

Out of Control - How the EU is costing you the Earth

Narration:

Britain has descended into an energy crisis.

Rocketing energy costs will mean the average domestic fuel bill will have risen by over £400 in a year...

Fuel at the pumps has never been so expensive... and some food prices have seen a hike of over 40%... many people are being pushed into poverty.

Christopher Booker, Journalist and Author: "The Great Deception"

Possibly the biggest crisis this country faces in next few years is that within 6 or 7 years we are going to lose 40% of our generating capacity, all the power stations that are keeping our lights on keeps our computers running, the whole of our civilisation running - when that happens we will be in one of the biggest crises this country has ever faced.

With North Sea production in sharp decline, the UK is heavily reliant on *imported* Coal, Oil and Gas. All but one of our Nuclear Power Stations will shut down in the next 7 years. It leaves a substantial gap, and Britain at the mercy of global energy markets...but at this most vulnerable time the UK Government has lost control of British energy policy to the European Union, with catastrophic consequences.

EU *environmental* directives will force the premature closure of our vital Coal Fired Power stations, ...and have imposed unachievable and costly emissions targets that have distorted the UK energy strategy and left it with few viable options... Britain is out of control. and it is costing the Earth

title: **Out of Control** How the EU is costing you the Earth

Christopher Booker *We are paying the price for three things in this country in terms of energy. One is the fact that we had all that North Sea oil and gas which meant for 20 years we didn't have to think about where we are going to get our energy from in the future - the second is the environmental wave which led us to lose touch with the value of nuclear power stations which became dirty words and nobody wanted anything to do with them. - the third is we are completely hamstrung by what Brussels is deciding about renewables, about biofuels about lots of other things to do with our energy, the closing down of coal-fired power stations, so we are no longer masters in our own house, so we are uniquely making a mess of it.*

Stephen Bush, Professor of Engineering, Manchester University

What the energy issue is doing is bringing the British public for the very first time hard up against the facts of life of being members of the European Union.

The chaos started here - the EU issued a range of Environmental Directives imposing onerous targets for reduction of carbon emissions. It demands that by 2020, **20%** of our energy needs come from "renewable" sources, but this precludes using the proven alternative to fossil fuels - such as nuclear power.

So the UK is being driven relentlessly down the road of unviable, and more costly solutions such as biofuels, and wind turbines. The UK Government's headlong leap into their current energy strategies is skewed towards meeting those crippling obligations, rather than securing long term sources of energy for Britain.

Stephen Bush *90% of our energy supply is going to disappear in the next 20 years. For Britain it doesn't matter what we do about Co2 so far as climate change is concerned. We emit about 2½% of the worlds Co2 per year. If we disappeared off the face of the earth, that 2½ would be replaced by China every (3) years. So the issue for Britain is overwhelmingly, how do we secure our energy supplies in the best possible way and by best we mean secure and cost-effective ways.*

Christopher Booker *Well you have this massive contradiction in EUs policy -it says we have got to cut down in CO2 emissions so we have to have a lot of renewable energy - but of course by far the most efficient way to get the maximum amount of energy is by building Nuclear power stations but thats not included in the renewables targets.*

The irony is, the cost of building 10 Nuclear Power Stations in the UK, which would provide up to 25% of our energy requirements, would be less than 2 years contributions to the EU.

Signing up to the "unachievable" EU targets comes with a monumental cost, and the UK Government is funding it by a range of stealth and so called "green" taxes - now making up almost 10% of UK government revenue.

caption: Green Taxes: Climate Change Levy, Vehicle Excise Duty, Congestion Charging, Landfill Tax, Air Passenger Duty, Fuel Duty, Renewables Obligation Certificates, Emissions Trading Scheme

A Government-commissioned report has warned that because the UK has currently such a low base of renewable energy - it will cost each UK household more than £3,000 - almost double the cost expected in France and Germany. caption: UK Government commissioned report- Poyry Report

Stephen Bush *The strategy for us is to replace our national source of energy as present in the North Sea, with a national source of energy under our own control and the only possible candidate for this is nuclear power.*

title: **Wind Power Why?**

But EU directives are forcing the UK Government down the wrong road, in pursuit of renewables. So thousands of wind turbines will need to be built across the UK - in locations such as here, in the Yorkshire Dales. Local Campaign groups are being formed across England to combat the proliferation of such Wind Farms.

Godfrey Bloom MEP, Yorkshire and N. Lincolnshire

When I go round the constituency and see people and talk to people in village halls who are trying to desperately to protect their villages from these grotesque developments - one of the main questions they ask me is "why?" They don't work, they are not going to decommission a single conventional power station. We need thousands and thousands to meet even the minimum targets and half the time of course the wind doesn't blow so they don't turn - its just a tragedy, a desecration of our island. and that's the question people are asking...to what end? Caption 12,000 turbines like these

Godfrey Bloom MEP *This is in fact one the lunacies of the age: You'll see over here behind me, this is Drax Power station which produces 4000 Mw of electricity. Even if I had a magic wand and I could produce, here and now, 12,000 wind turbines to meet the mega-wattage of Drax. it wouldn't make any difference we'd still need Drax because you need the backup, because the wind doesn't blow so it isn't even green!*

In Germany they have found that their 19,000 wind turbines have *not* resulted in the closure of any of their conventional power stations - as they have been retained as back-up for when there is insufficient wind to turn the turbines - around 70% of the time. Power Stations on immediate stand-by are also a very expensive way to generate electricity - the equivalent of cycling to work whilst a car journeys behind, carrying your bags.

