**Yvette Cooper SERA Statement**

I am determined to put the big 2020 challenges at the heart of my leadership campaign, which means action over climate change - the biggest threat to our planet and the biggest challenge to the future of mankind.

There are some who believe that the impact of climate change will be felt far off in the distant future, if at all, and as a result we can defer acting to stop it now. They’re wrong. The consequences of inaction are being felt here and now.

The UK’s declining position in the global league tables for attractiveness for investment in green energy betrays our nation’s tradition in pioneering technology that makes the world better.

The Committee on Climate Change says that meeting our legally binding 2050 target on emissions will require largely decarbonising electricity by 2030. But the Tories have killed off any prospect of even setting a target to do so.

Scrapping support for wind and solar only makes sense to Tory backbenchers. They are likely to be the cheapest ways to make progress by 2030 and yet for Party political reasons the Government is choosing to turn its back on the technology.

Five wasted years have seen Carbon Capture and Storage fall far behind schedule – hitting future jobs in this vital technology of the future. If done properly, by 2030, Carbon Capture and Storage could create up to 30,000 jobs.

Perversely, in the budget, the Government decided to include renewable technologies in the climate change levy – something which baffled commentators and which makes sense only as a short-term revenue raising measure. As with the botched changes to solar feed-in tariffs in the early part of the last Parliament the Government is repeating their short sighted mistakes.

Scrapping the zero carbon homes standard which I introduced as housing minister could stifle growing industries in insulation and energy efficiency technologies and cost significant numbers of jobs in the long term.

I believe we should treat energy efficiency as a National Infrastructure priority rather than an afterthought. It generates jobs, keeps homes warm and helps us meet our climate targets. Yet again, this Government has done the opposite.

The Government should be showing international leadership and thinking long term. One of the most powerful examples of this is on resource scarcity more widely. The Treasury has refused even to look at the problem claiming that the link between resource security and growth is too "speculative". The Chancellor could not be more wrong. We cannot let the Government off the hook for ignoring it.

And we must campaign for the Government to show leadership, with EU partners to set clear global goals on climate change and then to lead from the front at the Paris 2015 global talks. The Prime Minister should commit to attending the talks to show his commitment to the issue.

It is time to end the mixed signals that are deterring investment by posing a false choice - whether between giving the public a fair deal and driving investment or between action on climate change and action on the cost of living.