

# Fanning the Community Energy Revolution

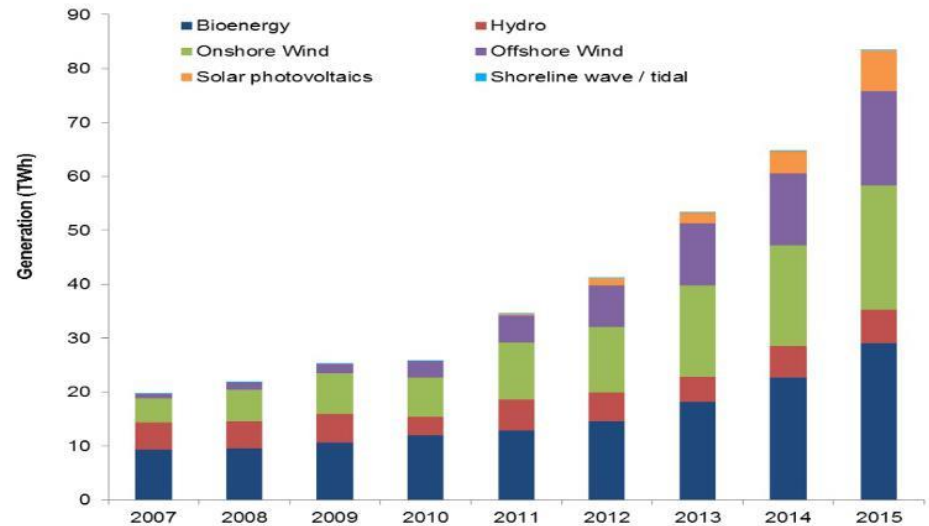
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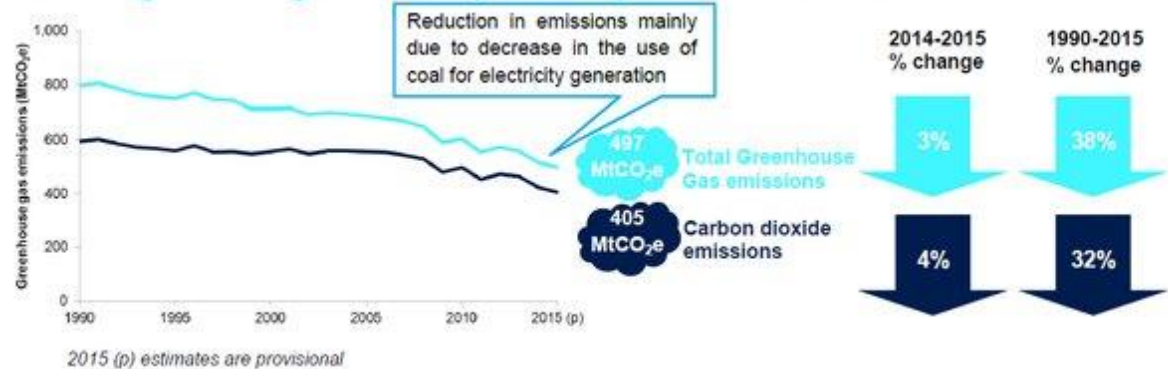
# UK – Good News

- Share of **renewables** in electricity generation **rose to 24.7% in 2015**. Renewable output **more than tripled since 2010**.
- Bloomberg New Energy Finance say record £15.2bn invested in UK clean energy in 2015, and was **by far the strongest market in Europe**.
- Since 1990, UK **GHGs decreased by 32%**.
- **Coal** use in generation **reduced by 60%** between 1990 and 2015.

