

Postcard from the Future

Energy Supply



Source: CAT (2017). Zero Carbon Britain - Making it Happen.



Energy Supply

The UK now gets all its energy from renewable sources, from solar panels on roofs and walls, wind turbines on the tops of hills and out at sea, from plantations and energy crops, and agricultural and food waste.

A significant and important percentage of renewables are installed, owned and managed by communities, boosting and stabilising local economies and helping public acceptance. Offshore wind is part-owned privately and part-owned by the public purse, using public sector pension funds. This growth in the renewable energy industry has also created hundreds of thousands of good jobs across the country.

Local authorities return to getting a significant part of their funding from delivering local energy provision, this time sustainably. There is still a national grid, developed to enable a greater proportion of the energy that feeds into it to come from decentralised and community owned sources – for which there is widespread public and political support.

The carbon dividend, an equal per-person refund of revenue raised by a carbon tax, means that although the unit cost of energy has increased, household energy bills are lower as a result of much improved insulation and efficiency. People are still better off than they were, and certainly in a better position than they would have been if dangerous climate change had not been averted.

The renewable energy industry in the UK has also grown strongly, and many see the benefits of the energy transition, particularly the creation of hundreds of thousands of good jobs across the country.

The human and monetary cost of illnesses caused by air pollution has fallen significantly.