



NEW GROUND AUTUMN 2017
Campaigning for environmental change & social justice

THE GREEN CHALLENGES TO COME



Sadiq Khan
*My Vision for a
Greener London*

Jacinda Ardern
*New Zealand's
Climate Opportunity*

Chi Onwurah MP
*Growing a
sustainable future*

ANDREW PAKES & ADAM DYSTER

What a difference a few months can make. Little did any of us expect that within days of the last edition landing on people's doorsteps, we'd be gearing up to fight a snap general election.

Whilst the final result may not have been the one we were fighting for - and the UK will have to continue to endure Theresa May's premiership, now propped up by the DUP - it was fantastic to see so many of Labour's environmental champions elected and re-elected to Parliament.

Particular congratulations go to Exec Members Alan Whitehead MP & Daniel Zeichner MP, who were re-elected with huge increases in their, and to new and returning SERA Members Alex Sobel MP, Luke Pollard MP, Anneliese Dodds MP and David Drew MP. Alex has written for us about his experience as a new MP and how he plans to use his position to champion climate action.

With a hung Parliament, it's clear that the political environment has shifted, with huge opportunities for Labour to shape legislation and the political agenda for the better. This edition of New Ground looks at some of the biggest environmental challenges over the next few months and the key green

issues where Labour can make a real difference in this new political context.

The biggest of course will continue to be Brexit, and both Baroness Young and Mary Creagh MP look at some of the challenges of the Repeal Bill, and the worrying threats the current Tory plans pose to our environmental protections.

The new Fisheries and Agriculture bills will also be key for the future of our farming and fishing communities, as Sustain's Viki Hird and Melanie Onn MP look at respectively. Expect to see Parliamentary battles as well around the Government's Clean Growth Plan, which Anna McMorin explores - if the Tories ever publish the document.

Whilst the Conservative Government might try its best to avoid addressing the biggest green challenges, Labour authorities across the country are showing how to lead with ambition, as Sadiq Khan shows with his piece on his green vision for the capital.

It's clear that, as we enter the new Parliamentary session proper, we are at a crucial moment for the environment - but as the strength of these articles show - Labour is ready for the challenge.



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ABOUT

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SERA NEWS

IT'S BEEN A BUSY FEW MONTHS FOR SERA - HERE ARE JUST A FEW HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO.

ANDY BURNHAM MANIFESTO & GREEN SUMMIT

As part of Andy Burnham's 'Our Manifesto' process, SERA held a public event in Manchester which brought together environmental organisations from across Greater Manchester to discuss the city-region's green economy, as well as key challenges such as air quality and sustainable housing.

The event fed into a number of Andy's manifesto pledges, including support for tree-planting and greater ambition on climate change.

Following Andy Burnham's election, SERA are delighted to be working on the Mayor's Green Summit, a

policy first announced at the SERA manifesto event. The Summit will bring organisations together to set a new ambitious target for carbon neutrality for Greater Manchester.



A BREATH OF FRESH AIR - CAMPAIGN WIN

SERA's clean air campaign, launched last year, called on Labour to back a new national Clean Air Act. We therefore welcomed Sue Hayman MP's announcement in May that Labour would include this pledge in its 2017 manifesto, promising action within 30 days of entering government.

We've also continued working with Labour authorities on their local efforts to tackle air pollution, and are looking forward to continuing this conversation with our clean air conference event 'Labour Leading the Way on Air Quality'. See back page for details.



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GENERAL ELECTION 2017



SERA was heavily involved in Labour's election manifesto process, calling for environmental justice to be at the heart of the party's offer.

We provided briefings for the Shadow Cabinet teams, asked our members to take part in public consultations, took part in Socialist Societies meetings and submitted our own manifesto to the NPF, of which our Co-Chair Melanie Smallman is a member.

It was great therefore to see SERA's recommendations, from action on

energy efficiency to supporting the UK's green economy, front and centre in the final manifesto. SERA has long campaigned for Labour to show real leadership on the environment - this manifesto took that spirit to heart.

As well as policy development, SERA ran several campaigning events, including canvassing in Cambridge for Daniel Zeichner and running a phonebank for Alan Whitehead. We also produced an environmental briefing, which we distributed to all Parliamentary candidates.

SERA PARLIAMENTARY RECEPTION & RELAUNCHING THE SERA PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK

The SERA Parliamentary Network was relaunched in July, with a reception jointly hosted with Shadow DEFRA and BEIS teams. With speeches from Sue Hayman MP, Alan Whitehead MP and the group's new convenor Alex Sobel MP, it was great to see so many Labour MPs and Peers passionate about driving an ambitious green agenda. Thanks to Liam Byrne MP for his help hosting this event.

The SERA Parliamentary Network will work with Labour members to help share research, develop policy ideas and coordinate campaigns on environment, energy and transport related issues in Westminster.

We're looking forward to working with all Labour MPs and Peers to push for environmental and social justice at every opportunity!



WHAT'S NEXT?

We've got a busy conference programme lined up (see the back page for listings) but our plans don't stop there. From new campaigns to our AGM in November, we've got some exciting plans for the next few months and beyond!

For updates on all of our work, make sure to follow us on **Twitter (@SERAUK)** and **Facebook (/SERAUK)** as well as signing up to our **email newsletter at sera.org.uk/join**

MY VISION FOR A GREENER LONDON

SADIQ KHAN



Today around 55 per cent of the world's population live in cities and that number is only set to grow in the years ahead. That means if we're going to make strides in tackling the big environmental challenges of our time, major cities like London have a crucial role to play.

From introducing low-emission vehicles to installing sustainable infrastructure and making public transport greener, big cities are already taking the lead and harnessing the latest technological solutions to protect our environment.

In an age when national governments are refusing to meet the challenge and the US has announced its withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement, this action is vital not just for the future survival of the planet but for our health and wellbeing today.

Since being elected Mayor, one of my top priorities has been bringing forward a range of bold measures to combat climate change and address the scourge of air pollution.

London is the greatest city in the world, but I want to see it become one of the greenest, and for us to regain our past global reputation for being at the forefront of environmental action. As part of this, I recently published my draft environmental strategy – setting out the steps I intend to take to achieve this ambition.

London's environment and the quality of our air has undoubtedly come a long way since our city was blighted by the Great Stink of the Victorian era or the 1952 Great Smog. Innovations in urban design and the introduction of tough EU regulations have helped to drastically reduce industrial pollution and have made our city a cleaner, greener, more pleasant place to live.

But while recent decades have seen significant improvements, today London is still confronted by a host of environmental challenges that are as severe and pressing as these previous crises.

The current poor state of London's air is nothing short of a public

health emergency. More than 9,000 people lose their lives prematurely every year as a direct result of air pollution – and it is having a particularly negative impact on children, stunting lung growth for life.

Research also shows that some of the worst pollution hotspots are around schools and that London's most deprived communities are among the hardest hit – meaning poverty and pollution are combining to limit the life chances of countless young Londoners.

In the 21st century – in a city like London – this situation is unacceptable. When people's health is at stake, we can't shy away from doing the right thing. As Mayor, I feel I have a duty – a moral responsibility – to act.

So from 2017, we are planning a new levy on the oldest and most polluting vehicles entering central London. We are also proposing a new and expanded Ultra Low Emission Zone to tackle air pollution.

We are investing record sums in public transport and green infrastructure,

by making walking and cycling easier for Londoners, and by phasing out dirty diesel buses - replacing them with brand new lower and zero emission models. I've also been vocal in calling for the Government to ensure no weakening of our environmental regulations post-Brexit.

We are committed to boosting London's green economy and working with local boroughs, London's businesses, NGOs and community organisations, as well as anyone else who is serious about preserving our natural inheritance, protecting our green spaces and cutting harmful emissions.

I am determined to lead by example. And so we are embedding the latest green thinking at the heart of London's new transport strategy, setting ourselves a target of making London a zero-waste city by 2030 and also starting to work on establishing Energy for Londoners,

which will help people across London access renewable energy at fairer and more affordable prices.

Of course, none of this is going to be easy. We face a massive challenge and it will require a concerted long-term effort and co-operation between a wide range of partners. But I am optimistic that by working together we can make a real difference.

The truth is we all have a shared interest and a role to play in cleaning up our air and meeting our aspiration of turning London into a zero-carbon city by 2050.

In the 1950s, great politicians and Londoners implemented bold proposals to save lives and to bring an end to the great smogs. Now it's our turn to act.

Not only do we owe it to today's Londoners to create a clean healthy

environment, where the air is safe to breathe for all and where everyone can fulfil their potential, but we owe it to the next generation too.

This is a battle we can - and must - win.

To have your say on Sadiq's plans, search "London Environment Strategy"



SADIQ KHAN is the Labour Mayor of London. He tweets at @SadiqKhan

London is the greatest city in the world, but I want to see it become one of the greenest

GROWING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

CHI ONWURAH MP

I like to say that I entered politics in 2010 for exactly the same reason I became an engineer decades earlier – to make the world work, better, for everyone. It's certainly true that the world isn't working right now – because of the huge levels of inequality – but also because we're destroying it, through pollution and climate change.

For me being Labour is fundamentally tied up with being 'green' – we need a world that works for everyone, not just for those with the money to move to higher ground.



I am therefore proudly 'Green Labour' and a supporter of SERA. As part of this I recognise many shared values and objectives with the Green Party, from fighting austerity to preventing climate change. Labour's record on environmental sustainability is a strong one: from 1997 to 2010, CO2 emissions fell year-on-year, accompanied by strong economic growth up until the onset of the 2007 global financial crisis.

But what distinguishes us from the Green Party is their belief that economic growth and environmental sustainability cannot go hand in hand, that sustainability means abandoning the quest for greater economic prosperity and achieving a 'steady-state' of zero growth.

In engineering, steady-state means 'no change', and in economics it's largely the same. I don't believe steady-state economics is the right way forward for our country – or even a way 'forward' at all. But to understand why, we have to start with the science.

