

The Telegraph

The nation's favourite oily rag

The 'Telegraph View' ignores our history

COMMENT

The untenable costs of net zero

The national electricity grid is already stretched. A roll-out of wind energy would push us past breaking point



TELEGRAPH VIEW

20 March 2024 - 6:00am

...unprecedented expansion of infrastructure needed to bring offshore wind energy to homes

The scale of this investment exposes the unrealistic "net-zero" ambitions of both major parties.

More than 1,000 miles of new overhead lines... will be needed.

Now for the facts...

- In 1935 the UK grid was created with 4,000 miles of cables, mostly overhead.
- It was built in under 5 years.
- In 1950, 1,150 miles of new 275kV supergrid transmission lines were built over 10 years to carry six times more power.
- We managed all that with a UK and colonial GDP under half (in adjusted real terms) of what it is today.
- In 1960s and 1970s a new 400-kV supergrid added 1,500 miles connecting new power sources like nuclear and gas plants.

So, 'unprecedented'? 'Unrealistic'? I think not.

Turn the page to read some better news...

Thoughtful reporting...

Daily Telegraph Monday 11th March 2024

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The net zero lie? How the UK exported its emissions

Shifting energy intensive industries up impacts that are not included in figures, reports Jonathan Lurie

Greenhouse gas emissions associated with UK consumption will not all be accounted for in the UK's net zero target, a new report claims. Emissions embodied in imports will be reported in the international emissions account of the country where they are produced. In addition to the UK's own emissions, the report says, emissions embodied in imports will be reported in the international emissions account of the country where they are produced. In addition to the UK's own emissions, the report says, emissions embodied in imports will be reported in the international emissions account of the country where they are produced.

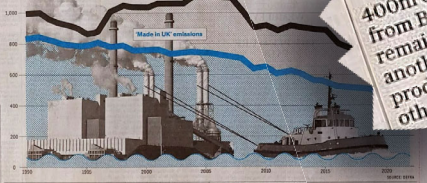
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Britain has offshored its carbon footprint

UK emissions based on consumption and production

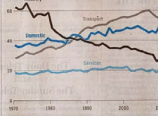
Millions tonnes CO2



Decline of British industry saves energy consumption

Large-scale emissions by sector

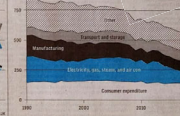
Millions tonnes CO2



CO2 emissions from manufacturing have halved in 30 years

Large-scale emissions

Millions tonnes CO2



Many energy-intensive industries have closed down in Europe because of high energy costs. The UK's own emissions, the report says, emissions embodied in imports will be reported in the international emissions account of the country where they are produced.

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We're not doing the world any favours if we subsidise high quality production here for power from elsewhere.

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In real terms, in addition to the 400m or so tonnes of CO2 pouring from Britain's homes, vehicles and remaining smokestacks, there are another 350 to 400m tonnes being produced on the UK's behalf but in other countries. If you add these together...

An in-depth, well researched assessment of the true greenhouse gas emissions from the UK that shows we are now here near the 50% reduction claimed by the government.

Lobbying...

Daily Telegraph Monday 11th March 2024

COMMENT

We must end the Net Zero delusion before it's too late

Enough of the pretence. The current path threatens our economy, society and democracy, and we urgently need a change of direction



ANNABEL DENHAM

11 March 2024 • 6:00am

Everyone has a right to an opinion, but this 780 word article lobbies hard against net zero, and has only one line of constructive suggestion (above). So we thought we would list the international best practice to which it must refer.

International best practice:

- About 145 countries have - or are considering - net zero targets, covering about 90% of global emissions
- US \$370bn Inflation Reduction Act
- EU Net Zero Industry Act
- Russia Net Zero by 2060
- China's investments in renewable energy is greater than those of the entire Western world

We could take a more flexible path, driven by international best practice

