

Condensed Wind Politics Timeline

Chris Rose chris@campaignstrategy.co.uk

(For source links and more detail see Full Wind Politics Timeline, also slides at blog Killing the Wind of England and Some Political Actors in the Anti-wind Campaign)

There are a number of different strands in this story.

- * state of the wind industry
- * Conservative-UKIP politics
- * activities of the political anti-wind players (Chris Heaton-Harris et al)
- * the state of public opinion
- * government renewable energy policies
- * activities of pro and anti wind groups

1988 - 2004

1988

20 September

Margaret Thatcher's Bruges speech warns against "European Super-state" and inspires a generation of UK Eurosceptic Conservatives.

27 September

Thatcher Royal Society climate change speech warns we have "unwittingly begun a massive experiment with the system of this planet itself "a global heat trap".

1989

November 8

At the UN in NYC Thatcher calls for 'a framework convention on climate change' with 'binding protocols' modelled on the Vienna Convention of the Montreal Protocol, by 1992 and "non-fossil fuel sources" of energy.

1990

The Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research is opened by Margaret Thatcher.

The UK government introduces the NFFO the 'Non Fossil Fuel Obligation', funded by a by the Fossil Fuel Levy.

28 November

Thatcher resigns after pressure from within her Cabinet, partly over her opposition to monetary ties with Europe, and is replaced by John Major.

1991

The first commercial onshore UK wind farm is built at Dellabole in Cornwall.

1992

June

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is agreed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro

John Major's Conservative government announces a 'Fuel Price Escalator', explicitly in response to climate change.

1993

March

Government introduces Fuel Price Escalator to cut CO2 emissions from road transport and incentivize motorists to buy fuel efficient cars. Chancellor pledges to raise tax on fuel by 3% above inflation every year.

1996

The EU Council of Ministers adopt a target to limit climate change to 2.C [which for Britain is calculated in 2000 to require a 60% cut in greenhouse gases by 2050].

1997

May 1

Tony Blair wins the General Election for Labour, defeating John Major.

1999

European Parliamentary Conservative candidates Roger Helmer and Chris Heaton-Harris share an office in the East Midlands, with Sally McNamara as press officer.

1 May

European Parliament Elections. It is the first EP election in the UK to use PR, and UKIP. Greens & UKIP win their first seats.

Chris Heaton-Harris becomes Conservative MEP for the East Midlands. Conservatives Martin Callanan, Roger Helmer and Daniel Hannan are also elected. All are Eurosceptic.

McNamara moves with them to Brussels and will go on to work in the US for the right-wing lobby group ALEC, whose conferences are subsequently attended by all four MEPs. McNamara becomes ALEC's International Relations Project Director, as well as a columnist for The Bruges Group.

2000

January

Labour Trade and Industry Minister Helen Lidell sets Britain's first targets for renewable energy: 5% of by the end of 2003 and 10% by 2010 'subject to the cost to consumers being acceptable'.

2001

Chris Heaton-Harris MEP becomes Chief Whip for the Conservatives in the European Parliament, a post he holds until March 2004. Heaton-Harris meets climate sceptic Bjorn Lomborg and is converted from "a bit of a "greenie" to climate scepticism.

2002

The Renewable Obligation and Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs) replaces the NFFO.

2003

February

The Energy Review White Paper ups the renewables target to 10% of electricity generation by 2010 and 20% by 2020

2004

During 2004, the UK becomes a net importer of gas.

August 10

The government publishes Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy, providing guidance to planning authorities on assessing renewable energy potential, setting regional targets and formulating policy.

September

Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) are introduced and are used to identify 'capacity' for renewable energy projects such as wind farms. [RSS will be abolished by the Coalition Conservative-LibDem government in 2010].

November

Internal ALEC documents report that 'ALEC's EU project is now well under way' and 'ALEC will welcome three MEPs to its States and Nations Policy Summit in Washington D.C. this December', and 'we also hope to build a firm bridge across the Atlantic for our shared conservative ideas'.

December 1

MEPs Roger Helmer, Chris Heaton-Harris and Martin Callanan visit Washington DC to address an ALEC 'Summit'. Helmer gives a speech which makes clear he has previous involvement with ALEC and urges US-MEP collaboration to prevent ratification of the EU Constitution and thanks ALEC staffer Sally McNamara.

He advises ALEC to work with EU Member States 'country-by-country, rather than seeking to deal with the EU as a single entity' and says 'an assertive, unified, Constitution-based EU is not in America's best interest'.

December 3

In Heaton-Harris's speech to ALEC he pronounces himself a 'true believer', scorns regulation such as smoking bans and declares that Europe needs an organisation modelled on ALEC: "alas, in Europe, we have no organisation like ALEC – and we really need one".

ALEC's 2005 National Chairman Representative Earl Ehrhart later writes: 'Chris Heaton-Harris MEP delivered a remarkable speech ... He asked for our help and mutual support – and ALEC is delighted to offer it'.

2005

January 31

The Government publishes 'Delivering Sustainable Development - Planning Policy Statement 1' (PPS1) including planning policies for the delivery of wind energy.

February 1 - 3

An international conference *Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change* at the Hadley Centre concludes more drastic action is needed to cut emissions.

March 1

FT diary Observer-US reports that ... 'the Tory H-Block, Roger Helmer and Chris Heaton-Harris. They and honorary member Martin Callanan were spied recently at Grover Norqvist's Wednesday morning neocon love-in at the Club for Growth'.

In 2005 (undated) LEC documents show:

LA State Senator Noble Ellington, ALEC Board of Directors writes about an ALEC trip to Europe: *'conservatives are fighting back ... I attended a conference entitled Does the West Know Best, organized by The Stockholm Network. SN is a network of 120 market-oriented think tanks ... Free market think tanks are now converging on Brussels ...*

In 'ALEC NEWS' *'Sally McNamara has been invited as a regular columnist for the London-based think tank, The Bruges Group.*

'ALEC was privileged to host five conservative legislators from the European Parliament at a roundtable discussion on June 27th. Martin Callanan, Chris Heaton-Harris, Roger Helmer, Dan Hannan and Michal Tomasz Kaminski MEPs briefed ALEC members on a range of topics, including REACH, the draft European Constitution and the precautionary principle'.

'ALEC's International Relations Project Director, Sally McNamara, attended the Heritage Foundation's conference "Is the European Union in the Interests of the United States?" Speakers included Christopher Booker (journalist and editor, UK Daily Telegraph),

As part of its International Relations Project, ALEC took a group of legislators and private sector members to Strasbourg and Prague ... we were hosted at both the European Parliament and the U.S. Consulate General

Sally McNamara, International Relations Project Director [writes] *'As part of its annual exchange visits with European legislators, a bi-partisan, high-level ALEC delegation visited Strasbourg, France and Prague, Czech Republic last month ... we were particularly proud to welcome Roger Helmer MEP as the first member of our new for international legislators membership program'*

In June Duane Parde ALEC Executive Director meets Conservative MPs Peter Bone and Robert Goodwill in London.

April

Friends of the Earth (FoE) launch a campaign 'The Big Ask', calling for a new law binding government to make annual cuts in 'carbon' emissions causing climate change.

412 MPs sign an Early Day Motion calling for a Climate Change Bill to be introduced, including a requirement for 3% annual cuts in carbon emissions.

May 5

Labour's Tony Blair wins his third General Election.

October 18

In a Conservative leadership election campaign, all candidates vie to attract votes of Eurosceptic MPs. In hustings, David Cameron agrees 'with Eurosceptic calls to withdraw Tory MEPs from the "federalist" European People's Party [EPP] grouping in Strasbourg - a symbolic issue for the Right'.

December 6

David Cameron becomes the new Conservative leader. He takes the party in a more socially liberal direction. The party's logo is changed to a green tree.

2006

January 25

David Hanley of the University of Cardiff writes in Politico that 'Tories of all shades remain very frightened of UKIP, especially younger candidates who have confronted it and had to explain why Tory policy on Europe is less red-blooded'. He questions the rationality of pulling out of the EPP.

February 4

The Economist reports that Conservative right-winger Norman Tebbit as saying David Cameron is "intent on purging even the memory of Thatcherism before building a New Modern Compassionate Green Globally Aware Party".

April 18

David Cameron uses the slogan "vote blue, go green" in his Local Election campaign. He says "We've got to have green growth" and reveals he is having a wind turbine installed on his London house roof.

April 20

David Cameron [visits the Arctic](#) island of Svalbard with a husky dog sled, to inspect a glacier affected by climate change. The trip is arranged by WWF.

September 1

David Cameron (in opposition) joins a FoE platform to call for a Climate Change Bill to be included in the Queens Speech.

September 15

The Conservatives replace their traditional red white and blue 'torch of freedom' logo with a green tree. " it reinforces what David Cameron is trying to communicate in terms of a more environmentally-friendly party," says Tim Montgomerie says on BBC's Today programme.

October

David Miliband, Labour Environment Secretary signals that the government will include a Climate Change Bill in the Queens Speech.

2007

February

Roger Helmer writes in the Eurosceptic *'European Journal'* 'Several years ago I was privileged to meet Bjorn Lomborg'. Asking 'Is global warming all bad?' he says 'We could be growing grapes in Scotland again' and 'If sea level rises, it would certainly be cheaper to relocate the population of the Maldives than to implement the sort of emissions reductions that are proposed'. [Chris Heaton-Harris also says (2016) his climate scepticism began with meeting Lomborg (in 2001).]

March

IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that "warming of the climate system is unequivocal". and 'very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations'.

March 21

A wind turbine is installed on the roof of David Cameron's home in London.