The Second Law of Thermodynamics

Physics has always been the science which economics aspired to. And in 1971, the economist Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen – who wanted to be a physicist – drew a connection between physical laws and economic activity. He wrote a book called 'The Entropy Law and the Economic Process'.

Since then, many green or ecological economists have taken his lead in applying thermodynamic principles to economics. This has been particularly influential in the field of sustainability and is one of the driving ideas behind zero-growth approaches to economics.

The argument goes that if the Second Law of Thermodynamics tells us that energy will become less and less available over time – and is therefore a finite resource – then there is a hard limit to the growth potential of any economy.

There is a problem with this analogy, however. Entropy measures the dispersal or disorder of energy in a closed or isolated system. The Earth is not a closed system: it is an open system in a universe which is both infinite and expanding – that in itself is enough to blow most minds. The Earth receives enough

energy from the sun every hour to power the planet for a year.

So the question is not 'how can we use less energy' in absolute terms. It is 'how can we effectively transform that energy into wellbeing?'

Technological innovation

The best way of using energy more efficiently is through technological innovation. For example, the economist Carlota Perez has argued that the development and adoption of ICT technologies changes the rules of the economy. They make a 'global green positive-sum game' possible, allowing us to evolve towards a more sustainable future.

But it is competition for economic growth that drives innovation. Without some competition we will not have innovation. Steady state economics rejects the potential of innovation. The concept of steady state disavows the notion of evolution and in doing so makes us all poorer.

Beyond the economic imperative for innovation there is also a fundamental psychological need for change.

Humans everywhere desire self-actualisation. This drives so much of our lives, from career choices to directing holiday hobbies. It may be the top of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs – prioritised after everything else – but it is still fundamental. And it is completely contrary to the idea of steady state.

Just look at the people all over the world yearning for change, for political revolution, for sustainable economic growth. If there was a mass movement for a steady state economy, what would its slogan be? "What do we want? No change! When do we want it? Yesterday!"

Implementing steady - state economics

Even if we decided a steady state economy was desirable, I don't think we could get there without famine and mass social collapse.

The current system is a mixed capitalist system, whether we like it or not – and I certainly know many people who don't like it. The production of the goods that we need to survive and thrive is motivated by the drive for profit or growth. Introducing a steady state economy would risk the total collapse of the chains of production that our society depends on.

There is also the small question of the rest of the world. Many countries – and many parts of Britain – have not experienced the fruits of growth as fully as they should have. I am deeply sceptical of the idea that we should withhold from others the material and technological abundance that we have benefitted so much from.

I believe people across the world – whether in Newcastle England or Newcastle South Africa – should have the right to make a living, to trade, and to improve their lives and their communities. And it is also through trade and exchange that we can better know, understand and not fear other parts of the world. But steady state economics does not recognise that.

Finally, we should note that – despite apocalyptic talk of the 'population time bomb' – the long term problem for advanced economies is not too many children but too few. Look at the demographic problems facing our ageing society and others across

the world – particularly Japan, which is further along the demographic 'curve' and where one third of citizens are above the age of 60.

People across the world want a future of making and building things. This is certainly true in Newcastle, the city I grew up in and now represent, where we take pride in our industrial heritage. Growing up in the shadow of Stephenson, Parsons, Armstrong and other greats of our industrial past was part of what inspired me to study electrical engineering as a young woman.

To continue our industrial tradition however as we work towards a greener future we need to develop sustainable manufacturing methods. That's why I chaired the Manufacturing Commission's report on 'Industrial Evolution', looking at ways to make our manufacturing sector more sustainable and resilient.

It is time for us to recognise the economic, environmental and social problems that current methods of production engender, and fundamentally change the way we make things. It is time for an industrial evolution.

The conditions exist for such an evolution: the global market for sustainable business operations is expected to reach between US \$1.5 trillion and \$4.5 trillion by 2020. Conservative estimates of the benefits the UK could gain through energy- and resource-efficiency amount to £10 billion per annum in additional profit for the sector, 300,000 new jobs and a 4.5% reduction in our total annual greenhouse gas emissions. This is an opportunity we need to seize – and we can only do so with a renewed focus on sustainable economic growth.

Labour's industrial strategy

The next Labour Government will go further than the last in putting sustainability at the heart of its economic policy. Our industrial strategy, inspired by the work of leading economist Mariana Mazzucato,

is oriented around key 'missions', the first of which is to draw 60% of our energy from low-carbon sources by 2030. To achieve this mission, we'll work with the private sector to develop new sustainable technologies such as Carbon Capture and Storage, affordable electric vehicles, and low-carbon chemical processing. Investment in these sectors will help us to meet our environmental targets, but it will also create new jobs in high-skill, high-productivity industries.

My vision of our country's future is one in which smart, sustainable growth is harnessed to improve the lives and wellbeing of everyone. Economic growth is not and should not be an end in itself. What matters is how that growth is generated, and how the rewards are shared. We should welcome the work of groups such as the Natural Capital Committee – set up to advise on the sustainable use of natural resources – and work to ensure that all growth is sustainable.

John Maynard Keynes, the most famous economist of the 20th century, once said he looked forward to a day in which we could 'once more value ends above means and prefer the good to the useful'. We are still waiting for that day to come, but I believe it is possible – and that smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth is necessary to get there.



CHI ONWURAH MP is Shadow Minister for Industrial Strategy, Science and Innovation and Labour MP for Newcastle upon Tyne Central. She tweets at @ChiOnwurah

SOUTHAMPTON - OUR LOCAL DRIVE TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE GLOBAL EV REVOLUTION

CLLR CHRISTOPHER HAMMOND

Southampton is one of the five areas in England identified as having an air pollution problem that exceeds EU air quality limits.

The Labour-run City Council quickly adopted a Clean Air Strategy that identifies the key ways in which we will make improvements and get back within legal limits across the city.

One of our key measures is to encourage the take-up of Electric Cars (EVs) both for private and commercial use. This was an aspiration to which we were committed despite the challenges of starting with a blank page. In Southampton, we had no electric charging points, one EV van which wasn't widely used and there were no incentives for private motorists. If an EV revolution was coming, it didn't appear to come from the Council!

When I was elected in 2013 and started to challenge this fact, a senior officer kindly informed me that he felt that the Council did not have the resources to chase 'Cinderella' projects such as this.

EVs could arguably be said to still be in their infancy with only 750,000 EVs sold worldwide (less than 1% of the car market), but economists predict that the majority of sales will be EVs by 2030. We've all got high hopes for the electric future and

so far, the market (with government subsidies) is beginning to respond.

Every major manufacturer now offers either an EV or a hybrid. Battery costs are in free fall, from a unit cost of \$1000 per kilowatt hour in 2010 to \$200 in 2017, and a new awareness shows consumers are deserting diesel engines for cleaner alternatives.

Yet without consistent national leadership, we won't realise the full-scale transformation required in the timeframe set out by the Government. So, although the Government offers a grant towards the sale of new EVs, it charges the same regular car tax for a diesel and a hybrid. Gove brought forward its headline date for the ban of no new diesel or petrol engines, but ducked mandating councils to do more to tackle air pollution. Issues such as the 43% of car owners who do not have access to a drive have been avoided or ignored.

The hesitation about promoting electric cars is unwarranted and the inconsistencies from the Government are unhelpful. Labour needs to strengthen its voice on the issue and councils like Southampton are a good place to start.

After 4 years of Labour leadership in Southampton, we have demonstrated the commitment and dedication to be a national leader in this field by adopting the following measures;

- Announced that 20% of our 400-strong fleet will be EVs by 2020
- Changed procurement rules so that all new vehicles are EV by default.
- Planned to start installing 50 public Charge Points across the city
- Replaced three of our diesel road sweepers with electric models.
- Introduced a taxi scrappage scheme to get the more polluting diesels off the road and replaced with EVs or hybrids.

If we demonstrate political leadership at the local government level, we can help unlock the EV revolution. Government needs to provide the national leadership, or at the very least, not hamper those who are at the forefront of leading change.



CLLR CHRISTOPHER HAMMOND is Cabinet Member for Transformation Projects and Sustainability for Southampton City Council. He tweets at @christophammond

SECURING A GREENER UK THROUGH BREXIT AND BEYOND

BARONESS BARBARA YOUNG

The next two years could be the most crucial for the environment for a long time.

The referendum might have shown very mixed feelings about the UK's membership of the EU, but there is little denying, that on the environmental front the EU has played a hugely positive role, both raising environmental standards and, as importantly, monitoring and enforcing them.

The proof of the pudding is for all to see and experience: cleaner beaches, cleaner and healthier seas, higher standards of water protection, cleaner air (although urban air pollution caused by transport emissions still remains to be tackled effectively), and improved protection for special wildlife areas (although we continue to see species decline that depend on the farmed countryside). We are no longer the 'dirty man of Europe' and that has been of huge benefit to people and communities across the UK. We don't want to go back there. The government has committed to leaving the environment in a better state than it inherited it. The time has come to test that commitment.

Much will depend on the post Brexit environmental legal settlement. Labour must play a key role if the big progress in environmental standards, which we helped shape

in the EU, is not to be diluted. The public didn't vote in the referendum for poorer environmental quality. The sheer volume of issues which need to be dealt with before we can leave the EU could however risk the environment being side-lined as less important than trade or the rights of EU and UK nationals, or the border in Ireland or freedom of movement or research collaboration. I could go on. The point is that, without the focus and energy needed, our environment settlement could suffer, either by accident or design.

One thing is sure – there has to be a replacement for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) by the time we leave the EU. Not many people will shed a tear for CAP and the damage it has done to our wider countryside. We now have a once-in-several-lifetimes opportunity to create a new agricultural and land use policy which will move from paying landowners three billion pounds of taxpayers' money primarily according to the size of their landholding, and instead use that funding to support them to deliver a range of public benefits – including climate change mitigation, biodiversity improvement, water and soil protection, healthy affordable food and sustainable rural communities.

Greener UK is a coalition of the UK's major environmental NGOs, including

The Woodland Trust, which I chair, with a combined membership of 7.9 million people. It was formed in 2016 with the understanding that Brexit represents such a pivotal moment for the UK environment. The coalition sees how vital it is for good-thinking people across the political parties to come together to safeguard and improve the environment at this time of big opportunity and big threat.