Renewable electricity generation

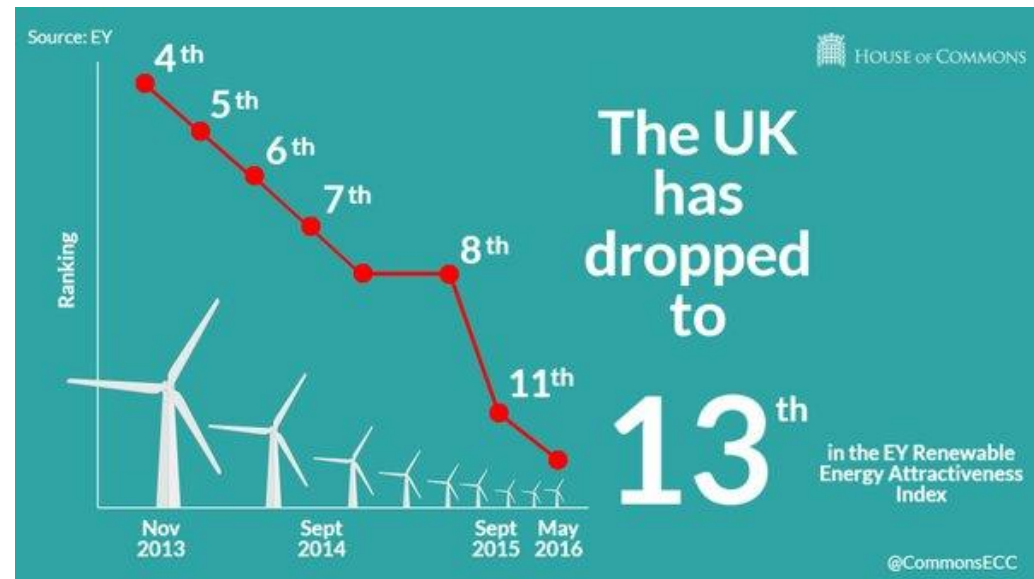
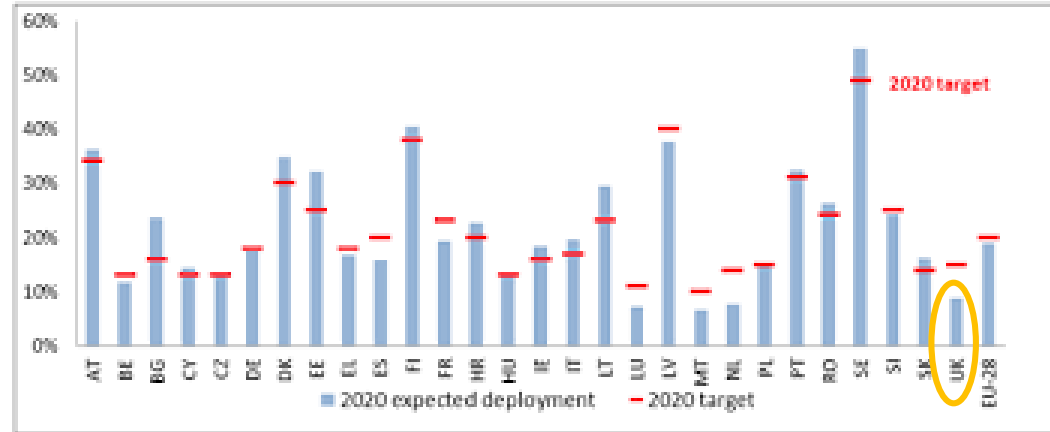


2015 UK greenhouse gas emissions provisionally estimated to decrease from 2014



# UK – Bad News

- UK still **behind most of Europe** on utilising renewables
- UK will **fall short** of EU obligations to get 15% of energy from renewables by 2020.
- May 2015: **new Government** signalled a significant change of direction on low-carbon energy policy
- **FITs** installation rates **fallen by 75%** in 2016 following 65% reduction in incentive rates.



# Public very much on side of renewables

- **Overwhelming support amongst public (including Tory supporters) for renewables and particularly community energy. August 2015 polling found...**
- More than half (53%) support a turbine within 2 miles of home – nearly three times as many as the 19% who would oppose it.
- **Conservative** supporters also largely supportive of wind turbines in own backyard (43% in favour to 26% against).
- Support for solar farms even more overwhelming: with 65% of public supporting a project within 2 miles, and just 10% against.



# Public even more supportive of community energy

- **Public support for renewable energy projects that are owned by and benefit local people is stronger still.**
- More than two-thirds (67%) of respondents said they would support local community-owned renewable energy projects, including wind turbines. With just 7% against.
- **Conservative** supporters very much in line (62% in favour and just 11% against).
- Opposition amongst those aged over 65 all but dissipates: falling from 33% to 15%.