August 8

George Jones, Political editor of the Daily Telegraph reports that 'The Tories green oak tree logo has turned a more traditional shade of blue as an embattled David Cameron seeks to reassure Conservative activists that he is not abandoning the party's core values'.

He adds 'the colour change comes after Mr Cameron has endured the worst spell of his 20-month leadership, with a series of attacks by traditionalists on his leadership style, polls showing him falling behind Labour and setbacks in two recent by-elections.

William Hague, the party's foreign affairs spokesman has promised a vigorous campaign for a referendum' on the Lisbon Treaty ('EU Constitution').

October 24

A press release by ALEC announces: “the launch of The Atlantic Bridge Project ... [to] further the ideals exemplified by Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher ... in conjunction with the Atlantic Bridge Group, a non-profit organization chaired by the British Conservative Shadow Minister for Defense, Liam Fox MP”.

December 10

The BBC reports plans by Labour Government of Gordon Brown for a major expansion of offshore wind farms.

2008

January

The EU publishes the ‘20 20 2020’ package (20% cut in greenhouse gas emissions, 20% of final energy consumption from renewables, by 2020). Each Member State gets a national target: the UK’s proposed target is 15%.

Feed in Tarrifs (FiTs) are introduced and give payments to smaller scale renewable electricity generation

February

Energy company Eon proposes building a wind farm near the villages of Kelmarsh, Maidwell and Naseby in Northamptonshire. [Chris Heaton Harris later publishes a book *Fighting the Kelmarsh Wind Farm* Bretwalda Books, 2012.]

August 28

Chris Heaton-Harris MEP publishes a ‘Rough Guide’ to the 2009 EU budget and criticises funding of NGOs by the EU Commission (eg European Environmental Bureau) as ‘dodgy’.

September 18

The Northampton Chronicle and Echo and Brixworth Bulletin report on a proposed Wind Farm at Lodge Farm: ‘East Midlands MEP, Chris Heaton-Harris urged the audience to write to their MP, the Lodge Farm land owners and Bolsterstone to register their opposition against the scheme’.

June 8

At the Second Reading of the Climate Change Bill just four MPs vote against it, one of whom is Peter Lilley.

June 26

The Government's draft Renewable Energy Strategy proposes that to achieve the UK's share of the EU target to of 20% final energy from renewables, requires raising the renewables obligation to 30-35% of electricity by 2020.

October 24

A House of Lords Committee considering the EU 20% target identifies planning consent as 'a significant barrier' with 95% of applications were initially rejected by planning committees.

November 26

The 2008 Climate Change Act becomes law. It mandates a 80% cut overall in six greenhouse gases by 2050 on 1990 levels, and sets up the Committee on Climate Change to advise the government on setting carbon reduction budgets.

2009

June 3

During the campaign for the June 4 European Elections the "Taxpayers' Alliance" names Chris Heaton-Harris MEP as most (UK) "hard-working, committed to transparency and accountability".

June 4

UKIP comes second in the UK European Elections level with Labour in terms of seats but ahead of in terms of votes.

June 22

The ECR - European Conservatives and Reformists – group is set up in the European Parliament as promised by David Cameron in 2005. This takes the British Conservatives out of the mainstream EPP-ED. It is Eurosceptic and anti-federalist.

July

An Arup report for DCLG 'Renewable Energy Capacity in Regional Spatial Strategies' confirms that growth in renewable generation capacity will need to be increased tenfold if the UK is to meet its EU target.

July 15

The government publishes its Low Carbon Transition Plan (arising from the Climate Change Act) for an 18% cut in emissions on 2008 levels by 2020 (34% on 1990 levels). It envisages

renewables supplying about 30% of electricity by 2020, requiring about a five fold increase in capacity.

October 3

Blogger Stephen Newton posts about how arrangements between Atlantic Bridge Inc initiated by ALEC and the UK Atlantic Bridge charity started by Liam Fox are being used to enable senior Conservatives to fund flights to meetings across the Atlantic, exploiting opportunities on tax. In a later post he suggests this is the 'confidence trick' described as a 'shell-game' by Atlantic Bridge CEO Amanda Bowman.

November 2

Peter Luff, Conservative MP for Mid-Worcestershire introduces an 'Onshore Wind Turbines (Proximity of Habitation) Bill in the House of Commons and 'proposes 'smaller turbines should be at least 0.5 of a mile from residential areas; medium sized turbines a mile; and large turbines 1.5 miles from inhabited areas'.

November 3

Luff's Bill is introduced under the Ten Minute Rule Bill - as Onshore Wind Turbines (Proximity of Habitation). He stresses it is bipartisan and introduced 'to stimulate an important debate'. It would 'help local communities, planning authorities and, paradoxically, the wind energy industry itself'.

Luff points to greater restrictions in Germany, Spain, Italy and Denmark, and cites 'extraordinary levels of support around the country'. He emphasises 'the Bill is not a covert attack on any renewable energy technology, nor does it have its roots in any doubts about the causes and consequences of global warming'.

November 4

To an outcry from angry Eurosceptics, David Cameron announces that his 'campaign' in Europe for a referendum on the Lisbon Treaty is over, as the other 27 countries have ratified it. Patrick O'Flynn MEP (UKIP then SDP) subsequently writes that this was the moment Cameron realised he must 'refresh' the political mandate for being in the EU.

November 18

Roger Helmer MEP convenes a conference of well-known climate-sceptics at the European Parliament, including Fred Singer and James Delingpole.

2010

April 29

The Conservative manifesto promotes onshore wind and aims to form 'the greenest government ever'. Its vision is for Britain to be "the world's first low-carbon economy".

Comparing party manifestos, Nick Schoon At ENDS notes that the words "green", "environment", "climate" and "carbon" appeared roughly once in every thousand words in the Conservative manifestos in 2001 and 2005 but in 2010 it uses those four key words 4.4 times in every 1,000 words. Only UKIP's manifesto is climate sceptic and anti-renewable.

May 6

General Election: no party secures the 326 seats necessary to form a government. David Cameron's Conservatives form a coalition government with Nick Clegg's Liberal Democrats. Chris Heaton Harris is elected to Parliament as Conservative Member for Daventry.

May 9

Roger Helmer MEP who spent election night with Heaton Harris in Daventry writes 'I am pleased that Cameron has drawn clear red lines on Europe, immigration and defence. ... I am much less happy about the green agenda, but I suppose we have to make concessions somewhere, and the green agenda may well fall apart as the global warming "consensus" continues to disintegrate. Certainly it is way down the public's priority list'.

May 14

Speaking at DECC, David Cameron reiterates his manifesto pledge: 'I want us to be the greenest government ever - a very simple ambition and one that I'm absolutely committed to achieving'.

May 27

Chris Heaton-Harris MP uses his Maiden speech to criticise "the folly that is onshore wind energy. Not only does it dramatically change the nature of the landscape ... it does little to help us in our battle to reduce carbon emissions ..." and proposes "no turbine can be constructed within 2 km of any dwelling".

July 6

Regional Spatial Strategies are abolished by the new coalition government.

October 6

The Conservative green tree logo which first went blue and then (2009) blue/Union-Jack is now replaced by a full colour Union Jack at the Party Conference in Birmingham.

November 17

Chris Heaton-Harris introduces the Onshore Wind Turbines (Proximity of Habitation) Bill (started by Peter Luff), as a Private Members' Bill under the Ten Minute Rule. It does not progress but proposes giving local planning authorities the opportunity to determine separation distances between dwellings and turbines.

Opposing the Bill Martin Horwood (Cheltenham) (LD) says "Interestingly, support for wind power increases with proximity to wind farms. One piece of research showed that among people living near existing wind farms, support rose as high as 94% ... I am sad to say that I suspect that the real purpose behind the Bill is probably to appeal to the anti-renewable lobby, which seems to be growing ...".

December 5

Chris Heaton-Harris blogs about Australian opposition to wind farms

December 8

In The Guardian, Leo Hickman reports on posters put up in Derby, Leicester, Northampton, Lincoln and Nottingham by Roger Helmer MEP, attacking wind turbines. The £9,000 cost has been met by the Information Fund of the EP ECRG Group. The ECRG and the Conservatives say Mr Helmer does not represent them.

December 20

Minister for Decentralization and Planning, Greg Clark MP, announces a review of planning policy, designed to consolidate all policy statements, circulars and guidance documents into a single, simpler National Planning Policy Framework.

2011

March

The all-party Commons Communities and Local Government Committee says "... abolition of regional spatial planning strategies leaves a vacuum ... which could have profound social, economic and environmental consequences".

May 13

Roger Helmer MEP posts 'Former staffer rains on EU's parade' about Sally McNamara. 'At the end of the 1999/04 parliament, Sally ... asked if I would sponsor her for a summer sabbatical in Washington with ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council (which was later to honour me as its first Adam Smith Scholar) ... they offered her a full time job. Then in 2006 she was hired away from ALEC by the Heritage Foundation, and she's now a Senior Policy Analyst in their Margaret Thatcher Centre'. [Subsequently with US defence contractor Raytheon].

May 23

Chris Heaton-Harris posts 'Wind Farms - How to beat the developers...!' offering to send anti-wind groups his 'short "best practice" guide called: "Fighting Wind Farms Locally - a Guide".'

June 15

Roger Helmer posts about the launch of his book *Sceptic At Large* in London. He writes: 'The room was packed ... the assembled throng included MPs — Christopher Chope, Heather Wheeler, Robert Goodwill ... and of course my old comrade-in-arms Chris Heaton-Harris, to whom the book is dedicated'. Nigel Farage MEP, Tim Montgomerie, Matthew Elliott (Taxpayer's Alliance), others from the European Foundation and the Freedom Association attended, along with Rupert Matthews.