So what is the political task? The Repeal Bill (no longer Great!) is aimed at bringing EU environmental and other legislation across from EU to UK law. We know already that this can't be a perfect drag and drop exercise as some legislation will need minor tweaking to be "operable" and some, like agriculture policy, will need a completely new piece of primary legislation. So far, my string of parliamentary questions on which legislation falls into which category have yielded little clarification. Additionally, some key overarching principles which have informed EU law apparently won't come across under the current proposals. These vital principles, such as 'polluter pays' and the 'precautionary principle', must be incorporated into UK law through amendments to the Repeal Bill.

We also run the risk of losing aspects of EU legislation that have helped drive environmental improvement when the government has been

dragging its feet. The European Commission and the Court of Justice of the European Union have powers which mean that citizens have access to environmental justice and the EU has teeth in making member states up their game if they lagged in implementation.

One simple example – the UK had dragged its feet for years on cleanup of the Thames, which meant that it reached the status of the dirtiest river to run through an EU capital city, with neat sewerage discharged into it on a regular basis. Only infraction proceedings by the EU Commission and the threat of eye-watering fines moved the government to long overdue investment in the Thames Tideway, London's super-sewer.

Without EU enforcement, domestic measures will need to be included in the UK legislation to ensure that monitoring, reporting and enforcement measures are as effective as those wielded by the EU. The recent government proposals on cross-border judicial co-operation provides some options but no clarity on which are most likely or how the EU will react.

Labour is committed to not flying in the face of the referendum majority vote. That means that it will have to choose the issues it fights on in the passage of the Repeal Bill. The political dynamic will be very different in the Lords, where there is no Conservative majority and where much of the detailed consideration will take place, rather than the Commons. Who says we don't need the House of Lords! Deals will need to be made with the Liberal Democrats, cross benchers and even some environmentally concerned Tories. Will environmental issues be seen by the Party as second order? Greener UK will need the support of SERA members to ensure its proposed amendments to the Repeal Bill are supported by the Party and lobbied for effectively.

Now for a boring but important bit! Much of the detailed changes

to environmental law will be made through secondary legislation (aka statutory instruments) and there lies a big risk. The government continues to restate its commitment to bringing across EU environmental law undiluted but the sheer volume will mean that we have to be vigilant in scrutinising every shred of secondary legislation to make sure that commitment is not diluted by mistake or by connivance. A statutory instrument can't be amended and so, if it is not satisfactory, the only remedy for parliament is to vote the whole proposal out. If that happens too often, it could be unhelpfully branded as a strategy to delay Brexit, as opposed to a measure to ensure we don't ruin the environment as we leave. Another pitfall of secondary law is that it can be subsequently amended by secondary legislation which involves less effective parliamentary scrutiny.

To mitigate this risk, the Repeal Bill must ensure that any changes to EU law which significantly alter its scope or purpose must be subject to primary legislation. You can yawn now, but again we will need SERA members' support in this.

The challenge and opportunity doesn't stop with the formal transfer of EU legislation into UK law. Greener UK believes that the time has come to set a more ambitious green agenda beyond, with bold political acts at home and renewed co-operation with our European colleagues. We are after all leaving the EU but not leaving the European biosphere! The first big opportunity is a clean sheet approach to agricultural and land-use policy post-Common Agricultural Policy. We also need to lead the world by setting measurable milestones for environmental restoration and high standards for pollution and resource efficiency, as part of a strong 25 year plan, reinforced in law in an ambitious new Environment Act. Currently the 25 year plan has been sent back to the drawing board so often that the suspicion is that '25 years' is how long it will take to emerge, not how long

forward it will look! We can't continue to fiddle while over half of the UK's native species are in decline and air pollution in our cities continues to cause 40,000 early deaths a year.

Greener UK is also seeking that the UK secure its global climate change leadership with domestic action on investment in clean energy infrastructure, efficient vehicles, buildings and appliances, and continued collaboration on energy and climate change with the EU. Innovative new domestic laws on world-leading sustainable fisheries management are also needed, with fishing levels that allow fish stocks to recover and the documentation of all fish caught.

I wake up every morning contemplating the next two years with an equally mixed frisson of fear and exhilaration. The people of the UK deserve clean air, clean water, a stable climate, healthy seas, beautiful landscapes and thriving wildlife in places they love. Party arithmetic means that Labour has an opportunity to really take a leadership role to land the new settlement for the environment for the people of the UK.



BARONESS YOUNG is a Labour Member of the House of Lords. She is also Chair of the Woodland Trust, one of the members of the Greener UK coalition

THE FISHERIES BILL TAKING BACK CONTROL OF OUR WATERS?

MELANIE ONN MP

Remarkable things are hoped for in the Government's Fisheries Bill. The Chief Executive of the Shetland Fishermen's Association, Simon Collins said the Fisheries Bill, despite not yet being published, was "a huge step forward and could hardly have been improved on from the industry's point of view."

He is not alone. There have been similar comments from the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO), Fishing for Leave, and all those who expect fishing to be free to operate as it 'used to', a symbol of taking back control and the prosperity anticipated subsequently.

While a strong lobby for the industry is welcome, there are a number of things that are concerning about this rush of enthusiasm for a Bill that is yet to be drafted.

The fishing industry, most prominently from the catching sector's perspective, has high expectations from the Brexit negotiations. It is no surprise - they were promised a great deal. There is an ebullience about the possibilities that await them. This exuberance comes not only from the fishermen but many of the communities they operate from, or used to operate from.

Nostalgia, for many coastal towns that had a large fishing fleet presence

in previous years, is strong. Fishing represents a time when areas felt more affluent, jobs were plentiful, and there was a sense of community around the industry.

Fishing represents a time when areas felt more affluent, jobs were plentiful, and there was a sense of community around the industry.

Despite funding from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, there has been little to arrest the decline of many of these port towns with the effect of investment not always seen or felt by the wider public.

Take Great Grimsby's Fish Market. This is a market that sees hundreds of thousands of pounds of traded fish per year pass through its halls. From the traders operating for commercial buyers, to the staff who run the market and those selling direct around the country from their fish vans, it is an essential hub that maintains a presence of active fishing in the town. Without this market, the many processing firms - Flatfish, Seachill, Youngs etc - would have less reason to remain in the town.

There are approximately 5000 jobs in Grimsby linked to the fishing industry. As it stands, there is a fisheries hub; whether it's landing it, selling it, smoking it or turning it into fishcakes, it all happens within a two mile radius of the market.

I suspect few people in the town, if asked, would recognise the importance of retaining the market to maintaining a seafood presence at all.

The majority of fish traded through auction at the market comes from Iceland or Norway. It comes from deep sea trawlers catching 'demersal' species, the UK's preferred fish such as cod, haddock and plaice, which live much closer to the sea bed. This is in contrast to the 'pelagic' variety that (usually) inshore fishermen catch: herrings, sardines etc. Grimsby's days of having hundreds of trawlers in its ports are long gone and the space for landings is now limited. On my last visit to the Port of Grimsby East (where the Fish Market is situated) three scallop trawlers were landing which meant another two vessels had to wait until they'd finished before they could take their turn. The old pontoon is now moorings for personal yachts and dinghies with the area showing its age and falling into disrepair.

Trawlers will pick the closest available port to save on fuel costs and time. Depending on where a catch is landed, fish destined for Grimsby can typically cross three or four country's borders. Currently, as there are no checks at borders, merchants can expect delivery from landing within four days.

Theresa May has made a commitment to the people of Ireland that there will be no border checks between the Republic and Northern Ireland. That same commitment has not been mentioned for any other trade routes or any indication that exceptions for particular products will be considered. Anything which makes trading harder, slower or more expensive would not only compromise the quality of a delicate and limited shelf-life product, but add extra burdens on the industry reintroducing documentation for each border. For an industry with very tight margins due to consumer demand for cheaper food, these costs could prove damaging and must be considered throughout the negotiations.

Within the fishing fraternity the optimism for Brexit remains high. The promises of 'taking back control', in particular, taking back control of our waters, are an enticing proposition for many who have struggled with the EU's slow turning wheels and sense that other member states were not always playing by the same rules.

This reclamation would include exclusivity of the 12 mile limit or, more ambitiously, the 200 mile limit. For fishermen who are trying to turn a profit, whose principal interests are fuel costs, labour costs, and price per kilo of the fish they're landing, 'control of our waters' means:

- UK registered inshore vessels fishing for pelagic species having exclusive access to the waters within the 12 mile limit (or 200 mile)
- Opportunity for increasing quota
- Moving from quota to a 'days at sea' model
- Opportunity for increasing the total allowable catch

Increasing yield, depending on availability, should of course result in greater profits, thereby making the sustainability of employment greater and outgoings much less of a pressure point.

However, these freedoms in the water don't guarantee a larger catch, especially given that fish tend not to be constrained by our imposed borders. They do not protect against an increase in UK registered vessels which could crowd the UK sector, nor do they prevent overfishing. They don't provide additional investment in patrol vessels or staff and they don't ensure any support for the building of new trawlers, which can cost in excess of one million pounds, before the issue of quota is even considered. There will still need to be management and control of vessels and catch and discussions with our nearest neighbours about possible reciprocal relationships to prevent overfishing. These are all questions that must be answered in the Fisheries Bill.

There must be consideration of the negotiations with other nations about quota and how any new system would work alongside the EU's quota system. There must be mention of the impact on the quota rental system, which has now become well-established, and the fact that quota is now a bankable asset.

For those wanting the 200 mile limit, they seem to have put the 'Cod Wars' to the back of their minds. Given that one of our most reliable sources of imported fish comes from Iceland, it would be unhelpful that current arrangements are disturbed as it would have a direct impact on the viability of Grimsby's fish market and the availability of the nation's preferred white fish.

The Bill must consider the industry as a whole - that means everything from the environment to catching, landing at ports, auction, retail, right through to what ends up on the consumer's plate (or wrapped in yesterday's newspaper).

