

Why Renewables



Climate change is real. There is strong scientific evidence that the earth is heating up. The potential consequences of climate change are far reaching and could change the whole pattern of the world's weather. In the UK this could include the loss of habitats and rare species and the increased likelihood of severe storms and flooding.

Fossil Fuels are running out

Burning traditional fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and gas, generates electricity. The problem is that while our demand for electricity is increasing these fossil fuels are running out. Investment in renewable sources of energy generation could help to conserve fossil fuels, as well as generating clean renewable electricity. (The Energy Challenge, July 2006)



The future power mix

Over the next two decades, as the UK's power stations close due to environmental legislation which calls for CO2 emissions to reduce even further and the fact that many coal, oil and nuclear power stations are approaching the end of their working lives, we will need substantial investment in new plant – equivalent to one third of today's generation capacity to secure future energy supplies in the UK. (The Energy Challenge, July 2006)



Renewable energy, alongside traditional power stations, has an important part to play to ensure the UK has a safe and balanced mix of lower carbon generations.

UK Climate Change Goals

- Reduction in CO2 by 20% below 1990 levels by 2010
- Reduction in CO2 by 60% by 2050

Kyoto

The UK has a legally binding commitment under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce emissions of six greenhouse gases by 12.5% below 1990 levels over the period 2008 – 2012. For more information on Kyoto click [here](#), and for information on the Government's Renewable Energy Policy download the Government Policy [handout](#).