July 1

Chris Heaton-Harris blogs - On Shore Wind doesn't work - Shock!!!

July

The government publishes its (first) Renewable Energy Roadmap saying it is on track to meet its generation targets.

July 25

The government releases its NPPF National Planning Policy Framework which is immediately criticised by most major environmental and countryside groups, mainly over fears of poorly planned development in rural areas.

1 September

23 former presidents of the Royal Town Planning Institute write to the Daily Telegraph calling for reconsideration of the NPPF. The Daily Telegraph launches a campaign "[Hands Off our Land](#)" against the NPPF.

September 23

Chris Heaton-Harris blogs - Presumption in favour of sustainable development - Developers BEWARE!!! 'The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) means that they should be granted planning as it contains a "presumption in favour of sustainable development.'

September 30

The Atlantic Bridge is removed from the UK charity register on 23 September following a Charity Commission investigation. The charity's main funder is revealed as American hedge fund manager George Hintze, also one of the Conservative Party's biggest donors and a funder of the climate sceptic Global Warming Policy Foundation.

October 3

At the Conservative Party Conference, Chancellor George Osborne says that “a decade of environmental laws and regulations are piling costs on the energy bills of households and companies”. In contrast, expenditure on the NHS and schools are “Conservative priorities” to be “protected”.

October 11

Liam Fox resigns as defence secretary following scandal over his breaking of the Ministerial Code by allowing lobbyist Adam Werrity into defence meetings.

October 12

Roger Helmer MEP announces his forthcoming resignation thanking “Chris Heaton-Harris, who for ten years in the European parliament was the best colleague I could have hoped to have – ... other members of “the H-Block” ... and ... former staffers Sally McNamara and Cat Bray (both now in political roles in Washington)”. [Helmer does not in fact resign]

October 25

The Daily Mail reports that in a vote on a referendum on European Union membership, David Cameron suffers the ‘biggest ever’ rebellion by Tory MPs: 81 defy three-line whip while 17 others abstain. Only support from the Opposition prevents a government defeat.

October 28

LSE Blogger Pete Radford writes (the) ‘rebellion has left David Cameron with little room to manoeuvre and is picking apart his liberal conservative project’. Of the 81 Conservative rebels, ‘a massive 49 were new MPs, elected in 2010 ... The party is no longer split between sceptics and non-sceptics but ... hard sceptics and soft sceptics’. Since May 2010, there have already been 22 Conservative rebellions over Europe.

December 15

Roger Helmer posts ECR Elections: A Clean Sweep ‘Martin Callanan MEP has been elected as Chairman of the ECR Group ... very sound man indeed, and was associated with “The H-Block” in the good old days. ‘There were only two candidates— Martin, and Struan Stevenson’ who has ‘done fine work on the campaign against wind turbines’. [Struan Stevenson Conservative Member of the European Parliament (MEP) for Scotland from 1999-2014 – later speaks at the Anti Wind Farm Conference in Cumbria]

December 30

Roger Helmer posts a photograph of himself and Chris Heaton Harris with pints of beer in a post attacking David Cameron for planning minimum pricing of alcohol.

2012

January 14

Chris Heaton-Harris decides to reschedule Ten Minute Rule Bill to March, aiming to prompt a government review of wind 'subsidies'. 'I was hoping that Localism would sort out these problems. Following the planning inspector's decision in Kelmarsh, I'm no longer sure this will be the case. So now we have to change the mindset of DECC...' Invites all Conservative MPs to a meeting on Tuesday 24th January.

January 26

Yorkshire Post reports 'Tory MPs urge Cameron to cut subsidies for windfarms'. It says 'dozens of Tory MPs are joining forces in a new group'. Cameron 'said yesterday that the Government would target funding at "only the most cost-effective onshore wind farms" because it was "now one of the mature and cheaper technologies"'.

January 30

Chris Heaton Harris's letter signed by over 106 MPs (101 Con, 2 Lab, one DUP) is sent to David Cameron

It states "In these financially straightened times, we think it is unwise to make consumers pay, through taxpayer subsidy, for inefficient and intermittent energy production that typifies on-shore wind turbines". It asks Cameron to "dramatically cut the subsidy for on-shore wind", asks for more ability for local communities to reject wind power through planning and specifies amendments to the NPPF.

David Montagu-Smith, Chairman of West Northamptonshire CPRE writes to Chris Heaton-Harris: 'we are very gratified' at the letter. Montagu-Smith is also Chairman of Rathlin Energy, an oil, gas and fracking firm.

January 31

The Guardian reports: 'those who think climate change poses no threat' are 70% men and 'about twice as likely to be over 65 and to have voted Conservative in 2010 than the general population'.

February 3

Liberal Democrat Chris Huhne resigns as Coalition Energy Secretary, following claims he got his wife to take speeding points for him. LibDem Ed Davey replaces him. The coalition parties start open warfare over support to wind power.

Deputy prime minister Nick Clegg says: "The race is on to lead the world in clean, green energy". Guardian journalist Damian Carrington says the 'real reason' so many MPs signed

was 'the shredding of 1000 pages of planning guidance and its replacement by 50 pages' in the NPPF ... supported by the scepticism on global warming that is more prevalent among Tories'.

February 14

Heaton-Harris blogs - 'Crap lobbying at its very worst' - about an unintended St Valentines Day gift, as pro wind lobbyist Robin Smith from House Of Sound Thinking invites him to support a counter-letter to his own 100+ MP letter.

February 15

Chris Heaton-Harris congratulates Welsh MPs for a follow up letter to David Cameron opposing onshore wind power.

February 21

Cameron 'defends windfarm plans to Tory MPs' saying there are 'hard-headed reasons' for more onshore wind and repeats the government's existing policy of cutting subsidies to onshore wind by 10% in the near future in recognition that the building cost had fallen. DECC have proposed a scheme for local communities to take a financial stake in new renewable energy and claim some of the profits. Chris Heaton-Harris says he also has the support of 10 Labour MPs and will seek a meeting with Cameron.

February 22

Heaton-Harris posts that he is 'slightly encouraged' by Cameron's reply and 'noises off'.

February 25

UKIP MEP Godfrey Bloom publishes a guide, *Fighting Wind Farms*

February 27

Heaton-Harris takes a delegation of MPs to meet Cameron with Charles Hendry, Minister for Energy and Greg Clark Minister for Planning. 'Just the start of this discussion' but 'heard about how local councils might be able to designate areas for renewable energy projects in the future (and thus zone out renewables from others)'. Argued for 'drastic cuts' in 'subsidies' to onshore wind. 'Prime Minister is very much in listening mode'.

'I would like to think that, with more evidence and political pressure, we might be able to prove to the Prime Minister that we are currently backing a loser and we should be incentivising elsewhere'

March 1

The Guardian reports that 'local opposition to windfarms has tripled' since 2010 following political and media attacks and focus on landscape impacts and subsidy costs, although

overall 60% still support wind' local to them. Onshore wind is also more popular than coal or nuclear and twice as many support as oppose wind subsidies.

'UK's leading expert on nimbyism, Patrick Devine-Wright says advocates of windfarms are 'failing to win the public debate'. An ICM poll finds those over 65 'far more likely to oppose a new windfarm (43%) compared to 18 to 24-year-olds (16%)', and Conservative voters 'twice as likely as Labour voters to be opposed (41% versus 20%)'.

Devine-Wright says other countries had handled the issue much better. In Germany and Denmark there is 'far greater community ownership'. "When you talk to local objectors, they feel their sense of place is being violated [by outsiders] and you need to avoid that at all costs". "Nimbyism is ... a simplification and it is pejorative."

March 8

Chris Heaton-Harris challenges Ed Davey: 'if we add the number of existing turbines to those going through the planning system, we have enough in place to hit his Department's 2020 targets? If that is the case, does that not suggest that the level of subsidy for these things is too high?' Davey responds that 'most of the development that the country needs is indeed already on the table'.

March 27

The NPPF is published as a 65 page document replacing previous guidance of over 1300 pages (not just concerned with energy). Planning lawyer Tina Douglass later writes (2012) that looking back 'PPS22 worked quite well'.

April 15

Heaton-Harris announces 'The Beginning of the End for Onshore Wind' as the Sunday Times report Energy Minister Greg Barker foreseeing no "significant expansion in the number of turbines beyond those already in the pipeline" and "far from wanting thousands more, actually for most of the wind we need... they are either built, being developed, or in planning."

May 23

At 'Conservative Home' Tim Montgomerie writes about the threat posed by UKIP to the Conservatives and problems with the Conservative-LibDem coalition, including 'the splintering of the Right'. He says 'Most Tories didn't want Cameron to form a coalition ... Slowly but surely, as the months have passed, our party's supporters in the press and in the public have peeled off. The most dangerous manifestation of this has been the rise of UKIP. UKIP doesn't need to get 10% to cause us damage. A 5% or 6% vote share will be enough to stop us winning many of the marginal seats that are necessary for a Conservative majority.'

He points to UKIP leader Nigel Farage attacking Cameron in The Spectator as "a committed warmist" who "wants to build wind turbines all over Britain" and in a bit of mischief-making Mr Farage also suggests that there could be UKIP-Tory candidates at the next election'.