Once the arguments with the EU are no longer a factor, it is unlikely to be smooth sailing. Gripes within the industry will possibly turn to inter-nation, with English ports and vessels complaining about Scottish ports and vessels who in turn complain about Northern Irish or Welsh ports and vessels. It is a competitive industry and it is that competitiveness that has led to so many placing so much hope in leaving the EU.

It would be seen as a great betrayal if the promises made by so many in the Leave campaign - that access to water, quotas, landing obligations, providence, sustainability, environment, safety, price and availability would all be negotiated in the UK's favour - do not come to fruition and an industry that is worth a relatively small percentage of the country's GDP is, again, used as a bargaining chip in the negotiations.

An even greater betrayal would be if the government failed to protect the industry as it currently stands and traditional port towns, like Great Grimsby, are unable to operate as they currently do, let alone expand into a port of a hundred trawlers.



MELANIE ONN MP is the Labour MP for Great Grimsby and Shadow Housing Minister. She tweets at @OnnMel

WILL LABOUR RISE TO THE FARMING CHALLENGE?

VICKI HIRD

Suddenly everyone in the media is an expert on chlorine-washed chicken and how big landowners harvest huge European farm subsidies. Brexit has a lot to answer for and getting food and farming issues onto the public consciousness is one of them.

That's a good thing. We have major upheavals ahead for farming: new trade rules; the design of a whole new farm support regime; and huge shifts in food and farming rules (as well as for fisheries) as we leave the European regulatory systems on issues such as pesticide use, food labelling and meat inspections. Public and media attention will be high.

The challenges are not small but, as some of us reluctantly have had to admit, there is a real opportunity here. As Kerry McCarthy MP wrote in this magazine last year, we need a *"long-term vision for our food and farming industry, and a comprehensive strategy to improve our food sovereignty, protect our environment and promote healthy, affordable diets"*.

Brexit means we *could* decide to support all food producers to produce sustainably as well as ensure fair treatment of food workers whilst ensuring healthy, sustainably and humanely produced food is available and affordable to all.

That's what we should aim for: the Brexit prize. But getting there from here will be difficult, especially with a farming community of many small businesses, partially represented in government by big players, and remote from consumers.

The economic, environment and health challenge

Farm incomes are consistently low in all four regions whilst the food industry makes large profits. We have lots thousands of farm businesses and a recent Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) report highlighted the huge risks to farm diversity, which has a significant impact on rural communities and on our country landscape.

Wildlife and the environment are in trouble. Pockets of great practice exist (organic, pasture fed schemes, conservation based farming), but many species are in decline, including vital pollinators. Pollution levels are up, our 'natural capital' is being depleted and farming is a major source of avoidable greenhouse gas emissions. UK farm animal welfare is heavily compromised by low prices and an increase in mega farms.

Of course, some of the more harmful elements of the European agriculture policy that either contributed to or failed to correct

these problems have been reformed since the 90s. But there is much more that must be done.

We could and should also use farm policy to support public health. Obesity, diabetes and other indicators of poor food diets have significant economic as well as personal costs. Ideally a new farm support system would increase production of the good stuff like fresh and sustainably produced fruit and vegetables and wholegrain food, and would remove incentives for production of junk. European and national standards that have kept us relatively safe – from meat inspections to baby food to pesticide licencing – need to be strengthened across the board and not lost in the Brexit process or via trade deals.

Challenges for Labour

This is a key moment for Labour to engage its members in debate and address the issues.

The short (and almost last) chapter in Labour's Manifesto on farming was welcome, as were the wider commitments to protect environmental, worker and consumer rights. It was encouraging to see a strong pledge to ensure farm support for smaller traders, local economies, community benefits and sustainable practices.

Commitments to reinstate the Agriculture Wages Board in England to protect workers, and to expand the role of the Groceries Code Adjudicator to protect farmers, were also spot on. Many of these demands match those of Sustain - an alliance of 94 organisations with a combined public membership of millions. Our briefing 'Beyond 2020: New farm policy' outlines an integrated new farm policy framework.

Labour will need to marshal all its resources and generate huge public demand for these commitments as the government rapidly launches new legislation.

Three big Bill bombs about to land

Three crucial legislative bombs are about to land. The first, the European Union (withdrawal) Bill, could contain major problems for protecting the environment and human health. Many allies are joining the call for important EU principles and standards to be retained; that any future changes are made only with proper democratic oversight; and that food, farming and fishing stability is secured through the rocky Brexit process. Several significant UK food industry bodies agree – including those representing thousands of SMEs – saying that they would like the regulatory framework to stay as it is, at least in the medium term.

Second is the thorny issue of trade deals and the democratic deficit they pose. Labour should be calling for comprehensive Parliamentary and civil society oversight built into the new Trade Bill and in any new deals the UK might make. The risk – as illustrated by the TTIP and CETA negotiations – is that behind closed doors Liam Fox will surrender UK food and safety regulations to win finance or manufacturing deals. In Opposition, Labour needs a strong public voice on transparency and high standards for the Trade Bill, to ensure trade deals are based on public need, not corporate or investment interest.

Thirdly, there is a chance that the new Agriculture Bill will be a place-holder without the detail of a whole new farm support scheme. The Government has promised to keep the current system (c.£3.3bn) until 2022 but the Bill might set a transition period after leaving the EU to establish a new farm policy after 2022. If the plan is to define the new policy and subsidy regime in the Bill, then consultation will need to be completed at a breakneck pace.

Given that the devolved administrations have made it clear they want all this to be devolved responsibility – which makes sense as they know better than Westminster what they need their farm system to look like – there is a huge, complicated process ahead.

Sustain proposes a new Land Management Scheme of payments based on farmers delivering public goods such as protecting nature, preventing flooding, and boosting organic, agroforestry and pasture-based systems. Additional capital grants, free advice and wider policy measures should ensure farmers can thrive. Backing new enterprise will be key, including entrants into farming, smaller farms, organic farming, agro-forestry and struggling sectors like fruit and vegetables, whilst overhauling farmer training.

What 'public goods' would Labour prioritise in such a scheme? And what safeguards will Labour support to avoid major farm amalgamations? Enterprising new entrants into farming encounter overpriced land, a lack of financial and other support, and an inadequately regulated food supply chain. Will Labour improve their chances?

It is clear that the economics of farming must shift. The market will matter more than ever and value made at the consumer end needs to flow far more to farmers and workers at the production end. Better regulation of the supply chain should ensure that farmers

can protect nature and animals and could help end the misery of low wages for farm and food workers.

With or without Brexit, we needed a better food and farm system. But Brexit makes it all the more vital that regulation ensures the value in the food system goes where it is needed. Equally, we must resist utterly any deals that flood us with cheap, unethically produced food from across the globe.

Many ideas and proposals are appearing, suggesting new farm policy for the future. Labour must assess these and listen to farmers and the public – both rural and urban – on what they think is important. Polling suggests that the electorate do still believe farmers should be publicly supported. And we should ignore those who say consumers just buy on price - it's far, far more complicated than that.

Food and farming is rarely an election issue unless a crisis or food scare looms. But we all have to eat and we all need our countryside, water, soil and wildlife to be well looked after. Labour must prioritise this in the weeks and months ahead, and will have many allies in doing so.



VICKI HIRD is Farm Campaign Coordinator at Sustain, the alliance for better food and farming. She tweets at @vickihird

A TOXIC BREXIT? THE GOVERNMENT MUST PROVIDE CLARITY ON THE FUTURE OF CHEMICALS REGULATION

MARY CREAGH MP

Whatever the outcome of the Brexit negotiations, people deserve to be able to enjoy our treasured natural spaces, and iconic British species, and to know that these are protected in trust for future generations. Yet David Davis' 'constructive ambiguity' at the negotiating table and the Repeal Bill's failure to tackle the legal nightmare of untangling 40 years' of European law from UK law is creating a toxic uncertainty over the future of the UK's environment and key industries.

The lack of clarity about what Brexit means is already harming key UK industries, and the Chancellor has warned Theresa May that unless there is more progress in the negotiations then key businesses will start implementing their plans for a hard Brexit and relocate out of the UK.

The chemicals industry is one of the key sectors affected by Brexit. It is the UK's second largest export to the EU after cars, selling almost £15bn of goods into the European single market every year.

For the past 10 years, UK businesses and the Government have been

working with partners and allies in Europe under the 'REACH' chemicals regulation. REACH registers, evaluates and assesses 30,000 substances from paints and pesticides to the non-stick coating on a frying pan. It aims to ensure that people and the environment across Europe are protected from hazardous substances, and that chemicals businesses are able to trade with each other on a level playing field.

REACH was adopted by the EU in 2007 and covers the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation & restriction of CHemicals

The Government's Repeal Bill aims to cut and paste EU law into UK law, but it is entirely inadequate in dealing with the problems Brexit has created for the chemicals industry. A key part of the REACH system involves data-sharing with the European Chemicals Agency, a feature which cannot be replicated by having our own agency and our own regime.

The uncertainty over the future of this regime is harming businesses now. TechUK, the industry body representing many high-tech firms, which use chemicals regulated by REACH, told my Committee in Parliament that the uncertainty created by Brexit is 'causing waves' in the industry, and warned of the risks of 'market freeze' and 'supply chain disruption'. The Chemical Business Association said that one in five of their members are investigating moves out of the UK to ensure business continuity after the UK leaves the EU.

The Tories have no answers over the future of chemicals regulation. When I asked DEFRA Minister Thérèse Coffey MP in Parliament whether the UK would continue to participate in REACH after Brexit, she simply repeated the mantra about leaving the single market and ending ECJ jurisdiction. The Government's position papers published over the summer have done nothing to deal with the uncertainty in the industry, because the Prime Minister is prioritising her own job instead of the jobs of those who work in the chemicals industry. Her main priority is surviving her party conference

with her Cabinet and backbenchers in open warfare over the EU.

A transitional deal that ensures the UK continues to participate in REACH is vital to the economy, and to ensuring that public health and the environment is protected from hazardous substances. Industry needs time to adapt to the changes brought by Brexit. But the clock is ticking, and businesses fear an approaching cliff edge.

