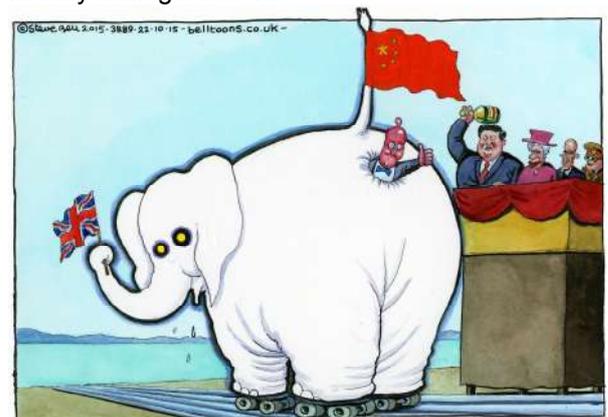
The Bristol March for Climate, Justice and Jobs



On Sunday 29th November Stop Hinkley and SWAN members took the 'Renewables not Nuclear' and the 'Hinkley C is a White Elephant' messages to Bristol. There were, 3,000 on the March including, Bristol's mayor, George Furguson.



There were at least 15 barrels and a new Stop Hinkley Banner designed by political cartoonist Steve Bell. We gave out about a thousand leaflets 'Why nuclear power is not the answer to Climate Change ' and at the end Stop Hinkley spokesperson, Theo Simon, spoke on a very muddy College Green.



Hinkley: doomed to fail?

Hinkley Point C the wrong plant, at the wrong price and at the wrong time?

[Utility week 19 Oct 2015](#)

The Hinkley Point C new nuclear-build project has critics massing on several fronts, especially with its cost soaring to a massive £24.5 billion for a plant with a capacity of just 3,200 MW.

Importantly, many nuclear experts have expressed profound misgivings about the proposed technology.

The third-generation European Pressurised Reactor (EPR) design, built by the financially-troubled Areva, has faced seemingly intractable problems at the Olkiluoto site in Finland since construction started in 2005 – commissioning is not expected there until 2018. EDF's own domestic nuclear new-build project at Flamenville in Normandy has fared little better, with the latest opening date – now 2018 - delayed by around six years.

Various potentially serious technical problems have been encountered, some of which cast doubt on the durability and reliability of some materials used in the reactor core.

With EPR costs soaring, some experts argue that far smaller nuclear plants should be built. Others argue that the UK should not be building any new nuclear plants at all – and effectively should emulate Germany, Italy, Spain and Sweden, all of whom have opted out of new nuclear-build.

The costs of new nuclear plants are unquestionably enormous. The 3,200 MW Hinkley Point C complex is now estimated to cost, including the accrued interest during construction, around £24.5 billion. No wonder, some critics advocate scrapping Hinkley Point C. Moreover, they point to the agreed 35-year inflation-proof £92.50p per MW Contract for Difference (CfD) and the near impossibility of forecasting energy prices so far into the future.

After all, if there were further Chernobyl or Fukushima type accidents, there is a real risk that Hinkley Point C could become a massively expensive stranded asset.

Furthermore, fuel prices could also shift alarmingly, as was the case in the mid-1970s when oil prices quintupled within a few years. During the 1960s, the former CEGB (Central Electricity Generating Board) had constructed a fleet of expensive oil-fired plants.

There is also the issue of timing. After all, the UK's last nuclear plant at Sizewell B was designed in the 1980s. In the intervening period, new base-load plant has been almost entirely gas-fired.

Undoubtedly, with the overall plant margin now down to virtually zero, the lack of new base-load plant coming on stream remains extremely worrying.

Potential nuclear investors are also wary about the impact of the halving of the oil price over the last 18 months. In its wake, gas input prices have been falling, whilst world coal prices have been low for some time.

Hence, it is argued that the UK should follow Germany and build more fossil-fuel plants – ironically, Germany has recently been commissioning new coal-fired plant, despite its unbridled renewables commitment. And, of course, Germany is ditching nuclear power, with all its plants due to close by 2022.

Nevertheless, the Hinkley Point C project has undoubted political traction although several experts in the Treasury are believed to harbour serious doubts about its financial viability.

Ultimately, EDF's board will have to decide whether or not to proceed with such a colossal investment – not an easy decision.

Stop Hinkley's view on 2015

By [Roy Pumfrey](#), Stop Hinkley spokesperson

Stop Hinkley's assessment of 2015 has to be mixed. There were yet more false dawns for Hinkley C. Despite dragging the Chinese in as reluctant lenders of last resort, EdeF continues to stall on its Final Investment Decision as problems pile up at its French and Finnish projects.

Vincent de Rivaz continues to ignore the real concerns of local people that what we have so far is hundreds of acres of pointlessly flattened farm land, regular traffic gridlock in Bridgwater, an inadequate Cannington bypass and a grandiose Training Centre causing endless parking problems.

It has been disappointing to see the Government slash support for energy saving measures. Unjustifiable and expensive support for new nuclear and fracking has gone hand in hand with a refusal to encourage investment in new technologies that will keep the lights on long after any nuclear plant is history. Not to mention the cost of decommissioning.

As the sun comes up on 2016, let's hope the tide will turn in favour of renewable technologies for the electricity we need. Already, research at Cambridge University has developed a battery that will power a car from London to Edinburgh in just one charge.

A wind of change needs to blow through Government to recognise that Britain needs to develop new technologies for the future, not rely on others stuck in the past.

1.8 tons of complaints against Hinkley Point C



The campaign by German group EWS has resulted in them delivering 179,065 letters of complaint to the European Commission in Brussels against Hinkley C. The delivery of so much mail created a great deal of media interest and sends a clear political signal.



Link to video (in German) <http://www.ews-schoenau.de/kampagne/kampagnen-news.html>

Email Communication

We try, where possible, to send out newsletters and other communications by email. It is by far easier, quicker and more economical than labelling, stuffing and posting envelopes.

If you are receiving the newsletter by post and would prefer to receive it by email, please send your email address to val@stophinkley.org We are very happy to send a snail mail copy as well as the email version if you prefer.

If you have not been regularly receiving either an email or postal copy, please get in touch as we may be sending it by email to an out of date or wrong address.

Subscription Renewals

For those who do not pay by Standing Order, the renewal forms are enclosed.

Those of you who do pay by SO will know the advantage of not having to remember to send a cheque.

Our membership has remained loyal and supportive, some dating back to the days of the original enquiry in the 1980s, and has enabled us to continue the fight against Hinkley C since then. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Now, more than ever, it is vital that we increase our membership numbers to make our voice even louder. Please encourage friends to join. They can join by going to the website 'Support Us' page or by simply sending a cheque with their name and address to Stop Hinkley, 8 The Bartons, Yeabridge, South Petherton TA13 5LW.

Thank you all for your support, and we wish you a very happy Christmas.

Events

Stop Hinkley meetings
Mondays Dec 21 & Jan 18 at 7pm
West Bow House, Milton Place
Off West Street, Bridgwater

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PUBLIC MEETING

Commemorating 30th Anniversary of Chernobyl and 5th Anniversary of Fukushima

Thursday March 10th, 7pm
Temple Methodist Church, Taunton

Speakers to be confirmed

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