May 27

MEP Roger Helmer posts about 'Sally McNamara ... she joined our euro-candidate team ahead of the 1999 election ... came to Brussels as my researcher until the next 2004 election in the Summer ... went to Washington on a sabbatical with ALEC ... who offered her a full-time job ... later hired away ... by the Heritage Foundation [then] ...a senior position in government relations with US defence contractor Raytheon'

June 10

Conservative Home reports that Lincolnshire County Council has adopted a planning policy that 'no wind turbine should be constructed within 2km of a single residential property, and no wind farms should be constructed with 10km of a village with more than 10 properties' and calls for other County Councils to follow suit

June 19

Benedict Brogan at the Daily Telegraph writes 'Mr Cameron is struggling again. Conservatives yearn for red meat policies to please the voters. They want a political Plan B for a Tory majority in 2015 to replace the one based on the assumption of economic recovery and tax cuts that blew up in George Osborne's hands ... The Chancellor will shortly give them just that. In a few weeks, as part of the Energy Bill, ministers will announce a reduction of up to a quarter in the value of Renewable Obligation Certificates – or "Rocs" ... translated into plain English it means this: onshore wind farms will be killed stone dead ... A simple tweak of the financial incentives will halt the march of the turbines across the British landscape. ... Conservatives will be able to say: "We did that. We stopped the wind farm madness." ... No wonder some optimists on the backbenches speak of a defining moment that will give them something to cheer'.

June 20 [?]

Heaton Harris and James Delingpole attend National Opposition to Windfarms conference in Cumbria. Organisers include Lord Carlyle of Berriew (LD). An attendee reports that Heaton-Harris 'Has been opposed to wind farms for a long time initially because of his love for the English landscape. Whilst supporting opposition groups "planning" was a local issue until the Kelmarsh wind farm appeal decision said that National Policy trumped local planning policy' and 'The Treasury now see energy policies as harming our economic competitiveness – and is seeing shale gas reviving the USA'.

July 11

The FT reports that Osborne and Davey are locked in argument over how much to cut onshore wind subsidies. Davey proposes 10%, Osborne wants more. John Cridland, head of the CBI tells the FT that Davey's proposal "makes sense to me".

July 19

FT reports: 'George Osborne is blocking a new subsidy regime for renewable energy, as he fights a coalition battle with the Liberal Democrats to ensure gas remains central to Britain's future power needs.

The chancellor fears overgenerous support for wind power and other renewable sources will deter investment in gas-fired power stations, which he believes offer businesses and consumers the prospect of lower bills in future'.

FT journalist Kieran Stacey argues that Cameron "dragged" the Conservative Party onto the "centre ground, copying Tony Blair" as the way to win elections. This included the promises to be green and modern. A wing of the party never forgave him for abandoning the neo-Thatcherite/ Neoliberal agenda of cutting tax and public expenditure. He then failed to win a majority in 2010 and they have been rallying around figures like Liam Fox.

After the letter to Cameron from more-than-100 Tory MPs about wind farms 'the row has been referred to Mr Cameron and Nick Clegg, but the prime minister and deputy prime minister have been unable to strike a compromise'. Osborne's aides say 'overgenerous renewable subsidies' "reduce the viability" of gas. In his March Budget, Osborne declared: "Gas is cheap, has much less carbon than coal and will be the largest single source of our electricity in the coming years." Davey has been holding back on issuing new shale gas licences in Britain, amid local community concerns.

"The government has a big decision to make: are we going to build a low-carbon power system or are we going to have a second dash for gas?" said David Kennedy, chief executive of the committee on climate change. "The economically sensible thing is to deliver a low carbon power system."

July 20

Conservative Home reports 'Osborne blocks Davey bid for wind power subsidies as Energy Permanent Secretary quits' ... 'The nub of the Osborne/Davey clash is that the Chancellor believes that in the balance between lower energy bills and lower carbon emissions the former should win out ... His leadership ambitions will want to march in step with the instincts of Conservative MPs'.

September 4

The Guardian reports 'Cameron takes (coalition) cabinet to the right in a reshuffle' (first in two years) ... 'removal of Justine Greening as transport secretary, a fierce opponent of a third runway at Heathrow ... paves the way for a government shift on aviation expansion.

September 6 or 7

James Delingpole declares intention to stand in Corby by election

September 12

The BBC reports 'James Delingpole, a Daily Telegraph journalist, has joined the [Corby] race to campaign against wind farms in Northamptonshire'.

September 15

The Spectator reports Tory MPs are 'cheered' by ... 'word that David Cameron told John Hayes, the new Tory Minister of State at the Department of Energy and Climate Change, that "I want you to deliver a win for our people on wind farms." NHS spending but not clean energy will be ring-fenced to attract 'the kind of voters that Cameronism attracted to the party' ... 'for George Osborne, support for the NHS is the most important element of Tory modernisation'. A new group of Tory MPs is calling for an 'end to the detoxification of the Tory brand': in other words a values roll-back.

September 20

The Guardian reports that an 'Anti-wind power fundraiser featuring Donald Trump' has been 'hit by poor ticket sales, forcing organiser Chris Heaton-Harris MP to cancel'. It says Chris Heaton-Harris's effort marked an attempt to 'move anti-wind lobbying in the UK up a gear or two'. A ticket-pushing email sent out by Chris Heaton-Harris in August called Trump 'one of my bigger supporters'.

October 1

Lobbying company 'Together Against Wind' is Incorporated. Chris Heaton Harris is appointed as a Director. Thomas Pursglove will be appointed as a Director on 25 June 2013. It will be dissolved on 14 March 2017. Heaton Harris resigns on 26 June 2013 but appears on the home page of the website www.togetheragainstownd.com until February 7th 2016. The site shows as disabled from March 2016. [Subsequent examples of www.togetheragainstownd.com activities from pages at web.archive.org]

October 3

At the 10th Chilterns AONB Planning Conference planning lawyer Tina Douglass reviews the history of renewable energy and planning policy. She points to 'the almost incomprehensible distinction between "substantial harm or loss" and "less than substantial harm"' in landscape arguments over windfarm proposals.

October 18

A Daily Telegraph source says George Osborne "has started referring to the green lobby in Government and Tory party as the environmental Taliban. It's meant as a joke but it shows where he's coming from." He is pushing for a cap on green power subsidies which 'would allow Mr Osborne to claim that he was helping to keep energy bills down, although critics believe it would result in a "dash for gas" and, in the long term, less green energy'.

October 19

Nigel Farage appears on BBC Radio 4 Any Questions and attacks David Cameron as pro-wind: “he more than anybody else has supported this loopy idea that we can cover Britain in ugly disgusting ghastly windmills and that somehow our future energy needs will come from that and that already everyone of you in this room is paying a 12 percent surcharge on your energy bills to subsidise a wind turbine programme that simply won’t work....”

October 22

Carbon Brief fact-checks Farage’s statements on Question Time. The Renewables Obligation, adds £21 to the average household consumer energy bill and Feed in Tariffs “less than £1” to the bill. Combined this means support measures for renewables accounted for just under two per cent of a total combined bill – not 12 per cent.’

October 23

Mike Smithson (@MSmithsonPB) points out that a poll in Corby constituency by Lord Ashcroft finds that just two of 1503 people (0.13%) intend to vote for James Delingpole, the ‘anti wind farm’ candidate.

October 30

John Hayes, recently appointed Energy Minister, tells the Daily Mail that ‘enough is enough’ of onshore wind farms. The comments ‘spark a furious coalition row, with Lib Dem Energy Secretary Ed Davey insisting “I’m in charge”’ and that there has been no change in policy.

October 31

James Delingpole announces in the Daily Telegraph that he is withdrawing from the Corby by election as the anti-wind farm candidate. He says John Hayes wanted to announce a moratorium on all future onshore wind farm projects on grounds that Britain has already met its wind energy targets but was vetoed by his boss Ed Davey.

However Hayes has ‘many sympathisers within the Conservative Party, among them the Chancellor George Osborne, Environment Secretary Owen Paterson, and MP Chris Heaton-Harris, who has been co-ordinating the Tories’ anti-wind resistance’ and Hayes has commissioned studies on noise and property values, which ‘are likely to strike a blow from which the wind industry can never recover’.

‘Copious evidence’ says Delingpole, shows that a wind farm knocks 10% off house prices and this wind blight has been confirmed by local council tax re-valuations. ‘Naturally, this isn’t the kind of detail that plays well with David Cameron’s natural constituency in the shires. Their country home, they not unreasonably believe, is their castle and the very last thing they would have expected of a Tory-led government is to have their peace disturbed, their views ruined and a good chunk of their nest-egg confiscated – all so that a pesky, selfish neighbour and some rapacious, foreign-owned wind developer can get inordinately richer’.

‘Despite his vigorous protests, Davey may find it very hard to resist the multiple-pronged assault strategy Hayes has cunningly contrived. This embraces not only Paterson at Defra but also the new planning minister Nick Boles’

November 12

www.togetheragainstwind.com provides letters to email lobby MPs and Ministers including John Hayes (Request a Moratorium on Onshore Wind Farms); Nick Boles (NO MEANS NO – ‘provide examples of local concerns being ignored’), John Hayes (‘ENOUGH IS ENOUGH’ - a moratorium) and the Prime Minister.

November 11

The Daily Telegraph reports on the Cory by-election campaign managed by Chris Heaton-Harris, following resignation of an unpopular Conservative MP Louise Mensch. The Conservative vote is being eroded from the right by UKIP. It quotes ‘Chris Woodford ... another lifelong Tory voter jumping ship this week – to Ukip, in his case, along with one of his staff and his wife. “We have to do something about immigration and the EU,” he said. “We sell a lot of properties to people from Peterborough. They say they feel like the ethnic minority now.”