Brexit puts a whole swathe of UK environmental protections at risk. It is estimated that 80% of UK environmental regulations are shaped by Brussels, and a quarter of all the law that the Repeal Bill aims to cut and paste is DEFRA-related.

Brexit puts a whole swathe of UK environmental protections at risk

There's also the question of enforcement and monitoring. EU air pollution standards are for example already transposed into UK law, but the European Commission has a

role in monitoring compliance, and verdicts from the European Court of Justice have been key to ClientEarth's successful legal cases against the Government's lacklustre air pollution plans. This way of holding the Government to account cannot be replicated by the Repeal Bill.

The Bill would also leave environmental protections vulnerable to being quietly dropped at the stroke of a Minister's pen, with no prior consultation and without full Parliamentary scrutiny. Key protections for our wildlife risk becoming 'zombie legislation', no longer updated or enforced. I have been calling on the Government to pass a new Environmental Protection Act in order to guarantee that our world-class environmental protections are not watered down after the UK leaves the EU.

Brexit is the biggest administrative and constitutional task since World War Two. 'Constructive ambiguity' is of no help to anyone trying to run a business and plan for Brexit, and offers no reassurance that environmental protections will not be watered down after we leave. The Government must

continue our membership of the Single Market after we leave the European Union and pass a new Environmental Protection Act. The Prime Minister needs to start doing the best thing for Britain, rather than the best thing for her party.



MARY CREAGH MP is Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee and Labour MP for Wakefield. She tweets at @MaryCreaghMP

THE FIGHT TO SAVE THE SWANSEA BAY TIDAL LAGOON

TONIA ANTONIAZZI MP

With the Government pursuing an ill-advised and short-sighted attack on renewables, the United Kingdom is set to miss its target of producing 15% of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2020. To put this into context, the European Union is set to meet its target of producing 20% of its energy needs in the same period. The UK is missing even its own unambitious targets.

This hasn't happened in a policy vacuum. It's a direct result of the Conservatives scrapping subsidies for onshore wind farms, solar energy, biomass fuel conversion, killing the flagship green homes scheme, selling off the Green Investment Bank, scrapping the green tax target, and many more decisions taken as part of their sustained attack on renewable energy.

The Gower Regeneration project, a community-owned solar farm, has been supported by the Welsh Government. It is not something that would have been supported by the Conservatives. This serves as a telling case study into the contrast between a Labour Government's support for new, renewable forms of energy and the Conservative's slashing of support for them. The Welsh Government is completely committed to renewable

energy and, despite significant budget cuts passed down from Westminster, has supported projects like the Gower solar farm through its Energy Wales plan. Energy Wales is a framework and delivery plan for how Wales will transition to becoming a low carbon country. Only a few years after its inception, solar farms such as the one in my constituency are springing up as a result of the Welsh Government's foresight on this issue.

In this harsh climate for renewables, new solutions and radical ideas are needed. As we scale back on the use of fossil fuels, the UK Government seems to think we can solely rely on fracking to meet our energy needs. They have already approved fracking under my constituency of Gower, the first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the United Kingdom. If we follow the path we are currently on, coal and oil will be replaced by tearing up huge parts of our national parks. Basing our energy policy on fracking is also a risk – research has recently uncovered that fracking produces much less fuel and profits than originally anticipated. We need a different way forward.

You have probably heard of the Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon. The conditions around Swansea Bay make it perfect for a project of this nature.

Both the River Tawe and River Neath enter the sea here. The proposal would build 16 hydro turbines and a six-mile breakwater wall around this area. Within just three hours of the turbine gates being shut, there would be a 14ft difference in water level inside the lagoon, with electricity being generated by incoming and outgoing water, four times a day, every day. It would generate enough energy to power 155,000 homes for the next 120 years. Where the Government's short-sightedness has created a huge hole in our capacity to power our country in future years, the Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon offers a way forward.

The benefits aren't just environmental. West Wales was found by the Inequality Briefing to be the poorest region in Northern Europe. Large infrastructure projects are few and far between. The Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon offers a rare glimpse of UK Government-provided hope in an area that is too often forgotten about by those who currently run Westminster. The project has a projected £1.3bn capital spend, the majority of which will be spent in Wales and across the UK. The construction period is expected to contribute £316 million in Gross Value Added to the Welsh economy, and £76 million a year thereafter. In an

To sign Tonia's petition calling on the Government to sign off the Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon,
VISIT
toniaantoniazzi.co.uk/tidallagoon

area still struggling to recover from the loss of mining and manufacturing industries, the Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon offers yet another solution.

But despite £35m already having been invested, despite the Government-commissioned Hendry Report calling for it to be signed off on 'as soon as possible', despite the 2015 Conservative manifesto promising the Lagoon, the Government still hasn't signed the project off. The proposal – which could offer so much for West Wales, is effectively sat on Theresa May's desk gathering dust, waiting for sign-off.

Investors' money won't last forever. David Stevens, the founder of Admiral Insurance recently said that, "if there's no evidence that the Government is committed then at some point the patience of investors will be exhausted". He's been proven right. Swansea Tidal Lagoon investors have now reportedly decided to delay further investments in the proposed £1.3 billion project, fearing it could be further stalled due to the Government's indecisiveness to give it a final go-ahead. With money running out, it is reported that staff have been asked to cut back to four day working weeks. Unless the Government acts, in the words of Stevens: "an opportunity will have

been lost and it will be very hard to piece together again in future".

Labour's Welsh Government and First Minister Carwyn Jones are delivering through the Energy Wales programme. Labour's Swansea Council and leader Rob Stewart are delivering through the City Deal they have won for Swansea. But when the Conservatives in Westminster have a chance to deliver – for renewable energy, for investment, and for my constituency of Gower – they dither and delay.

Ultimately, it's not just my constituency that would feel the benefits of this project. Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon is a pathfinder project. It offers a completely scalable blueprint for the whole programme, opening the opportunity for a fleet of tidal lagoons across the country of varying sizes. Economies of scale apply, so the proposed follow-up larger lagoons could provide an even cheaper energy price. The Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon is therefore the litmus test for a renewable energy revolution across the UK. I would therefore invite all supporters of renewable energy and economic development to write to their local MPs asking them to raise the issue in Parliament and lobby the Government to sign off on this historic project.



It may come down to a choice between gambling on an inefficient method and risking our country's natural heritage with fracking, or signing off on the Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon. The Government will have to choose the path forward in the coming months.

The Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon is therefore the litmus test for a renewable energy revolution across the UK



TONIA ANTONIAZZI MP is the Labour MP for Gower. She tweets at @ToniaAntoniazzi

ON THE FRONTLINE AGAINST FRACKING

LOUISA CASSON

While July marks the start of summer holidays for many people, on the frontline of fracking it marked anything but. In Lancashire, where local residents have stopped any fracking taking place for six years, a month of "Rolling Resistance" brought together people from across the country and beyond to oppose fracking in the UK.

Grassroots groups and individuals working together managed to stage a stunt or action every working day of the month to prevent or delay planned operations by fracking company Cuadrilla. There were joyful carnival-esque mass demonstrations, powerful processions from the anti-fracking 'Nanas' (local grandmothers opposing fracking for the harm it will inflict on their families) and physical blockades of the site on Preston New Road, come rain or shine.

Pulling off an entire month of heightened opposition shows the strength and diversity of this movement of people opposing fracking. Many people taking direct action throughout July were the first to admit that they would never consider themselves "activists", let alone "environmentalists".

Yet these councillors, grandparents, former civil servants, farmers and many more have all organised demonstrations, rallied friends and families, and even put their own bodies in the way of

the fracking industry drilling in their neighbourhood.

This takes serious bravery and commitment. Yet many of those I spoke with have the same fierce determination and conviction that fracking in Lancashire is wrong. They are deeply concerned by the risks to their local air quality, to their beautiful fields, to their water supply. They are appalled at the idea of opening up a new fossil fuel industry when the world is also experiencing dangerous climate change. They scoff at the fracking industry's empty promises for local people. Because they have seen companies like Cuadrilla collaborate with government to stamp on local democracy.

For fracking is also a story of a Conservative Government running roughshod over local opposition. Lancashire County Council rejected Cuadrilla's bid to frack at Preston New Road - and yet Tory minister Sajid Javid decided to overrule this decision in October 2016 and give fracking the green light. So much for localism (again). Social media's rallying cry for July's Rolling Resistance therefore echoed the Lancashire residents choice: #WeSaidNo.

I'm proud that last year Labour took the brave decision to say: enough. The next Labour government will ban fracking in the UK. The decision was based on the conviction that it would be disingenuous for Labour to

carry on signalling that it would give the go-ahead to an industry that not only risks disrupting local areas and our shared climate, but has a history of falling short on its promises to create jobs and local investment.

Barry Gardiner MP, then Shadow Energy Secretary, told Labour conference in September 2016, "The real reason to ban fracking is that it locks us into an energy infrastructure that is based on fossil fuels long after our country needs to have moved to clean energy."

Labour has a proud history of environmental action, including passing the world-leading Climate Change Act back in 2008. The battle against climate change is now so urgent that it must take a central role in infrastructure decisions, and shape discussions on what kind of economy Britain's success will be based on.

Labour values also mean standing up for communities, and part of that means taking a careful look at the best opportunities for shared prosperity across the country. Clean energy and low carbon technologies now employ more people across the country than the entire teaching profession. The clean energy sector may currently account for 6 per cent of the British economy but is responsible for 30 per cent of its growth.

In stark contrast, Cuadrilla has exaggerated the amount of long-term

jobs it would create, overestimated the amount of shale gas that is recoverable and it is benefiting from huge tax breaks thanks to George Osborne. Cat Smith, MP for Lancaster & Fleetwood, has called this out, while union research revealed that Cuadrilla's promises to create 1,700 jobs in Lancashire would only last for one year, with only 200 jobs left after three years.

