

# CLIMATE SOS



**SHIFT OUR SUBSIDIES**

## Newsletter

For some people, http links don't automatically open and may need to be copied into your browser.

### Climate SOS: Shift Our Subsidies News

#### Contact your MPs

There has never been a better time for informing ourselves on the subsidy shifts that are needed to promote a zero-carbon future. You can contact your MP, MSP, AM or MLA to support the campaign to shift subsidies here <https://shiftoursubsidies.org/ask-your-mp-msp-am-mla/>

Just last month, the Government's advisors, the Committee on Climate Change, stated that the UK Government lacks the policies that are required to deliver its ambitious climate targets. Lord Deben acknowledged that the targets are "remarkable" but observed that "the policy is just not there. It's very clear we need to step up very rapidly." <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jun/24/uk-policies-will-not-deliver-emission-cuts-pledge-says-climate-adviser>

More recently, numerous organisations have sounded the alarm on the failure of governments – including the UK Government- adequately to support a green recovery. The International Energy Agency warned that carbon dioxide levels will reach record levels by 2023 because governments have failed to invest in green energy.

Fatih Birol of the IEA said last week "Of more than \$16tn [£11.7tn, being spent on recovery from Covid-19] only 2% is going to clean energy investments. This is by far not

enough. What we will see is that 2023 will reach an all-time record high [in emissions]. This is very worrying."

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jul/20/emissions-record-high-by-2023-if-green-recovery-fails-says-iea>

One week earlier, Vivid Economics had produced data showing that, of the \$17 trillion that has been spent globally on recovery, about \$3 trillion was spent on projects that increase greenhouse gas emissions and harm the natural world, outweighing the \$1.8 trillion spent globally on green projects. The UK Government's record was "mixed" with investments in off shore wind and low carbon innovation on the one hand and the scrapping of the green homes grant in March on the other.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2021/jul/15/trillions-of-dollars-spent-on-covid-recovery-in-ways-that-harm-environment>

This month, similar concerns were stated by the Institute for Government produced a report showing how far off-course the UK Government is in delivering a green recovery. They called on Chancellor Rishi Sunak to align his recovery plans with the government's net-zero target.

It stated that the UK Government's green recovery plans have been less ambitious than many other countries in key areas including housing, electric vehicles and R&D. <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/news/latest/green-recovery>

## Presentation for Zoom meetings

Thank you to the 30 or so groups who have signed up as group supporters of our campaign. (See groups here <https://shiftoursubsidies.org/our-supporters/>)

We've had had some enquiries about us delivering a presentation to local groups' meetings.

We're very happy to offer that. We're available to join groups on Zoom. Our presentations include a 15-20 slide show followed by Q&A.

The presentation covers:

- What we mean by fossil fuel subsidies and subsidy shifts
- How fossil fuel subsidies harm the environment, the economy and society and how subsidy shifts benefit the environment, the economy and society
- The potential pitfalls of subsidy shifts that need to be avoided.
- Our demands to the UK Government.

Please let us know if this is of interest or if you have any questions.

### **The Shift Our Subsidies Handbook.**

We're pleased to report that we've completed our 'Shift Our Subsidies' handbook. This is designed to be an accessible and easy-to-read guide to global and national fossil fuel subsidies, explaining what they are, how they work and the negative impacts they have. It also explores the positive impacts of shifting subsidies to the zero-carbon economy as part of a Just Transition.

At the moment, it's with our graphic designer and we hope it will be printed next month.

Please get in touch if you're interested in receiving a copy for your group

## **Resources and further reading.**

Alongside more accessible information about shifting subsidies, we're collecting detailed information about fossil fuel subsidies for those undertaking more research.

On a monthly basis we'll update two resources: 'In the news' and our 'Resource library'. Reports, papers and articles are organised into numerous categories including 'Climate Science', 'Climate Impacts', 'UK subsidies', 'Covid-19 Just Recovery' and 'COP 26'.

You can find these resources here <https://shiftoursubsidies.org/resources/>

## **National Network News**

### **Cut Carbon not Forests: new petition**

The UK spends more money burning trees for energy than any other European country. An area of forest larger than 50,000 Wembley Stadium pitches was logged in 2020 so the UK could burn the trees for energy. Trees came from some of our planet's rarest and most special forests, like Canada's Boreal, Estonia's nature reserves, and the wetland forests of the Southern US.

At the same time, the UK Government claims it wants to lead the world in tackling the climate crisis, protecting nature, and cleaning up the air we breathe.

Burning trees in giant power stations is dirty and destructive. It's polluting our environment and threatening wildlife already at risk of extinction, like the cerulean warbler, woodland caribou, and Louisiana black bear.

Stop the UK burning trees for energy. **Sign the petition now.**

<https://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/292/982/428/>