November 12

John Hayes pronounces “job done” on windfarms on Channel 4 News. “In respect of the targets that we have for renewables when we take into account, what’s built, what’s consented, what’s in planning system now – it will certainly have achieved, it will be job done.”

November 13

Thinking he is talking to an activist from a (fictitious) group called ‘Windefensible’ [in fact a Greenpeace researcher Chris Atkins], Chris Heaton-Harris discusses his role in James Delingpole’s appearance as an anti-wind candidate at the Corby by-election. "Please don't tell anybody ever" Chris Heaton-Harris says. He explains the purpose was to help "write [the anti-wind agenda] into the DNA of the Tory party".

"There's a bit of strategy behind what's going on" says Heaton-Harris. "I'm running the Corby byelection for the Tories ... And Delingpole, who is my constituent, and a very good friend [inaudible] put his head above the parapet, but won't put his deposit down ... It's just part of the plan."

Heaton-Harris appears to say he "suggested to [Delingpole] that he did it. Which puts me in a very awkward [inaudible] ... it's six weeks to cause some hassle and get, and get people talking." He also says: "James Delingpole can go and endorse the Ukip candidate, don't give a toss about that" and "I've managed to provide [Delingpole] with a handful of people who will sort him out. So my deputy chairman, political, resigned from my local party and is running his campaign as his agent. So it's all professionally done. "

Heaton-Harris says the timing was "contrived" and "there's been a bit of leverage that he's given me ... "I've been working on this since the ministerial teams changed."

Heaton-Harris subsequently apologises for the impression he had given in the interview and is not disciplined by the Conservative Party.

November 14

In *The Spectator*, David Blackburn writes: 'This story doesn't primarily concern Delingpole and the by-election; it's really about a split within the coalition on wind farms and the Tories' long-term electoral tactics'... the Chancellor ... is reported ... to believe that halting onshore wind farm construction is a vote winner in marginal rural and semi-suburban constituencies like Corby'.

November 14

The *Daily Telegraph* reports that Delingpole 'insisted there had been no plot, adding the timing of was "all a rather handy coincidence" ... it became absolutely nonsensical for me to continue standing in the election, when the Conservative and UKIP were becoming more aggressively anti-wind". Heaton-Harris said: "The implication that I choreographed any sort of 'secret plan' is simply not the case". Theresa May says Chris Heaton-Harris has been guilty of "silly bragging".

November 14

A piece in *The Guardian* states: 'The decision not to discipline Heaton-Harris will be taken by opposition parties as a further sign that the mood against renewable energy is now so deep in the Tory party that Downing Street does not have the political strength, or will, to rein it in'.

November 14

In another section of the Greenpeace video Peter Lilley says Chancellor George Osborne "privately regrets all the [green] commitments that have been made" and "Basically I think Osborne wanted to get people into key positions who could begin to get the government off the hook from commitments they made very foolishly" Lilley foresees 'amendments to the Climate Change Act, cease to make it legally binding, make it advisory'. He calls Tory energy minister Greg Barker and advocate for renewables and green jobs "barking" and "a complete nutter". He also says: "It's looking a lot better with [environment secretary] Owen Paterson and [energy minister] John Hayes. I've still got Ed Davey to dump on from a height from somewhere", and, "So Number 10 helped John Hayes, so actually Ed Davey's got the 'strategic' stuff, so he can go and talk bollocks around the world, where John Hayes is in charge of deployment, and "John Hayes who is energy minister is on my side ... when he got shuffled across he became really useful."

November 15

Labour win the Corby by election with 48%, Conservatives second at 26.6% (a drop of 15.6%), while UKIP come third with 14.3%, their best by election result to date. The LibDems drop 9.5% and come fourth. At the 2015 General Election the Conservatives regain the seat.

November 26

At energynetworks.org Tim Field relates that Ed Davey has asked lawyers to examine John Hayes's powers and: 'In a final jab at Hayes ... Davey is set to approve the construction of a 22-turbine wind farm less than three miles from his Energy Minister's constituency'.

December

The government publishes an Update to its 2011 Renewable Energy Roadmap. It says it 'is on track' to reach to meet the first interim target towards 15% of renewable energy consumption by 2020 and the current pipeline [of onshore wind] is likely to have the potential to provide the appropriate quantity of deployment to fulfil our ambition'.

2013

January 8

The Daily Telegraph reports 'A wind farm is to be built at the site of one of the most important battles ever fought on English soil (Naseby, Northants), despite officials admitting that the scheme will "harm the setting" of the historic location. They say that the damage the project will cause is outweighed by the need to meet renewable energy targets'.

Simon Hunt, from Stop Kelmars Wind Farm group, says: "The inspector accepted all the heritage arguments but the energy arguments trumped everything ... This shows that localism does not exist."

January 10

The BBC reports that a plan to build a wind turbine at Wormslade Farm, Kelmars in Northamptonshire has been refused permission by the Council but then approved by a Planning Inspector on appeal by the developer EON.

January 23

David Cameron seeks to appease Conservative Eurosceptics by promising an in/out referendum on Britain's membership of the EU, after he has renegotiated the current terms of Britain's relationship with the EU.

February 23

The US-based VLTP (Voters Legislative Transparency Project) posts what is apparently the text of an advertisement from ALEC, the powerful right-wing American Exchange Legislative

Council, to place interns in The Leadership Institute, The Heritage Foundation, The Young America's Foundation, The Jesse Helms Center, The Competitive Enterprise Institute, The Independent Women's Forum, The Clare Boothe Luce Policy Institute and The Weekly Standard. The post also lists British Conservative MEPs 'mostly' in the ECR, including Richard Ashworth, Martin Callanan (Chair of ECR), Niranjana Deva, Daniel Hannan, Roger Helmer and Syed Kamall, as 'members of ALEC and none of them declared this in their Register of Interests last year'. 'Due to their failure to register their membership of ALEC, a situation since remedied by some of them, a formal complaint was made to Martin Schulz the President of the Parliament'. In addition to the MEPs there are two members of the British Parliament who are, or were, ALEC members: Chris Heaton-Harris and 'Liam Fox was a member of ALEC until at least June 2011 which overlaps his period as British Secretary of State for Defence, a position he held from May 2010 until October 2011'.

It also features what seems to be an ALEC listing of the Young Britons Foundation (YBF) (President Daniel Hannah). The YBF later runs into controversy.

February 28

In the Eastleigh by-election following resignation of Liberal Democrat Energy Minister Chris Huhne, the Liberal Democrats retain his seat but with a 14.4% reduction in votes. UKIP come second with a 24.2% increase in vote.

March 4

VLTP publishes Part I of a history of the British Conservatives and their involvement with ALEC. It cites links between US right-wing lobbyists and their UK counterparts such as the IEA Institute for Economic Affairs, which it says is supported by the 'American Friends of the IEA' which exists to raise funds for the UK organisation.

'In 2002, ALEC staff held discussions with several international delegations, including British Members of the European Parliament ... In 2003, a delegation of European Members of Parliament will be meeting with American state lawmakers at ALEC's Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.'

A collection of articles '2004- 2005 Articles, Publications and News' from ALEC's 'Atlantic Connection Monthly' includes an article by Sally McNamara who is described as 'EU Project Director', and others by Dan Hannan MEP, Roger Helmer and Chris Heaton-Harris.

March 4

In The Guardian Bob Ward writes: 'The morning after the Eastleigh result, Ukip's leader, Nigel Farage, was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's Today programme, and listed all the issues on which he felt Conservative voters were disenchanted with the Prime Minister: "The Conservatives failed here because traditional Tory voters look at Cameron and ask themselves: is he a Conservative? And they conclude, no, he is not. He is talking about gay marriage, wind turbines, unlimited immigration from India, he wants Turkey to join the EU."

March 18

Chris Heaton-Harris appears with Roger Helmer MEP, Sue Morgan - Hough on the Hill Parish Council, Stephen Phillips MP, Hugh Wilson - Chairman of Stubton Parish Council, Martin Hill - Leader of Lincs County Council, Paul Wood - SKDC, Lord Giles Radice and Colin Davie – LCC at Stubton Village Hall with MPs and councillors to meet REVOLT campaigners against wind farm plans.

May 7

The Daily Telegraph reports that 'Northamptonshire's uncrowded and gentle landscape is in danger of becoming the wind farm capital of England'. The term comes from Bill Driver of the local CPRE . It reports 'applications for 53 turbines at various stages of the planning process in Northamptonshire ... out of a total of 94 that industry bodies estimate for the whole country'.

June 6

Eric Pickles, Secretary of State at DCLG, writes to all Local Authority leaders, informing them of changes to planning laws on wind farms. He says: 'We have set out clearly in the National Planning Policy Framework the importance of early and meaningful engagement with local communities. We will ... make pre-application consultation with local communities compulsory ...'.

June 6

Conservative Home website says 'Pickles gives local communities a veto on wind turbines'. Pickles says "insufficient weight is being given to environmental considerations like landscape, heritage and local amenity". Conservative Home says Friends of the Earth 'complain it is "rigging the planning system against onshore wind"'

June 20

A 'UK National Anti-Wind Conference' is held at Welshpool. (Video) Speakers include Struan Stevenson MEP, Glyn Davies MP and Chris Heaton-Harris MP. Another is planned for Scotland.

June 25

Thomas Pursglove appointed as a Together Against Wind Director

June 26

Chris Heaton-Harris resigns as a Together Against Wind Director

June 26

The VLTP publishes 'ALEC: Pursuing Universal Stewardship – Part III: Connecting More Dots Between ALEC and International Politicians' and writes:

'2006: ALEC launched its international legislators' membership program in Strasbourg, in October, to register local, regional, national and international legislative members'.

