



For Immediate Release
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Plan B for Hinkley doesn't have to be nuclear.
Stop Hinkley Campaign calls for a renewables Plan B for Hinkley

According to Nick Butler writing in the Financial Times on Saturday "*the UK government is preparing a plan B, while continuing to claim that Hinkley will still go ahead. Mr Osborne wanted [N.B. past tense] Hinkley but he is the ultimate realist.*" (1)

Former Conservative MP, Tim Yeo, described as the highest-profile pro-nuclear lobbyist, has also called for a Plan B - a nuclear Plan B - to make sure that other nuclear power plants planned after Hinkley Point receive the right backing. (2) There has also been speculation, since denied, that EDF's Chinese partners are planning a Plan B which might involve building Chinese reactors at Hinkley Point. (3)

Stop Hinkley Spokesperson Roy Pumfrey said:

"The fact of the matter is that we don't need to put Somerset at risk (4) and add another 80% to the UK's radioactive waste stockpile that we have no idea what to do with. (5) It would be perfectly feasible to come up with a Plan B, Plan C and Plan D based on renewable energy and energy efficiency, all of which would be cheaper and better for the environment and the economy."

In recent months plans have been published by Molly Scott Cato, the Green MEP for South West England (6); the Intergenerational Foundation (7); the E3G Think Tank (8); and Green Hedge – a leading developer and operator of low carbon electricity generation and storage projects. (9)

The 3.2GW (Gigawatt) Hinkley Point C is expected to produce, at a very optimistic 90% load factor, 25TWh (terawatt hours) (billion kWh) every year. Some examples of alternatives to Hinkley include:

- Research by Forum for the Future, *Farmers Weekly* and Nottingham Trent University looked at the potential for rolling out different renewable technologies on UK farms - principally solar and wind, and some anaerobic digestion. Their report estimates that it would be relatively simple to get 20 GW onto the grid from farm-based solar and wind by 2020. (10)
- Domestic energy efficiency alone could save 40TWh/yr by 2030 and help eliminate fuel poverty into the bargain. (11)
- There are around 100 TWh of electricity savings detailed in a report for the Government by McKinsey for which there are currently no plans to capture. (12)
- Britain's solar industry says it could install the same capacity as Hinkley in 24 months and at comparable cost. (13)

- Friends of the Earth's Energy Pathway estimates that offshore wind could provide 155TWh more than currently planned by 2030. (14) Offshore wind being developed in Denmark is now much cheaper than Hinkley Point C. (15)

The Green Hedge plan says transforming weather-dependent solar and wind into a stable generator is possible with energy storage and backup gas generators. Writing on *The Independent* website Keith Barnham, Emeritus Professor of Physics at Imperial College says six bio-electricity technologies, all capable of continuous power operation, could provide ten times 3.2 GW before 2025. (16)

Roy Pumfrey said: “*The ongoing collapse of EDF's plans for Hinkley Point C provides us with a wonderful opportunity to turn Somerset into a sustainable energy hub for England. What on earth are we waiting for? Let's get on with it.*”

N.B. Moody's credit rating agency has just downgraded EDF's debt from A1 to 'A2 outlook negative'. This will make it all the harder and more expensive for it to raise the cash it needs to build Hinkley Point C. (17) And French energy minister, Segolene Royal has said that the company may have been “carried away” by its enthusiasm for the project highlighting divisions in the French government over whether to back the project. (18)

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- (1) FT 14th May 2016 <http://blogs.ft.com/nick-butler/2016/05/14/edfs-real-problem-is-flamanville-not-hinkley-point/>
- (2) FT 13th May 2016 <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/a10be0f4-1918-11e6-bb7d-ee563a5a1cc1.html>
- (3) Ecologist 13th May 2016
http://www.theecologist.org/blogs_and_comments/commentators/2987684/from_one_disaster_to_the_next_hinkley_cs_last_days.html
- (4) See for instance “England couldn't cope with a nuclear accident at Hinkley Point, Spectator, 11th May 2016 <http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/2016/05/could-england-cope-after-a-nuclear-accident-at-hinkley-point/>
- (5) Stop Hinkley Briefing 25th January 2016
<http://www.stophinkley.org/PressReleases/ImpactNewReactorProgrammeUK.pdf>
- (6) The Power to Transform the South West, http://mollymep.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/The-power-to-transform-the-South-West_FINAL1.pdf
- (7) Toxic Times Capsule by Andrew Simms, Intergenerational Foundation, April 2016
<http://www.newweather.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Toxic-Time-Capsule.pdf>
- (8) Guardian 18th Mar 2016 <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/damian-carrington-blog/2016/mar/18/five-ways-to-power-the-uk-that-are-far-better-than-hinkley-point>
- (9) Regen SW 22nd April 2016 <https://www.regensw.co.uk/blog/2016/04/hinkley-point-through-the-looking-glass/>
- (10) Farm Power: Exploring the size of the prize, Forum for the Future, November 2014
http://www.forumforthefuture.org/sites/default/files/Farm%20Power_Size%20of%20the%20Prize%20report_Nov-2014.pdf
- (11) Energy Efficiency: Fighting to keep Bills Down Permanently, ACE November 201
<http://ukace.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/ACE-November-2013-Energy-efficiency-fighting-to-keep-bills-down-permanently.pdf> (See table 16, page 54)
- (12) McKinsey, 2012 Capturing the full electricity efficiency potential of the U.K Draft report.
<http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/cutting-emissions/5776-capturing-the-full-electricity-efficiency-potential.pdf>
- (13) Click Green 24th October 2013 <http://reskin-cg.class-media.co.uk/opinion/opinion/123982-renewable-energy-boss-tells-pm-solar-power-could-match-hinkley-in-2-years.html>
- (14) A Plan for Clean British Energy, Friends of the Earth September 2012
https://www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/plan_cbe_report.pdf

- (15) Energy Post 3rd March 2015 <http://www.energypost.eu/offshore-wind-kattegat-unique-opportunity-europe/> *“if just 10% of the Kattegat region were developed for offshore wind, it would deliver 40% more power than the proposed Hinkley nuclear power station at a lower cost”*.
- (16) Independent 11th May 2016 <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/the-government-should-scrap-its-costly-hinkley-point-deal-and-accept-renewables-can-keep-the-lights-a7021196.html>
- (17) Ecologist 13th May 2016 [http://www.theecologist.org/blogs_and_comments/commentators/2987684/from one disaster to t he next hinkley cs last days.html](http://www.theecologist.org/blogs_and_comments/commentators/2987684/from_one_disaster_to_the_next_hinkley_cs_last_days.html)
- (18) FT 14th May 2016 <http://blogs.ft.com/nick-butler/2016/05/14/edfs-real-problem-is-flamanville-not-hinkley-point/>