



PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (08.11.2018)

REACTION TO END OF FEED-IN-TARIFFS

Ending the FIT scheme is just one of many policy choices this government has made that not only ignore the threat of catastrophic climate change but actually make it more likely.

They halted plans for new homes to be carbon neutral¹, they have blocked the construction of new onshore wind farms², they continue to subsidise dirty fossil fuels^{3,4} and they have forced through fracking against the wishes of everyone except their friends in the big oil & gas multinationals⁵.

They have repeatedly, recklessly, chosen to end investment in the green technologies of the future in favour of continued subsidies for old, polluting, fossil fuel technologies that damage our health⁶ and planet.

One of the best things that SBC have done in recent years is the Common Farm Solar project, a community project to generate clean energy while providing investment income to the Council that can be ploughed back into local services⁷. Projects like Common Farm are going to be harder without the support that the FITS scheme gives them.

There is one more question the government needs to answer. Who will benefit from the surplus electricity from any new small-scale generation projects once FITS is stopped? It makes no sense that the government will pay well over the odds to the French & Chinese for risky nuclear power⁸ but is not prepared to pay for clean energy produced by British home owners.

Hundreds of thousands of people have benefitted from the scheme while also feeding clean energy into the grid to benefit others. The government should be continuing to encourage people to join this new energy revolution, instead they're doing all they can to put an end to it.

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¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jul/10/uk-scraps-zero-carbon-home-target>

² <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/onshore-wind-ban-lift-voters-renewable-energy-renewableuk-yougov-a8449381.html>

³ <https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/fossil-fuel-firms-billion-pound-uk-state-subsidies-oil-gas-firms-leak-climate-change-environment-a7690966.html>

⁴ <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/new-figures-published-by-the-imf-show-the-uk-provides-more-subsidies-for-fossil-fuels-than-renewables/>

⁵ <https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/fracking-cuadrilla-lancashire-fossil-fuels-claire-perry-climate-change-a8462266.html>

⁶ <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/reports/aqeg/nd-summary.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.publicpowersolutions.co.uk/resources/case-studies/common-farm-solar-park/>

⁸ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-36925580>