[photo] '2006 – Helmer along with other Int. members, holding ALEC Award [including Heaton-Harris]

'ALEC attended its second States and Nation Policy Summit in Washington D.C. in December, with speeches and breakout discussions by Roger Helmer (Member of the European Parliament, UK), Dr. John K. Glenn (Director of Foreign Policy, German Marshall Fund of the United States) and Dr. Boguslaw Winid (Deputy Chief of Mission, Polish Embassy)'.

'ALEC was invited to the opening of the Heritage Foundation's Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom (February 16). In his speech at the new Center, Dr. Liam Fox MP (UK), lectured on the special relationship between London and Washington'.

'ALEC held an international relations seminar with Bill Cash, Member of Parliament (UK), in April. Bill Cash is President of the European Foundation, a London-based think-tank dedicated to Euro-realist policy analysis of European Union issues'.

'2008 – 2011: ALEC claimed the "right" to be consulted by the United Nations, and to register as an NGO'.

'ALEC International Relations Task Force inaugurated to attract membership among multinational corporations and trade organizations'

'Roger Helmer, MEP, fingered climate change as "bad policy" in an interview with *Inside ALEC* for the November/December 2010 issue'.

July 28

web.archive.org shows www.togetheragainstwind.com providing letters to email:

'REDUCE WIND FARM SUBSIDIES NOW' – 'Now is The Perfect Time To Write To The Rt. Hon Michael Fallon MP, Energy Minister, About Wind Energy Prices. The subsidy and payment system for wind energy is about to be changed'.

'STAND UP FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES' – 'Our understanding is SPDs can be introduced at any time in a process, much, much, quicker than inserting a Buffer Zone into any Local Plan. We would ask, therefore, that you support our Campaign and also contact Local Authorities in your area, urging both MPs & Councillors to put in place SPDs relating to Wind Turbine Development'. [SPD = Supplementary Planning Document]

'NO' MEANS 'NO' 'Great Campaign helping to achieve the Recent Statements on Localism & Wind Farms from Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government. Well Done All'

August 22

The *Daily Telegraph* reports 'Secret wind farm report into house price blight' [Owen Paterson loses his job - never published]. Heaton-Harris says, "I would expect there to be billions of pounds of planning blight because of wind turbines close to properties."

October 20

Heaton-Harris blogs: 'Government's Onshore Wind 2020 Target Hit'. In a written answer [170959] Energy Minister Michael Fallon says (stats) there are 6.8GW operational and 6.4GW consented with 6.4GW submitted. Chris Heaton-Harris says the government target for onshore wind is 13GW therefore the target is hit and this 'proves that the subsidies for onshore wind are too high'.

October 31

Carbon Brief reports a confused situation following statements from Energy Minister John Hayes, DECC and the media. 'The Daily Mail and Daily Telegraph are today lauding the "end of the windfarm", just as trade body RenewableUK and the Financial Times have issued positive reports on the industry's prospects'. DECC says "there has been no change to government policy on renewable energy".

November 21

The Sun reports David Cameron ordered aides to "get rid of all the green crap" from energy bills in a drive to bring down costs. Joss Garman at Greenpeace says Cameron is pandering "to the extreme wing of his own party" and trying to "claw back support from Ukip".

December 3

Heaton-Harris republishes an article by three of his constituents on noise from wind farms. 'They've also written a peer-reviewed paper on this subject and presented their findings to DECC. DECC have since gone remarkably quiet on this matter'.

December 4

The Guardian reports that cuts set out by the energy secretary, Ed Davey, 'mean onshore windfarms will for the first time receive lower subsidies than future nuclear power stations', and 'wind industry sources said small, community-owned windfarms were likely to be cancelled.

December 18

The 2013 Energy Act comes into force bringing 'electricity market reforms', Contracts for a Difference (CfDs) and a Capacity Market to 'provide backup for intermittent and inflexible low-carbon generation sources', as well as an emission performance Standard and Carbon Floor Price. These replace the Renewables Obligation.

2014

February 23

web.archive.org shows www.togetheragainstwind.com 'Active campaigns' as 'Wind More Expensive Than Nuclear?' – 'Currently nearly 40% of UK electricity is generated from Coal and costs £50/MWhr. What will the effect be on consumer bills when this is replaced by new forms of generation costing twice as much? Write to Your MP and Ask For A Fair Deal For Consumers'. Plus 'STAND UP FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES'.

March 3

The Guardian reports a survey finds wind power is the most popular source of energy in the UK. (48%) said an onshore windfarm would receive positive reception if it was developed within five miles of their home (19% for fracking).

It notes 'a sharp rise' in rejection of onshore windfarm applications across the UK, from 25-29% in 2009-12 to 41% in 2013. 'Pickles has taken 35 wind power planning appeals out of the hands of the planning inspectorate since last June, refusing eight and approving two so far, and opening his party up to criticism of "heavy-handed intervention".'

April 1

The Guardian says 'Tories plan new attack on windfarms' as 'David Cameron considers 2015 manifesto commitment to curb onshore turbines' although 'Nick Clegg says Lib Dems will block it from coalition programme'. A senior Tory source said 'options were further cuts to subsidies aimed at making it more economically difficult for current windfarms to operate and extra controls on planning permission'.

'Surveys consistently show public support for windfarms and green energy, even among Tory and Ukip voters. But Cameron remains under pressure from backbenchers to reduce support for onshore windfarms over planning concerns and the level of subsidies on household bills'.

April 2

In the run-up to European Parliament elections, a Campaign Strategy blog reports values-survey data showing 'Supporters of the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives are massively divided over their most powerful (and unconscious) values' and 'UKIP has little support outside the Settler values area but eroding it would be difficult without a long bottom-up process because the UKIP vote is a result of sustained neglect by other parties'.

It notes: 'Liberal Democrat support is concentrated in just two Values Modes, the TX Transcender and CE Concerned Ethical Pioneers. Values of LibDem supporters are almost the diametric opposite of the main Conservative supporter values, indicating the uneasy nature of their 'marriage of convenience' in the governing coalition. Any government politicians who have convinced themselves that they really share a common cause are deluding themselves: their supporters do not feel it.' It adds: 'UKIP and Conservative over-index amongst the over 65s but Labour has an advantage over the Conservatives in appealing to the under 34s'.

April 4

Reporting on the 'Big Field Wind Farm' row in North Cornwall, the Guardian observes 'windfarms have the power to change communities and political allegiances'. The Good Energy proposal for 11 turbines 'is dividing local opinion and may well influence voters in the general election'. It gives string of examples, with the church, farmers and residents divided and some switching from LibDem to UKIP or Tories. [On 8 May the LibDem MP loses his seat to the Conservatives].

April 8

LSE study finds large windfarms cut up to 12% from the value of homes within a 2km radius, and reduce property prices as far as 14km. The findings contrast sharply with a report by the Centre for Economics and Business Research in March, which found no negative impact on property prices within a 5km radius of a turbine.

April [10th?]

Eric Pickles extends extra call in powers on wind farms until the 2015 election. 'We have also introduced a new requirement for compulsory pre-application consultation with local communities for more significant onshore wind applications (i.e. of more than two turbines or where the hub height of any turbine exceeds 15 metres)'.

April 12

The UN's IPCC calls for "large-scale changes in the global energy system" 'and increased subsidy for green energy to help countries make the switch from fossil fuels'. Heaton-Harris, says "This ... is backward looking. We can be a lot greener, emit less carbon and produce cheaper energy if we switch to shale gas rather than ploughing our money into wind farms that plunge the poorest people into fuel poverty."

April 22

Chris Heaton-Harris MP reports that he met with Kelmarsh Anti-Wind Farm Campaigners in the Stags Head at Maidwell.

24 April

The Conservatives pledge that if elected with an overall majority in 2015 they will axe public subsidies for any newly planned onshore wind turbines. Existing windfarms or with planning permission would be protected but energy minister Michael Fallon says any further developments should not be subsidised' and 'changes to planning rules will also give communities more power to reject onshore wind projects not already in place or planned when the policy comes into force'.

April 24

Karl Mathiesen asks in The Guardian 'Will Tory plans kill onshore wind in the UK?' He writes that the majority of Brits are for windfarms, but the Tories have decided that the votes they need are not only opposed, but they are so strongly opposed they will decide their vote on it. Jennifer Webber of RenewableUK says the planning policy "will kill the industry dead".

April 24

RenewableUK chief urges the Conservative Party 'to work with the industry on cost reduction, and stop making arbitrary comments which threaten investment in all energy types ... we seem to have reached a point where the Conservatives are allowing UKIP to dictate Tory energy policy."

May 22

UKIP has a breakthrough in the European Elections, winning more seats than any other party - 24 – and getting 27% of the popular vote.

June 29

web.archive.org shows www.togetheragainstwind.com 'Latest Campaign' – "Stop The Wind Farm Folly Now' – 'Every new wind farm proposal is met by strong local opposition ... Write to the Prime Minister and to your MP calling on them to stop the wind farm folly' Plus 'Wind More Expensive Than Nuclear ?'

July 5

Chris Heaton-Harris retweets : RT @TimMontgomerie: Amazing: Fracking in America has cut CO2 more than all of the world's wind turbines and solar panels

July 20

In a reshuffle, Environment Secretary Owen Patterson loses his job. He accuses green NGOs, environmental officials and renewables companies of being 'the Green Blob'. He claims (wrongly) 'I was burnt in effigy by Greenpeace' and 'I encouraged the search for affordable energy from shale gas to help grow the rural economy and lift people out of fuel poverty'. After leaving, Patterson announces that he will give a lecture for the climate-sceptic Global Warming Policy Foundation. He is replaced by replaced by Liz Truss. At DECC the greener

Conservative Minister Greg Barker loses his job along with Secretary of State Michael Fallon who is replaced by Matt Hancock, a signatory of Heaton'Harris's 2012 anti-wind letter.

