

Ed Miliband MP
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for Energy and Climate Change

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Dear Ed

I am writing to you as a member of the Labour Party, having been a former Secretary of Brighton Pavilion GC, a former ward Secretary, an election agent for ward councillors, and an activist in many elections for David Lepper MP.

I am also a coordinator for Brighton & Hove Transition Energy Group, an interest group of Transition Brighton & Hove, itself a part of Transition Initiatives which is established in this country (and also worldwide).

The Transition Energy Group has been actively considering the impact of peak oil, more generally of peak fossil fuels, especially for Brighton & Hove, and the impact of this with, and independently of it, climate change, or if we as a planet do not take effective action, climate catastrophe.

The Transition Energy Group has submitted a consultation paper to BERR on Renewables, to be found under [The Transition B&H Energy Group Submission on Renewables](http://www.jimhadams.com), on the website <http://www.jimhadams.com>.

In 2007 I was part of a Policy Forum working group of Brighton Pavilion GC, and submitted the report [The Labour Party Working Group minority report on Climate Change](http://www.jimhadams.com), to be found on the same website.

The Transition Energy Group is very concerned at the lack of action being taken by the government on the fossil fuel energy plateaus and on climate change, despite some notable, but historically recent, movements in this direction. I have therefore been asked by this group to write to you.

We are aware from some of your speeches on these problems, that you yourself are aware of a number of these issues, and we welcome the creation of the Department of Energy and Climate Change. You are aware that there is talk of an energy gap, that there are grave deficiencies in the efficiency, connectivity and investment programme of the grid, on the irresponsible behaviour of many energy provider companies in favour of short-term contracts, particularly of gas, that investment in renewables has not really taken off (for example, per capita investment in wind energy is one tenth that of Denmark, and despite recent changes, the offshore planning regime continues to remain unfavourable compared with the majority of European countries), and that the favourable environment stimulated in Germany for the development of

photovoltaics and of efficient domestic heating generation, and a proper stimulation of a business environment for this, cannot be said to exist at the same level in the UK.

Government policy on these issues is sometimes fronted by the technically illiterate Malcolm Wicks. We do not regard peak fossil fuel energy or climate change as presentation issues. We do not accept lack of action on these issues is anything other than a disaster, and we despair of the unacceptable standard replies and blocking action which is preventing any form of contingency planning taking place, or timely and requisite remedial action being undertaken.

We think a task force should be set up to deal with these issues in a similar way to Hansen's programme submitted to Obama, referenced in [Hansen's Comments to Obama](#) and [reactions](#) to it, available on the same website. Like Hansen, both globally and nationally, we are extremely concerned about the effect of coal burning on Climate Change.

The website given above contains a reference to the recent [The Oil Crunch. Securing the UK's Energy Future](#), by leading British companies, which you will no doubt already have read, and also the note [Gas Security in the UK](#). Thus peak oil with its gyrations has hit now, and peak gas will hit in 2013.

We find it remarkable that appropriate contingency planning is not taking place, and ask whether this is due to inept advice, or that the government has decided to lose the next general election and blame the resulting catastrophe on the Tories. In a talk given by Hilary Benn at a meeting in the Brighthelm Centre in Brighton in October, it is remarkable that he claimed the government was not aware of any forecast of the financial meltdown in the global economy that has almost taken place. I told him our group has been discussing this for *two years* (one of our group is in extensive consultation with the Arlington Institute in the US – their prognosis, given two years ago, has been exact. We are told there are new scandals in the US that will unfold this year, greater than the \$50 - \$100 billion in one particular scandal that was salted away via Israel to Switzerland). The total amount of toxic assets in the system is between \$100 and \$300 *trillion* – more than the capacity of any state to deal with it.

The financial crisis is only part of what it is mooted. What is not generally stated, but which is the case, is there is a substantial interaction with the global energy market, in particular for oil.

The crises we now face are beyond the capacity of any single individual to solve them. They require concerted, determined, bold and wise international action. They demand that from Doncaster to Brighton & Hove, we in the UK, as individuals and as members of community and business groups, take action to mobilise for and to solve the problems which present themselves to us. On the international level, a massive programme of education of the world's population, of raising awareness on these issues, is required if we are to be able in time to create solutions, of which the genius of the human race in its vast numbers is capable of rising to and overcoming, for these immense challenges.

Regards