# Origins of Co-operative Energy

- In 2011, Midcounties Co-operative launched Co-operative Energy to supply electricity and gas across England, Scotland and Wales.
- From the outset pledged to deliver lower carbon energy at fair prices
- Whilst growing business to c.250,000 customers.
- Award-winning approach to sustainable development, includes:
  - Queens Award for Sustainable Development
  - Exemplary ranking in Business in the Community's Corporate Responsibility Index
  - Fair Tax Mark pioneer
  - Voted "Co-operative of the Year" 2015



**Fair Tax**

# Co-operative Energy's support for Community Energy

- From outset, actively sought power from community generation initiatives
- Via Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) provide secure market for community energy
- Uniquely, offer **User Chooser** facility: allows customers to influence the energy mix of electricity they buy – no premium
  - Won “Renewable Energy Award” at 2015 EU Sustainable Energy Awards.
- Supported projects range from co-operatives through to charitable trusts and crowd-sourced debt offerings.
- Supported technologies include wind, solar PV and hydroelectric.

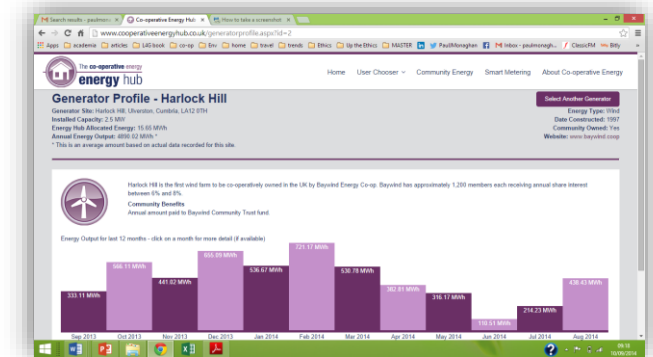


User Chooser  
<http://www.cooperativeenergyhub.co.uk/>



# Active supply from community projects (at end 2015)

<a href="#">Westmill</a> , Oxfordshire - wind	Co-operative	3.9MW
<a href="#">Baywind Harlock Hill</a> , Cumbria - wind	Co-operative	2.5MW
<a href="#">West Solent</a> , Hampshire - solar	Co-operative	2.4MW
<a href="#">Galson</a> , Isle of Lewis - wind	Charitable trust	900KW
<a href="#">Great Dunkilns</a> , Gloucestershire - wind	Crowd-sourced debt	500KW
<a href="#">Berwick</a> , Northumberland - wind	Charitable trust	500KW
<a href="#">REG High Down</a> , Cornwall - wind	Crowd-sourced debt	500KW
<a href="#">Schools Energy Co-operative</a> , Sussex - solar	Co-operative	150KW
<a href="#">Oxford Bus Company</a> , Oxfordshire - solar	Co-operative	140KW
<a href="#">Ysgol y Bedol</a> , Carmarthenshire - solar	Co-operative	100KW
<a href="#">Leominster Sunrise Co-op</a> , Herefordshire - solar	Co-operative	90KW
<a href="#">Gloucestershire Community Energy</a> , Gloucestershire - solar	Co-operative	50KW
<a href="#">Whitby Esk</a> , Yorkshire - hydro	Co-operative	50KW



User Chooser  
<http://www.cooperativeenergyhub.co.uk/>

# Co-operative Energy – Lobbying for Good

- Not enough to get our own house in order.
- Need to encourage system change.
- Engaged extensively with policy makers and lobbied hard for a more supportive regime for community energy and renewables in general – as described in Midcounties Social Responsibility Report.
- Work with Community Energy England, Co-operatives UK, Community Energy Coalition, 10:10, Social Economy Alliance, Co-operative Party, Co-operatives Europe and REScoop.
- Sponsoring **Community Energy Fortnight** for 3<sup>rd</sup> year – this year's theme is 'Powering Forward'
- And organising 4th **Community Energy Conference** (September 3<sup>rd</sup>) – largest such event in UK



3rd - 18th September 2016

