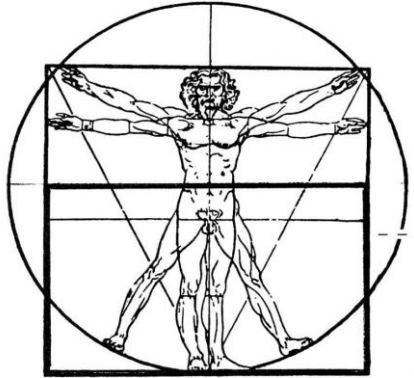


Omega Institute

Office 135 Regency House
91 Western Road
Brighton BN1 2NW

Phone: 01273-381825 (voicemail)
Mob: 07891-132574
Email: info@omega-institute.org
Website: www.omega-institute.org



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by: Jim Adams, Graham Ennis

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ALTERNATIVE QUEEN'S SPEECH

SOME STEPS ON AVOIDING CLIMATE CATASTROPHE.

(to John McDonnell MP)

My government will introduce significant environmental legislation in this Parliament, which will initiate far-reaching programs to mitigate the harmful effects of climate change. These programs will be a government priority.

Firstly, there will be a Climate Change Bill enacting a number of measures.

Secondly, there will be an Economic and Environmental Strategy Bill. This will seek to redirect the structure and direction of both the UK economy and governmental expenditure into policies and economic activities that enhance conservation of resources and minimise environmental harm. In particular, it will establish a Ministry of Climate Change that will have significant powers and funding to carry out this program.

My government will implement a year-on-year reduction of CO₂ emissions, with targets for each year.

We will cancel the Trident replacement and use much of the savings as part of a national and international effort to combat climate catastrophe. These funds will be directed through a Ministry of Climate Change as part of the Economic and Environmental Strategy Bill.

- We will subsidise and develop UK alternative “green” energy industries, particularly wind turbine generation, for use here and in developing and newly industrialising countries.

- The development of an EU directive on air fuel taxation will take an unacceptable time to implement. We will increase taxation on airports and flights and redirect it in order to reduce travelling costs by train and public transport generally. We will provide substantial incentives for use of green biofuels in aviation.
- Also we will cut the road development program and reinvest substantially in public transport.
- My government will place wind energy at the centre of its Green Energy Strategy. Since the UK has the best characteristics for the development of wind energy in Europe, we will set targets to match, and eventually exceed the construction of wind farms of leading European countries in this activity. It is our intention that the UK will be the prime leader in European wind energy. We will introduce financial incentives for this.
- We will build an offshore national electricity grid for connecting to offshore wind farms. We will streamline the planning application process for offshore wind farms, and encourage the development of wind farms in England.
- To stimulate the solar power industry, under the governments “renewables obligation” we will introduce a requirement that electric utilities be required to buy electricity generated by small solar installations, such as those in homes and small businesses, at more than 25p per KWh. We will fund a major R&D program for industrial scale practical solar energy.
- We will establish, under a Ministry of Climate Change a publicly owned National Solar Corporation, which will commission large-scale industrial production of solar technology.
- Chinese coal-fired stations are inefficient and will increasingly become a considerable source of global CO₂ emissions. We oppose this course of events, which will be practically difficult to reverse. As an interim measure, we will provide expertise and assistance to the Chinese to develop efficient coal-fired stations. As both an immediate and long-term measure we will also work with them to develop alternatives.
- We will declare a total halt to new large-scale waste incinerator contracts as being incompatible with Kyoto targets, and promote the implementation of Kyoto and EU directive compliant alternatives by the use of bioreactors, anaerobic digesters and other green technologies.
- We will introduce financial measures on energy and biofuels from waste, and a major R&D program on biofuels. We will seek to provide 40% of road and aviation fuels from biofuels by 2020. We will establish a program emulating that of Sweden, to replace oil imports by biofuels and hydrogen energy by 2020.

- We will take steps to increase recycling and reduce the journey distances to recycling plants by developing local recycling.
- We will instigate major R&D on the development of commercially viable batteries and other electric energy storage devices for use in electric vehicles, and as storage for domestic photovoltaics and medium sized domestic wind turbines.
- We will begin a major R&D program for the sequestration of CO₂ by green technologies, and legislate to require 90% reductions in carbon emissions from power generators by 2030.
- We will promote energy efficient lighting programs for public and private services. Street lighting and traffic systems will be required to halve electric energy consumption by 2020.
- We will increase grants for installation of solar heating panels and electric solar units. We will set a target of 20% of domestic heating and lighting from solar by 2020.
- We will press for an EU directive banning “standby” for new TV plasmas etc., and stimulate research and development of more energy efficient domestic appliances.