So it's hardly surprising that resistance to fracking is growing. The Government's own figures out at the start of August show that public support for fracking in the UK is at a record low, with just 16% of people in support. Compare that to more than three-quarters' support for renewable energy.

But what happens in Lancashire is a litmus test for the prospects of the fracking industry in the UK. Thanks to the sustained protests and opposition so far, Cuadrilla are losing investor

confidence, and several businesses in their supply chain have pulled out of working with fracking companies. Under serious pressure, Cuadrilla have even resorted to breaching planning permission to get their equipment into the Lancashire site outside of permitted hours.

Political support for fracking is becoming a clear dividing line, with the Tories on the wrong side. 30 marginal Labour constituencies (within 5,000 votes either way) contain sites which have been granted fracking licences. A growing number of these licence blocks are set to see planning applications lodged in the coming months. It's time to step up resistance to this reckless and outdated form of energy production.

As Yasmin Qureshi, MP for Bolton South East and Shadow Justice Minister, who recently visited the Lancs site, has said, "I believe that it's time that our Labour politicians

did more to oppose fracking in Parliament, particularly as it is Labour Party policy. They should show their support for peaceful protests against fracking whenever possible."



LOUISA CASSON is an environmental campaigner and is a member of the SERA Executive Committee. She tweets at @LouisaCasson



Photo credit 'Reclaim the Power'

NEW ZEALAND LABOUR'S *CLIMATE AMBITION*

JACINDA ARDERN



Climate change is undeniably one of the greatest threats that we face in our world today.

From developing countries in the tropics buckling under the weight of huge storm surges to coastal cities in America where the sea often meets the road, few countries can escape the effects of global warming. The 2015 Paris Accord was a huge accomplishment, with 195 countries signed on and at least 160 having since ratified. Despite a successful agreement, Paris was just the beginning and we still have a long road ahead.

New Zealand is responsible for a small total of emissions on a global scale, with an average of 0.1% of global net greenhouse gas emissions per annum between 1990 and 2011. It's this tiny number that's used in a string of excuses by the National Government to justify a lack of action on climate. We are relatively unique in that almost half of our emissions come from agriculture, a sector that is still not required to account for either methane or nitrous oxide. The current National Government has chosen to focus funding on finding a miraculous "silver bullet" for reducing agricultural emissions and are simply

delaying the inevitable. However it's not just agriculture where they've opted for negligence. When it comes to reducing carbon emissions domestically, the Government will instead spend up to an estimated \$1.4 billion per annum over 10 years on international carbon units to offset emissions. A blinkered dependence on international carbon credits leaves our country exposed to serious risk.

Carbon budgeting is crucial to meeting our targets and Labour has looked to the example of the United Kingdom. We will establish an independent climate commission because we firmly believe that proper carbon budgeting delivers results, something we've seen from the UK, where carbon budgeting has seen emissions drop 45 per cent since 2008. It will also allow us to take the planning out of the hands of politicians and remove it from the short-term thinking that accompanies our three-year electoral cycle. An independent climate commission will determine where and how we reduce emissions across our economy and these budgets will be legally binding.

Labour will also address agriculture. Our Emissions Trading Scheme, weakened by the current

government, will include all sectors. A science-led discussion must be had about the relative impacts of short-run and long-run gases, and how to account for them. It is not feasible to wait for cows to cease emitting, or to spend billions offshore on credits while emissions rise at home. The sooner we face up to this issue, the more likely it is that we will be able to ease the path for exposed industries, and continue to innovate as we respond to this global challenge.

A blinkered dependence on international carbon credits leaves our country exposed to serious risk

The Government that I lead will not settle for a lack of action. The New Zealand Labour Party has a history of putting people first – it strikes to the very core of our values. That means we need to put plans in place to protect our communities

and individuals, and to achieve positive outcomes for workforces in changing industries. Climate change will bring with it the most significant economic transformation in modern history. Industries and workforces currently employed in high-emission industries must not be consigned to the scrap heap as we respond to the shocks of unplanned and urgent economic upheaval. Offering the right qualifications and skills in the regions where they're required is the kind of joined up thinking from a progressive and future-focused government that will ensure that we minimise the shocks and ensure a "just transition" to a low-carbon economy.

Our changing climate brings with it many challenges but also enormous opportunity. A chance to diversify our economy, to put the environment front and centre and to do the very best we can for our country and the planet.

New Zealand is a small country but it has never stopped previous Labour governments from ensuring we play our part or do what's right. Prime Minister Norman Kirk did not think us too small to protest French nuclear testing in the Pacific in the 1970s and David Lange did not think us too small to say no nukes. This is our generation's nuclear-free moment – and New Zealand, led by a Labour government, will tackle it head-on.



JACINDA ARDERN is Leader of the New Zealand Labour Party and Member of the New Zealand Parliament for Mt Albert. She tweets at @JacindaArden

ENVIRONMENTAL AMBITION WORLDWIDE

It's not just New Zealand that's looking to embrace ambition on tackling climate change and environmental leadership. Across the world, countries and cities are leading on action.

Sweden, Denmark and Norway have for example heavily invested in smart, green and high-quality public transport, with cities using their devolved powers to drive ambition. Clean public transport is key to Copenhagen's plan to be the first city in the world to be CO2 free by 2025 - whilst in the Swedish region of Skåne ambition and action has seen public transport use double since 2000. This has been driven by investment, good off-peak provision, smart and simple multi-modal ticketing, zero emission-

vehicle innovation and alignment with social goals, economic development and planning.

Environmental ambitions are not however limited to Scandinavia. In Africa, Cape Verde is going 100% renewable by 2020. Nearly half of Morocco's energy will be renewable by 2020, including from the world's largest solar plant, whilst all 48 of the Climate Vulnerable Forum's countries have committed to using 100% renewable energy 'as rapidly as possible'.

Germany has banned the internal combustion engine from 2030; Norway by 2025. Cities are leading too - Mexico City is ending diesels by 2025. In the US 25 cities have made the 100%

renewables commitment and the number is rising. Islamabad is rolling out ambitious plans for cycling lanes while Seoul wants 10% of its population to cycle by 2020. With Labour leadership, London and Manchester are driving bold visions too.

The UK used to lead with ambition nationally. UK Government Ministers - Labour Ministers - showed global leadership and enacted ground-breaking environment policies, including the world's first Climate Change Act, benefitting our economy, quality of life and future. Where is that UK ambition now?

Jake Sumner is Co-Chair of SERA

THE BUSINESS OF BECOMING A SUSTAINABLE NATION

ANNA MCMORRIN MP

2017 VIEWS
VIEW FROM WALES

How one country can lead the way to a greener, more prosperous future

The effects of climate change and resource depletion mean that the old, tired way of doing business is an insufficient and inadequate response to the challenges facing today's advanced economies. Governments and businesses must come together to create new models of inclusive and sustainable growth. This is what is happening in Wales.

In the same way that the availability of natural resources put Wales at the forefront of the first industrial revolution, driving the growth of iron and coal, and then steel and manufacturing, it is our abundant natural resources that can drive the growth of a new and different economy that will be rooted in the sustainable and intelligent use of those resources.

The Welsh Labour Government is leading the way with a green growth agenda which provides an alternative economic model for business. This is in stark contrast to the shambolic direction of the Tories in England who seem unable to give any clear steer on climate targets or on long term sustainable growth.

At the time of going to print the UK's long awaited long-awaited Clean Growth Plan is soon to be made public. But this is a case of too little too late from a Government that has failed to show any true leadership on this agenda.

Its publication was first promised in late 2016 and is expected to provides a blueprint for the UK's decarbonisation pathway through the 2020s and early 2030s. Under current policies the UK is on track to miss its legally binding emission reduction targets for the mid 2020s onwards, prompting warnings that more action is needed. The delay has led to growing frustration amongst business and industry leaders, with calls for it to be published as soon as possible in order to avoid an investment hiatus and spiralling decarbonisation costs.

In a competitive global marketplace, companies will invest where there are the best conditions to enable long term sustainable growth. The Welsh Government has recognised the critical importance of building the confidence required for long term investment. It has introduced a strong legislative framework that can give certainty beyond electoral cycles. With its Well-Being for Future

Generations Act and Environment Act the Welsh Government has set out a legal framework in which far reaching economic, environmental and social policy can be developed.

A commitment to sustainable development has also long been a distinctive feature of Welsh devolution. With a Future Generations Commissioner appointed to ensure this commitment is being delivered, this puts Wales above and beyond many of its counterparts the world over. It is this strong ambition and drive that can help Wales become a world leader in green growth, providing a platform and location where companies who share these values can thrive.

It is this strong ambition and drive that can help Wales become a world leader in green growth

It is clear that the next 20 years will see a period of massive technology led change and much of the technology required for green growth already exists but needs applying on a large

The Welsh Labour Government is leading the way with a green growth agenda

scale. The size of the economic and technological transition required will need a truly innovative approach, with the increasing pace of technological development able to deliver significant change for the next generation.

Young peoples' voices will be critical to this process as the generation who will be at the heart of driving change over the next 20 years. The challenge now is to drive green growth widely and quickly, as we face the risks and opportunities of the twenty first century.'

Successful markets need a strong clear strategic vision and an effective regulatory regime. The UK Tory Government has neither. In Wales our Government has reformed and amalgamated our environmental organisations, leading in April 2013, to the creation of Natural Resources Wales (NRW). NRW's role is to ensure the sustainable use of Wales' natural resources as a positive partner in green growth. NRW itself manages or owns 126,000

hectares of woodland estate and 10,000 hectares of other coastal and river based assets and acts as a catalyst for both environmental and economic priorities.

If the UK Government has any sort of real ambition to lead on green growth it must do likewise and put in place long term statutory goals to reflect what we want to see both now and in the future. It must improve the position of business and prioritise investing in high quality and sustainable infrastructure, making the UK a more attractive place to do business. At the moment we have a UK Government that cannot take a decision on the tidal lagoon, U-turns on rail electrification investment and fails to invest in energy efficiency, all of which provides the vital economic and environmental infrastructure needed to boost jobs and growth and support the environment.

The Secretary of State would do well to remember this and take a look over the border to Wales for inspiration.