Stephen Bush *If we were foolish enough to build windmills, this would cost per kilowatt of capacity installed; somewhere between 2 – 3 times the cost of building it via nuclear station.*

For the UK to commit to so many wind turbines in such a short time will require widespread extensions to the national grid, and whereas in a normal world the expense and inefficiency of these wind farms would price them out of the market lavish subsidies make windfarms very lucrative. It is known as the Renewables Obligation - and a single turbine can potentially earn the operators half a million pounds a year - of which 60% is subsidy. Caption Source: John Constable, Director of Policy, Renewable Energy Foundation

Christopher Booker *The way it works with wind turbines or indeed any renewable source of electricity is that the people who sell you and me electricity have to buy a percentage of their power from renewable sources and they pay twice the normal price for it. So there is a massive hidden subsidy, which we are all paying when we when we get our electricity bill.*

title: **Biofuels Money to Burn**

All around the world farmers are turning over their fields to growing crops to produce *biofuels* - crops grown specifically to be processed as fuel for motor vehicles or burnt in power stations. - it's purported to be the green solution to our energy problems

The EU has grandiose plans to be self sufficient, setting unrealistic targets of 10% for *home-grown* biofuels production- a target that would require 70 per cent of all arable land to be taken out of food production. In a futile gesture to meet that target, UK agriculture is turning arable land over to growing biofuels - harvested to be burnt in coal fired power stations - not for *efficiency*, but to meet *quotas*.

Godfrey Bloom MEP *This was a corn field until 3 years ago. And we are turning over thousands and thousands of acres to this stuff when we should, in a world that is desperately short of food, be growing crops. Crops have become twice as expensive compared to a year ago - and people in the world are starving while we growing this stuff to burn when we should be growing food!. its the economics of the madhouse!*

Stephen Bush *The whole argument for biofuels falls down on every possible level. It isn't particularly CO₂ emitting saving, ... it costs a great deal of money by comparison with even the inflated costs of oil today, ...and thirdly of course, it abstracts from the world food production and our own food production very, very valuable sources of food.*

Christopher Booker *The biofuels policy is completely, completely mad....and Brussels is eventually going to have to give way and realise that we cant give over half the farmland in Europe to grow fuel for our cars.*

The land needed to produce enough grain to fill the tank of a 4x4 with biofuel, just once, would feed one person for a year.

Caption Source: Lester Brown, founder of the Earth Policy Institute

The targets are unachievable, and when 27 EU states turned to *importing* biofuels to meet targets, it had disastrous consequences for global agriculture: millions of acres of land have been converted from food production to growing Biofuels.

The USA and the EU have considerable influence - so much so that according to a leaked World Bank report, their demand for biofuels has pushed world food prices up an incredible 75%. Caption Source: World Bank

Stephen Bush If we continue to try to meet the renewables obligation, as narrowly defined by the European Union I would say, it is going to cost us at least £1000 million of imported biofuels - that is the **direct cost** ...the **indirect cost is yet again a diversion from the real need which is to tackle the impending and critical energy crisis facing our country.**

It is estimated that by 2020 the costs to taxpayers could reach **£50billion**. Caption Source: EU Joint Research Centre.

The EU environment policies are not only pushing us inexorably into an energy crisis, they are also threatening our agriculture.

title: **Something Stinks The Landfill Directive Scandal**
Something is happening in the arable fields of England.

Mounds have started to appear in the corners of crop fields across the country.

Closer inspection reveals they are heaps of industrial waste,... sewage waste,*human waste* - waiting to be ploughed into the fields.

Godfrey Bloom MEP This is a another triumph of EU lunacy. We have the 1999 Landfill Directive, which means instead of putting our filth and muck into a big hole in the ground and covering up and landscaping it, which is what we used to do, we now spread it across the land and call it compost. It stinks like nothing on earth. This is not compost this is industrial waste.

This is where the waste originates, local farmers are paid by the tonne to take it away, and stockpile it in their fields until they can spread it on the land. Its a way of circumventing swingeing EU landfill taxes imposed upon Local Authorities if it were to be dumped in Landfill Sites.

Godfrey Bloom MEP So this classifies as recycled - and if the local councils dont meet the tonnage of recycling they get fined directly by the EU. So whatever filth is in this, it isn't in the interests of the local council or environment agency to find anything wrong with it or prosecute seriously any illegal spreading of it for the simple reason that if they can't get rid of the stuff they get fined!

The situation has alarmed Brewers and food product manufacturers - so much so that some are refusing to accept crops from fields that have been contaminated in this way.

Godfrey Bloom MEP Nobody understands the consequence of it and I'd suggest this is an accident waiting to happen.

Britain appears powerless to limit outside interference and damage to its economy . It has little control over its imported energy. It is forced to commit to biofuels targets that are unachievable. It has embarked on a futile wind power strategy that requires huge subsidies. It is fettered by Landfill Directives that distort the market and put our agriculture at risk.... and it is all being paid for by the British consumers in the name of Environmental idealism. Britain is out of control.

Christopher Booker So much decision making, policy making, law making is contracted upstairs to Brussels, and the result is whether you are looking at waste policy, or energy policy, or postal services or any one of a vast range of things that get constantly in the headlines - we are not running the show anymore and we no longer have civil servants whose job it is to know how these things should be done properly in the interest of the British people

Godfrey Bloom MEP One of the big lies is that the EU is wonderful for the environment, it might have all sorts of economic problems but it's actually wonderful for the planet and the environment. The point I'm making is that it isn't. We've just looked at Landfill directives and we looked at the terrible problems they are causing, we looked at wind farms and the terrible problems they are causing - Biofuels and all the absurdity that brings to world food prices - and I haven't even talked about the CAP and the CFP. So its a disaster, the EU is a disaster for the Environment both locally and globally and soon as people wake up to this idea the better off we'll all be. We shouldn't be run by Brussels -we should be looking after our own environment, looking to the common sense aspect of the environment, back here, in our country.

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