July 29

In ENDS Simon Inglethorpe says the departure of Greg Barker 'truly marks the end of an era' He points out that 'Barker was, after all, the man at Cameron's side on that heady, halcyon trip to the arctic in 2006'. His departure 'brings the Conservatives full circle from their decision eight years ago to detoxify the party's brand by embracing all things green. The need to outflank UKIP at the general election means the environmental agenda is now perceived by many in the party as a vote-losing liability'.

May 15

The government proposes ending 'Renewables Obligation' funding for larger solar projects from April 2015, because their rapid roll out could impact the 'levy control framework'. Industry sources call the move "entirely political" and 'due to pressure from Tory rural MPs reacting to UKIP's stance against solar farms'. The government also proposes a switch to 'Contracts for a Difference'.

August 9

In The Spectator, Simon Jenkins chairman of the National Trust asks 'Who are you calling a blob, Owen Paterson?'. He says that Patterson 'wore green wellies with panache, loathed Europe and wind turbines ... He was a sop to the shires and a bulwark against Ukip'. 'Paterson may claim to have been really fighting with the conservationists. We never saw him at the front'.

October 9

Heaton-Harris tweets Yesterday I had an article about energy prices published on the Breitbart Blog. You can read it here:... <http://t.co/TaQqez5Ddr>

October 23

As David Cameron arrives in Brussels to discuss carbon targets for the 2015 Paris climate summit, The Guardian reports that MEPs warn 'EU climate policy being 'taken hostage' by UKIP'.

October 28

Paul Hatchwell writes in ENDS 'there is undeniably more scepticism, even open hostility, towards environmental policies within the Conservative Party, perhaps hardened by rising influence from climate-sceptic UKIP'.

October 28

Guardian writer Polly Toynbee notes Eric Pickles has just halted his 50th onshore wind project and has pulled 85% of wind energy capacity out of the standard process 'for purely political purposes'. She adds: 'wind turbines ... have become symbols in the warfare between climate preservers (left) and climate-change deniers (right). Beauty is in the eye of the beholder – so to the Ukip/Mail/Telegraph/Tory MP faction they are monstrosities. To many others, the sight of those great slow-turning white sails raises their spirits as a symbol of hope. But this is an unbridgeable divide, in politics and in aesthetics, the two closely allied' and '... the great game-changer has been the arrival of UKIP, with its three main aims – out of Europe, end immigration and, oddly, a ban onshore turbines, which put the wind up Cameron.' She says Pickles' blocking of windfarms has lost over £500m in income in the last year and 2,000 rural jobs.

November 7

Chris Heaton-Harris tweets Can you help the "Independent Wind Farm Noise Working Group?" <http://t.co/7Qxo9fjD5r>

November 18

CCH blogs about 'Wind Turbines, Noise, Amplitude Modulation and the Den Brook Planning Condition'. It relates to a legal planning tussle over conditions for a windfarm proposal at Den Brook in Devon.

November 19

Chris Heaton-Harris tweets about Wind Turbines, Noise, Amplitude Modulation and the Den Brook Planning Condition. <http://t.co/gGXp7rFw2M>

November 20

Anti-wind Conservative MP Peter Bone writes: 'I remain a Tory, but Ukip is a good thing ... I am not defecting to Ukip, because I want an EU referendum – but Nigel Farage has filled the vacuum left by my own party'. Ukip 'has been a good thing for British politics' ... it has filled a vacuum on the right of British politics because the Conservatives have spent too much time worrying about the centre ground ... Margaret Thatcher [appealed to] ... voters who believe in traditional values so she was able to unify Conservative voters – those who did not normally vote – and Labour voters who liked her message. Unfortunately, the modern Conservative party has spent a lot of its time ignoring these voters, and on occasion deliberately antagonising them'.

'The vacuum left by the Conservative party ignoring much of its traditional base was filled by UKIP [with] ... very simple messages, such as control of immigration, leaving the EU, and ending the windfarm folly. All these policies resonate with traditional Tory voters, many non-voters, and increasingly Labour voters'.

‘Who would have thought the prime minister would be guaranteeing an in-out referendum, controlling migration from the EU, and ending windfarm subsidies? He has done this because of pressure from within the party, but also because of the rise of Ukip.’

‘In Corby ...The vote for Tom Pursglove and the UKIP candidate comes to 50% ... Yet at the moment, the intervention of UKIP splits ... So here we have Tom Pursglove, who wants to come out of the EU super state, wants to end the free movement of people from the EU, and is director of Together Against Wind (the National Anti-Wind Farm Campaign) being stopped from being elected by UKIP voters who want exactly the same thing. How can that make any sense at all?’

November 21

Chris Heaton-Harris retweets climate sceptic @BjornLomborg

November 21

The Daily Telegraph reports that the CPRE is “open” to fracking. Shaun Spiers, CPRE chief executive, says "Although we have serious concerns about the impact fracking could have on our countryside and rural communities, we are open to a debate”.

November 21

The Farm Power project calls for ‘massive rural wind and solar expansion’. Set up in 2013 by Nottingham Trent University, Forum for the Future and *Farmers Weekly*, and includes the NFU. It proposes wind turbine installation on 2,100 farms, equivalent to about 5% of UK farms above 100ha.

December

The site ‘togetheragainstownd.com appears to have remained unchanged from June 2014 (and up until March 2016).

2015

January 12

Planning Magazine reports that Eric Pickles blocked the development of 50 onshore wind farms last year by dismissing the advice of planning inspectors, deciding 28 recovered planning appeals involving onshore wind in 2014 compared with four the previous year. An industry players calls it an "extreme politicisation of the planning process".

January 21

Analysis by the Fabian Society finds that almost 6 in 10 (57%) onshore windfarm applications in the UK were rejected in 2014. The Guardian reports that the ‘rejection rate now double

that when coalition came to power'. Kris Hopkins, a Conservative Communities Minister responded that inappropriately sited wind turbines can be "a blight on the landscape, harming the local environment and damaging heritage for miles around".

The Fabian report advocates involvement of communities in designing projects from the start and making them more than just an energy project. It gives six examples of where this was successfully done. However Pickles had intervened to overturn even some of these such as at Killington.

February 24

Matthew Spencer, of Green Alliance, brokers an agreement between the Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and Labour parties 'to work collaboratively on climate change, regardless of May's general election outcome' but it does not include delivery issues in energy policy.

April 4

The Conservative Manifesto for the general election states "We will halt the spread of onshore wind farms" . This reverses their 2010 manifesto which said people would be 'encouraged to support onshore wind farms ... because local communities would retain the additional business rates they generate for six years'

April 15

UKIP publishes its manifesto. Among the energy policies it pledges to support fracking for shale gas and subsidies for wind turbines and solar panels, seek to rejuvenate the coal industry and abolish "green levies" to cut the cost of fuel bills.

April 28

Ahead of the general election, ENDS Magazine examines the environmental commitments in each party's manifesto. UKIP vows to scrap the Climate Change Act. The Conservatives say they will "cut emissions as cost effectively as possible" and "halt the spread of subsidised onshore wind farms". Labour says it would not introduce a moratorium on onshore wind and promises a decarbonisation target. All three main parties support shale gas extraction. The Conservatives pledge that they will renegotiate the UK's membership of the EU to 'reclaim powers' and 'give you a say over whether we should stay in or leave the EU, with an in-out referendum by the end of 2017'.

May 7

General Election: David Cameron's Conservatives win most seats and a working majority of 12. Nigel Farage, Nick Clegg and Ed Miliband all resign. In a 2019 BBC documentary Inside Europe Donald Tusk President of the European Council will reveal that Cameron told him he expected his Liberal Democrat coalition partners would block a Referendum on Europe. His unexpected electoral success changed the equation.

May 7

Climate sceptic and anti-wind campaigner Tom Pursglove, is elected MP for Corby and East Northamptonshire.

May 18

Carbonbrief reports that 61% favour the government either actively encouraging or allowing new windfarms to be built while a quarter would like the government to discourage or ban onshore wind. Opposition to onshore windfarms is higher among Conservative or UKIP voters, but is still outweighed by support.

June 9

The Daventry Express reports that villagers near wind farms at Kelmarsh, Winnick and Watford are complaining that changes to 'Community Benefit' payments mean they could lose out on over £2.6 million of good works over the next 25 years.

June 18

Chris Heaton-Harris tweets Today might well end up being a good day for communities threatened by wind farms: <http://t.co/RxQbD4dTUa>

June 18

Amber Rudd at DECC confirms it will end new subsidies to onshore wind through the Renewables Obligation (RO) by 1 April 2016 – one year earlier than originally planned. 'The RO will remain open to offshore wind until April 2018

June 18

The Guardian points out that the end of support to onshore wind comes on the same day as the Pope delivers his encyclical on climate change. It also reports 'there will be a grace period for projects that already have planning permission' and ... 'two new "planning tests" so that councils can only approve windfarms on sites that have been clearly designated as part of a local or neighbourhood plan, and where the proposed project has the backing of the local community'. Plus the European Commission warns that the UK is set to miss its renewable energy target for 2020'.

June 18

Guardian writer Damian Carrington argues that 'the decision to end subsidies for onshore windfarms early is pure politics. Too many Tory voters dislike the look of turbines and their party has delivered for them, whatever the fallout.'