2017 VIEWS
VIEW FROM WALES



ANNA MCMORRIN MP is the Labour MP for Cardiff North and a former adviser to the Welsh Government. She tweets at @AnnaMcMorrin

SCOTTISH CHALLENGES: *SHAPING THE CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN*



CLAUDIA BEAMISH MSP

Since the spring when I highlighted the challenges and opportunities as we move towards sustainable land use in Scotland, much has happened.

The Climate Change Plan scrutiny period is almost over. Agriculture remains one of the GHG heaviest emitters and the Plan is not as robust as it should be in relation to land use. The Scottish Government still has time to face the stark truth that while there is good practice, encouragement alone is not enough! The Plan should also relate to the Land Use Strategy, the status of which should be statutory.

The Climate Change Bill is out to consultation now. Our first Climate Change Act (2009) was widely regarded as world leading. The targets were aspirational and much of the technology which could deliver them wasn't invented. If we are to remain in the vanguard and inspire other countries, we must set equally challenging targets – net zero emissions by 2050 or even earlier should be our quest. This would mean really robust interim targets with no risk of leaving it all to the 2030s. We are also exploring the possibility of sectoral targets.

As part of the new Bill, I will be

supporting calls for a Just Transition Commission and a more robust and properly funded Transition Training Fund for affected workers and communities. This is essential from a labour movement perspective. The Scottish Trade Union Congress has now endorsed a motion supporting Just Transition and it is right that many trade unions and environmental NGOs are working together to develop a fair way forward for affected workers and communities as we move to the low carbon economy.

It's also important that the role of housing is not forgotten within the Bill. As my colleague Pauline McNeil MSP wrote about for the SERA blog in August, Labour in Scotland has been campaigning for new energy efficiency standards for private rented homes: cold homes don't just waste energy, they harm residents' health. The Scottish Government must be more ambitious on this subject. You can read the full article at sera.org.uk/why_scottish_labour_are_fighting_for_warm_homes

I am proud that my member's Bill to Ban Onshore Fracking has progressed through the consultation stage with over 80% of respondents in favour of a total ban. The climate change science is irrefutable. The Scottish

Government has procrastinated for too long and it is still unclear what their final decision will be, so I have proceeded. I have argued throughout my bill process that we don't need a new fossil fuel in Scotland. A transition fuel isn't necessary. We should be moving towards more renewables jobs and demand reduction. Our communities don't want this. It would affect our water and air. There are also significant health risks. New research has also suggest that Scotland's geology is not suitable for any significant unconventional gas extraction.

Transport is now the heaviest greenhouse gas emitter in Scotland. The Climate Change Plan has so far failed to properly address modal shift in its proposals. It is extraordinary that there is so little commitment to active travel while the focus for change rests on the move from fuel to low emission vehicles. While this will be essential, it ignores the congestion which would continue if we based our policies on a failure to get people out of their metal boxes on wheels and onto their feet or two wheels. This would, of course, necessitate a range of initiatives – not least real change in our infrastructure such as in some European countries. This summer I visited Amsterdam to check

out how things can work so well. I have now experienced being an equal road user as a cyclist! Old city streets and narrow roads are no excuse!

We are making a bold start. I am a Co-Convenor of the new the Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Group for Cycling, Walking and Buses. In the last parliamentary session, we managed to work together with the Scottish Government to introduce an award for local authorities which I developed. The first winner is Glasgow and there will be an on-road segregated cycle route from the Gorbals to the heart of the city built by summer 2018.

Scottish Labour will also continue to press for a really good integrated public transport system. We are also determined that there should be a real chance of a People's Railway – so well supported by SERA, the Co-op Party and ASLEF. It is heartening that the train is becoming a more popular way to get from London to Edinburgh than the plane! By the way, Scottish Labour is fighting the SNP proposal to cut Air Departure Tax by 50% all the way!

Bus re-regulation is also a fundamental part of this. It is so disappointing that Iain Gray's Bill ran out of time in the last Scottish Parliament. We are now determined to build on this work for both our rural and urban communities. All these transport commitments will help address air pollution which is an unacceptable health hazard for our communities.

Finally, we must never overlook our marine environment. The Marine Act (2010) has set the foundations for robust marine policies, underpinned by the first Climate Change Act. This must be upgraded to include proposals to develop Blue Carbon – the carbon captured by our oceans and marine ecosystems. Scottish Labour is also supportive of a Deposit Return Scheme which will bring a radical change in our seas – keeping plastic bottles out of our waters and away from sea life. What's more, by keeping them in the circular economy we will also be bringing more new jobs in remanufacturing.



CLAUDIA BEAMISH MSP is Scottish Labour's Spokesperson on Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform. She tweets at @claudiabeamish

SWEARING IN: LIFE AS A NEW MP

ALEX SOBEL



As a candidate in a marginal seat you don't really consider the detail of what entering Parliament actually means. Everything is about the campaign, especially when it is as short and unexpected as 2017 was.

In 7 busy weeks we registered voters, built our volunteer infrastructure and talked to as many people as possible about the issues that mattered to them. It was a campaign full of energy, with existing members and new volunteers alike coming out in huge numbers, passionate about the topics that we were talking about, from free education to improving air quality.

It was therefore after an amazing, whirlwind few weeks that I found myself walking into the Palace of Westminster on the 12th June as a new MP – a role that nothing can truly prepare you for.

The induction process can't be faulted. You get your pass, IT equipment, travel and security information and a buddy from the Parliamentary staff to show you around on the first day, not to mention a whole host of briefings and talks. You don't however get an office, and you suddenly have to recruit new staff; with the application process and notice periods this can

take up to three months. In the meantime you therefore have to try to do everything on your own – whilst learning how everything works including the hundreds of internal systems! Constituents expect an unbroken service, yet it took 6 weeks to get a landline in Parliament and over three months to arrange one for the constituency office!

The administrative challenge is small however compared to the vast amount of Parliamentary procedure you have to learn: oral questions, written questions, ten-minute rule bills, adjournment debates, Westminster Hall debates, emergency debates, general debates... the list goes on. These are things you've seen from the outside and might have a general understanding of, but learning how to be become involved, instigate and influence is another matter – not to mention some of the odder traditions which can seem incredible on first experience! Even if you get to speak there's uncertainty about how much time you will get, which sometimes means you have to scratch out whole sections of your speech minutes before delivering it.

How then in this environment can MPs progress issues – especially

longer term ones like climate change that the Government would at best like to ignore?

There are a number of tools at an MP's disposal. Select Committees, for example, are particularly powerful tools designed to hold the government to account. As independent parliamentary groups they can scrutinise key topics, grilling ministers and witnesses. I have therefore applied to be on the Environmental Audit Committee where I can question departments on how they are meeting their obligations under the Paris Agreement or ask about the effect of Brexit on the environment. Written and oral questions are another key tool, with ministers compelled to answer direct questions. Cross-party alliances are also useful, with climate cutting across party lines, and whilst I haven't done this yet the importance of the issue means that I am willing to put tribalism aside to make gains. Finally, via both the media and speeches in the chamber, you can speak out and raise the profile of climate issues, challenging deniers and highlighting the need to act.

On the environment I started as I meant to go on, using my maiden

speech to highlight the urgent action needed on climate change as well as my commitment to use my position in Parliament to drive progress on the issue:

'In the words of President Obama: "No challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change."

This Chamber is a stage where the world can hear our voice. It is incumbent on me to use that voice to ensure that while I sit on these Benches, I will speak truth to power and be an advocate for this one issue, which will define and shape our future more than any other.

Action to combat climate change will give us the best possible chance to save this planet, because it is the only home that we have got. If we do not ensure that we take every step towards a carbon-free future, we will be judged as having failed future generations, and I am sure nobody came into this House to be a failure.'

Those words have been twenty years in the making. I was inspired to become involved in politics as it's the single best way to resolve the great issues of our time. When I was a student in the 90s I already felt that coming out of the Cold War global warming was the next big threat. As a result I joined Green Action and got involved in a number of environmental campaigns, from stopping the construction of bypasses on areas of natural beauty to collecting cans for recycling on campus. What was a minority pastime then is now much more widespread, but our timescales are rapidly shortening.

The burdens of modern media and politics have unfortunately meant

that day to day concerns and short term decision-making have overtaken the need for long term strategic thinking. It's because of this shift that we have to fight doubly hard on climate change issues: by the time it reaches the top of the headlines on a daily basis it will be too late and we'll be over the tipping point.

I want to always think about the world my children are inheriting and what I can do to help make the changes that will ensure they have a world at least as good as the one I grew up in. There are huge opportunities for the UK in the development of green and sustainable industries, across energy, transport, housing and manufacturing. These sectors can create new jobs and improved livelihoods for communities across the UK, and in doing so inspire new advocates for climate action.

I want to always think about the world my children are inheriting

To make the most of these opportunities – to do things like fixing our regulatory infrastructure or making renewables markets work - we need the political will and ambition. With the right support the UK can not only play our part in the fight against climate change but also be a world leader on the low carbon economy, but it won't happen without political leadership.

From cutting through the political noise to tackling complex technical knowledge, championing action on climate change won't always be easy. Being able to draw on specialist expertise, coordinate

action and connect with others is vital for successful campaigns. For this reason I am really grateful to be a part of SERA. The breadth of SERA's environmental knowledge and expertise is incredibly powerful, and as I put the promises of my election campaign and maiden speech into action I'm looking forward to working with members to push for environmental ambition across Parliament and beyond.

As I saw during the election, with enough energy and support we can make a difference. As an MP I intend to do everything I can to do the same on climate ambition.



ALEX SOBEL is the Labour MP for Leeds North West and is a member of the SERA Executive Committee. He tweets at @AlexSobel

HACKNEY'S CLEAN ENERGY REVOLUTION

CLLR JON BURKE

Reading about the transition from feudalism to industrial capitalism in Eric Roll's *A History of Economic Thought* recently brought home to me the true scale of the climate challenge. Roll demonstrates the glacial pace (no pun intended) with which our current system came into being. We however have the unenviable task of transforming this system at a pace for which there is no precedent in human history.

The extent of the challenge is dizzying. The planet is now the warmest it has been for 115,000 years; the atmosphere has the highest concentration of heat-trapping carbon dioxide for 800,000 years; and nine of the ten global hottest years have occurred since the year 2000.

The good news is that decoupling energy from carbon emissions is both technically possible and, via the creation of good jobs and reducing pollution, highly desirable. The real question is whether we can achieve this transition with sufficient speed.

At the level of the nation state, the signs do not look good. Despite the apparent initial success of a Paris Agreement, it is abundantly clear that, with few exceptions, central governments have been characterised by inaction, contradiction, and continued 'debate' about science that is essentially settled.

Local and city government has however increasingly taken a

leadership position on climate change. Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement has, for example, galvanised climate action at the state, city and local government levels across the United States. This is happening globally, with cities and municipalities doing the job that central governments appear incapable or unwilling to do themselves.

Not to be outdone, Hackney Council recently became the 71st local authority signatory to the UK100 Agreement, which commits us to the incredibly stretching target of deriving our energy from 100% renewable sources by 2050.

To achieve the UK100 goal we have begun by taking matters back to first principles. That means obtaining energy usage data across a local authority with more than 6000 employees, numerous directorates, and a vast number of buildings; it means understanding how we procure energy from the wholesale markets and what the alternatives might be; and it means establishing what the borough's natural endowments are and how they might be used to help us to become a leader in clean energy generation.

This approach – efficiency, procurement, and generation – is being overseen by a newly-established Corporate Energy Working Group (CEWG), which meets roughly every two months

and is attended by senior officers across every directive. This group is an important means of consistently emphasising the new, holistic nature of energy policy in Hackney.

Given the long-term scope of the target, organisational culture change is perhaps more important than technical fixes. This starts with creating energy policy leadership amongst senior officers, and will be sustained over the long-term by creating 'path dependency' across the local authority. Ensuring energy savings can be banked by heads of service is one way of achieving this in the short-term.

Energy Efficiency

We are in the first stages of implementing a whole-authority energy efficiency framework in line with ISO50001, the highest internationally-recognised standard for energy management. Organisations following this standard have achieved reductions in both gas and electricity consumption of up to 20%, whilst also generating up to a three-fold return on investment. In Hackney, savings on this magnitude would translate into £1.3m per year – equivalent to a 2% Council Tax rise – whilst making the decarbonisation challenge much smaller. As many of the organisations that have implemented ISO50001 have been big industrial users of energy with low demand elasticity, the scope to achieve efficiencies within a local government setting is perhaps even greater.

Energy Procurement

Hackney currently purchases its energy through the Cabinet Office framework. Despite attractive contract prices, this process also promotes the continued use of carbon-intensive energy, with around 80% of its electricity drawn from fossil-fuel sources. There is therefore scope to make progress towards our decarbonisation target through procurement. Officers are also currently preparing an options paper, focusing on three scenarios:

- The prospect of the Cabinet Office framework setting a minimum target of 50% of energy obtained from renewables within five years
- The cost of Hackney withdrawing from the framework and pursuing its own energy procurement, with a minimum target of 50% renewables within five years
- The number of local authorities that would have to withdraw from the existing framework and form a new, renewables-focused framework to keep administration costs at close to the existing cost.

While the 'going rogue' option is very much on the table, collective procurement is obviously more desirable. Local authorities in London currently spend roughly £200m a year to light and heat their own buildings. Procuring at this scale therefore provides a huge opportunity to drive renewable energy deployment and ensure costs are kept low. If the Cabinet Office is willing to reform, this approach could be badged as part of the national decarbonisation agenda. If not, local authorities will almost certainly find another way of weaponising their procurement of energy to tackle climate change. The ball is very much in the Cabinet Office's court.

Generation

We're taking Hackney back to its municipal energy roots. In keeping with pioneering local authorities such as Nottingham and Bristol, Hackney

has now begun the process of establishing its own municipal energy company. One of the great strengths of the municipal model is that it allows for generation, distribution, and – increasingly – storage to be organised per local needs, rather than the priorities of a centralised system dominated by the Big Six.

While Robin Hood Energy has been incredibly ambitious about matching the offer of conventional energy companies, it's important to recognise that this is just one option available to councils. Hackney will take a different route: one that is led first and foremost by the necessity of meeting our renewable energy target, but one that will still have wider social objectives. Crucially, the route we pursue will seek to use the roof space we own - 50% of the residential roof space in the borough - to cover Hackney in solar PV, a technology that is cheap, proven, and a very visible expression of our ambitions.

The beauty of decentralised energy is the level of flexibility it provides: Swindon is using surrounding farmland to create solar farms whilst Enfield is using waste heat from the Edmonton Eco Park. Municipalities which have none of these attributes should look to others for inspiration, such as Lincolnshire County Council, which is using its 4000 miles of verges to produce biogas from waste clippings.

If, excluding housing (which requires its own package of measures), Hackney reduced its corporate consumption of energy by 20%; if it were able to achieve the not unreasonable target of 50% renewables from purchased energy; and if it were able to generate a modest 10% of its energy from its own renewable energy infrastructure, we would have reduced the carbon intensity of our energy consumption against current levels by approximately 65%. All these measures, with the

political will and a relatively small amount of capital investment, could be delivered tomorrow.

All these measures, with the political will and a relatively small amount of capital investment, could be delivered tomorrow

I firmly believe that it is already possible to make significant inroads towards our target of energy from 100% renewable sources by 2050. There will no doubt be unanticipated barriers and in some areas, such as natural gas, infrastructure that does not currently exist will be necessary to meet the UK100 target. However, what is abundantly clear is that, with existing renewables technology, with the intelligent use of procurement, and with a rigorous approach to energy efficiency, a fossil fuel-free world is possible.



CLLR JON BURKE is Executive Member for Energy, Sustainability and Community Services at Hackney Council and is Labour Councillor for Woodberry Down. He tweets at @JonBurkeUK

SERA AT LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE 2017

The SERA Sunday Lunch Conversation: What Should Labour Fight For in Food and Farming?

Sunday 24 September
12:45 - 14:00
The Dome Room,
Hotel du Vin, Ship Street

*This event takes place outside
the secure zone - attendees do
not need a conference pass*

SPEAKERS:

SUE HAYMAN MP
Shadow Secretary of
State for DEFRA

JANE MERRICK
Political journalist &
allotment blogger

JAKE SUMNER
SERA Co-Chair

VICKI HIRD
Farm Campaign
Coordinator, Sustain

BELINDA GORDON
Head of Government and
Rural Affairs, Campaign for the
Protection of Rural England

RICHARD BENWELL
Head of Government Affairs,
Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

KINDLY SUPPORTED BY
SUSTAIN, CPRE & WWT



Sustainability Hub Reception with SERA

Monday 25 September
20:00 - 21:30
Hall 7 - Tyne, Hilton Metropole

SPEAKERS:

REBECCA LONG BAILEY MP
Shadow Secretary of
State for BEIS

ALAN WHITEHEAD MP
Shadow Minister for Energy
and Climate Change

MELANIE SMALLMAN
SERA Co-Chair

A Breath of Fresh Air: Labour Leading the Way on Air Quality

Monday 25th September
12:45 - 14:00
The Dome Room,
Hotel du Vin, Ship Street

*This event takes place outside
the secure zone - attendees do
not need a conference pass*

SPEAKERS:

RACHAEL MASKELL MP
Shadow Transport Minister

LEONIE COOPER AM
Chair of the Environment
Committee, London Assembly

CLLR JUDITH BLAKE
Leader of Leeds City Council
and Co-Chair, UK100

DIANA HOLLAND
Assistant General Secretary,
Transport, Unite

JAMES THORNTON
CEO, ClientEarth

GERAINT DAVIES MP
Rapporteur for Air Quality,
Council of Europe

MELANIE SMALLMAN
Co-Chair, SERA

KINDLY SUPPORTED
BY CLIENTEARTH,
TANTALUM & UK100



The Green Challenge: How Labour Can Champion the Environment Through Brexit and Beyond

Tuesday 26 September,
12:45 - 14:00
The Dome Room,
Hotel du Vin, Ship Street

SPEAKERS:

SUE HAYMAN MP
Shadow Secretary of
State for DEFRA

MARY CREAGH MP
Chair of the Environmental
Audit Committee

LORD ROOKER
Former DEFRA
Minister of State

SHAUN SPIERS (CHAIR)
CEO, Green Alliance

STEPHANIE HILBORNE OBE
CEO, The Wildlife Trusts

POLLY BILLINGTON
SERA Executive Member

*This event takes place outside
the secure zone - attendees do
not need a conference pass*

IN ASSOCIATION
WITH GREENER UK



The SERA Rally: The Green Transformation - Local to Global Leadership

Tuesday 26 September,
18:00 - 19:30
The Dome Room,
Hotel du Vin, Ship Street

*This event takes place outside
the secure zone - attendees do
not need a conference pass*

*Join Labour's environment
campaign at our flagship
event to hear five minute
visions for a brighter,
greener Britain*

SPEAKERS:

REBECCA LONG-BAILEY MP
Shadow Secretary of
State for BEIS

SUE HAYMAN MP
Shadow Secretary of
State for DEFRA

CHI ONWURAH MP
Shadow Minister for
Industrial Strategy

MATTHEW PENNYCOOK MP
Shadow Minister for
Exiting the EU

MARY CREAGH MP
Chair of the Environmental
Audit Committee

CLIVE LEWIS MP

LISA NANDY MP

ANNELIESE DODDS MP
Shadow Treasury Minister

HOLLY LYNCH MP
Shadow DEFRA Minister

STEPHEN KINNOCK MP
SEB DANCE MEP

PAUL NOWAK
Deputy General
Secretary, TUC

CLLR JUDITH BLAKE
Leader of Leeds City Council

**& MORE TO BE
ANNOUNCED**

CHAIRD BY

**JAKE SUMNER &
MELANIE SMALLMAN,**
SERA Co-Chairs