June 19

Chris Heaton-Harris tweets

Thu, 12:49: V pleased with the onshore wind announcements. Intermittent, expensive and constantly backed up by gas turbines, onshore wind has had its day

Thu, 12:51: Important details of the onshore wind announcements can be found here: <https://t.co/DSdtZT80IV>

Thu, 12:55: From today until April '16 only turbines with planning consent, a grid connection and evidence of land rights will be eligible for subsidy.

Thu, 14:42: Why onshore wind is not green: <http://t.co/cLM918fhmZ>

June 22

Energy Minister Amber Rudd announces that 'the renewable electricity programme aims to deliver at least 30% of the UK's electricity demand from renewables by 2020'. 'At the end of April 2015, there were 490 operational onshore wind farms in the UK, comprising 4751 turbines in total'. We now have enough onshore wind in the pipeline, including projects that have planning permission, to meet this requirement comfortably'.

'... the Renewables Obligation [] will be closed to new onshore wind from 1st April 2016 – a year earlier than planned' 'We estimate that around 7.1 GW of onshore wind capacity proposed across the UK will not be eligible for the grace period and are therefore unlikely to go ahead as a result of announcement of the 18 June. That equates to around 250 projects totalling around 2500 turbines now unlikely to be built'. 'Onshore wind is an important part of our current and future low-carbon energy mix. But we are reaching the limits of what is affordable, and what the public is prepared to accept'.

July 1

The Climate Change Committee, calls for 'immediate action to ensure investor clarity if future carbon budgets are to be met'. It warns that although emissions have been falling much of this is due to one off events and that 'the pipeline' for carbon reduction projects 'beyond 2020 is less developed and is at risk'.

July 10

Paul Hatchwell writes in ENDS that a proposed Energy Bill 'bars onshore wind subsidies but boosts oil and gas'.

July 29

A Campaign Strategy blog says Chancellor George Osborne is 'laying waste to green measures'.

'The Conservative government has lifted a ban on bee-slaying neonicotinoid pesticides, and slashed support for wind, biomass and solar power, killed off its scheme for greening homes, cut incentives to chose cleaner cars, abandoned a plan for all new homes to be 'zero carbon',

reversed a pledge to keep fracking out of nationally important nature sites, dropped plans for taxing environmental 'bads', [and] announced it will start selling off its 'green bank'.

Why ? Mainly because it is pay-back time for the Conservative base, donors and business lobbies. Only a few of these changes were put to the electorate (unlike the economic policies of Osborne's recent budget) but amongst some British Conservatives, especially activists, there is a visceral dislike of environmental protections'.

Former Friends of the Earth Director Tony Juniper says 'the last few months mark the worst period for environmental policy that I have seen in my 30 years' work in this field'

August 28

A report, 'Powering Up: The Future of Onshore Wind in the UK' from the centre-right think tank Policy Exchange observes that 'The Government's recent planning policy announcements effectively halt onshore wind development altogether (in England)'. The new [NPPF] 'requirement for explicit site allocation in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan is effectively a presumption against sustainable development'.

It recommends the condition should be dropped and questions the claim that local communities oppose wind farms: 'this appears not to be backed up by the evidence. For example, a study of objections to the planning application for Bears Down wind farm in Cornwall revealed that 95% came from people living outside Cornwall, likely due to the large proportion (almost 50%) of dwellings in the area being second homes'.

The researchers also point to evidence that twice as many people oppose fracking as wind farms, and although most Conservatives support them, opposition is also concentrated amongst older, male and often rural dwelling Conservatives, saying: 'the demographic profile of objectors (particularly age and voting preference) may go some way to explaining the current Government's stance on onshore wind'.

A MORI poll shows that all categories of *actual* problems from wind farms experienced by local residents are much lower than anticipated problems. Over 80% experienced no problems.

September 26

Roger Helmer says at the 2015 UKIP Conference "after Brexit, we'll be free to implement a rational energy policy that can deliver the secure and affordable energy we so desperately need ..." and "There's been no global warming for eighteen years. The costs of renewables are increasingly unaffordable" ... "We've seen wind farm subsidies cut, and wind farm plans knocked back".

September 29

ENDS reports that the government proposes slash solar FIT Feed in Tariff payments to householders with pv solar panels by 86% from January. 'Wind power has also fared badly.

Turbines of 100-500kW are set to receive less than half the former payout'. And onshore wind will not be eligible for the RO's successor – the contracts for difference (CfD) regime'. The cuts are driven by the 'levy control framework' introduced by George Osborne.

September 29

Paul Hatchwell of ENDS points out that the Policy Exchange challenges DECC's removal of onshore wind subsidies and says that they are 'vital for affordable decarbonisation'. Policy Exchange (see August 28) argues 'onshore wind must remain eligible ... if the costs of decarbonisation are to be constrained'.

October 6

A RenewablesUK publication 'Wind Energy in the UK' says offshore and onshore wind power provide 15,500 direct and 15,078 indirect jobs. During the past year, less than 10% of new consents for onshore wind were in England, compared to 70% for Scotland.

October 24

Chris Heaton-Harris retweets a Bjørn Lomborg article claiming 'over the next 25 years, the contribution of solar and wind power to resolving the problem will be trivial – and the cost will be enormous'.

October 8

It could be lights out for solar power under this government says Terry Macalister in The Guardian. 'Ten times as many of the [steel] jobs lost at Redcar are at risk under the government's plans to cut solar power subsidies by 87% – and it may be schools that suffer most'. While subsidies for nuclear and gas power stations are increasing those for wind and solar power are falling.

November 8

ENDS reports that low carbon prices failed to eliminate coal, so Amber Rudd says intervention is needed'. All remaining unabated UK coal-fired power stations will be phased out by 2025 with restrictions on their operation from 2023. She wants more gas stations alongside renewables to plug the gap but the Climate Change Committee and NGOs fear this will hinder true decarbonization.

2016

January 18

Chris Heaton-Harris speaks at the Second Reading of the Energy Bill. He says:

'I was a bit of a "greenie" when I was first elected to the European Parliament back in 1999, and I enjoyed working with the hon. Member for Brighton, Pavilion (Caroline Lucas) on certain things. It confused the hell out of her, but it did not do me any harm, and we actually had some interesting areas of agreement on policy. In 2001, though, I met a young gentleman called Bjørn Lomborg, and my journey to the light side has continued since then. Between then and 2010, I was interested in energy but did not really pay it much attention. As a Member of the European Parliament there are some big issues to talk about, but one does not look at individual policy areas in the way that one does when one becomes a constituency Member of Parliament representing, as I do, 72,500 people in the beautiful constituency of Daventry.

When I came here, I had one majorly controversial onshore wind farm development in my constituency, and I thought that I would do what everybody else in this place would do. I met the developer and representatives of the industry from the British Wind Energy Association, as it was then, to talk through the problems that my constituents had with their development. When that organisation later morphed into RenewableUK, I still spoke to it about how to include communities in decisions —how to incentivise them to take onshore wind in their area by working with them, perhaps even giving them some sort of rebate on their energy bills, so that they felt they were attached to local energy production for consumption in their areas. I have to say—and I am pretty sure that history will prove me right—that the wind industry decided to ignore all my counsel.

Then talking about the need to listen to the views of local communities he continues:

'I had to learn this for myself first hand with regard to an onshore wind development in the beautiful village of Kelmarsh—along the A14, just down from the M1 junction —where a number of 126.5-metre turbines are currently being erected'.

[in fact Heaton Harris was campaigning against wind farms before being elected as a MP]

'I thought, as my constituents did, that if we formed a good local campaign with everything going for us, we could win the campaign and stop a proposed development being established on what was, in most people's judgment, an inappropriate site—a grade 1 listed site. That view was borne out by the planning inspector. Because the local council did the right thing and turned the application down, the developer appealed. The gentleman from the planning inspectorate in Bristol came to visit and made a stunning, groundbreaking statement that changed how I dealt with these issues and culminated in the pledge on onshore wind that I am so proud of in the Conservative party manifesto that saw us into government.

The planning inspector said all the things that the local community had been saying about the development being on an inappropriate site and about it being damaging to local communities, and gave a whole host of reasons why he should not approve it, but he then went on to say that national policy trumped all this, and therefore, "You are having this onshore wind development no matter what you would like." ...'

He also says:

'I would always argue in favour of local communities having way more say in developments. In fact, we should go even further and take the same approach as the French, whereby local communities are massively incentivised to get involved in taking on developments that are deemed unpopular elsewhere. Indeed, they choose to get involved: they have local campaigns for what would be very unpopular planning decisions in the United Kingdom, because they understand that they will be to their benefit.

I decided that I had to do my bit to try to change national policy, so I walked around the Lobbies of this place and found 100 other Members who felt similarly aggrieved about the way in which planning and onshore wind had been developed. I got them to sign a letter to the Prime Minister on how we should change things. I also noticed that, in 2011-12, we were already hitting our 2020 targets for onshore wind development capacity. Logic would suggest, therefore, that the subsidy we were giving to onshore wind was too high. The number of developments was such that we were going to shoot past the target without any trouble whatsoever.

The subsidy was too high and local people felt that they were being ignored. I would also argue that wind farms produce expensive energy, which puts people into fuel poverty and has contributed to energy prices going skyward at a time when the cost of energy is beginning to fall'.

And:

'Over time, I was delighted to be able to persuade, cajole, elbow, nudge and force my own political party into changing our planning guidance. However, that did not have too much of an effect until ... the former Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government reminded the planning authorities of exactly what he meant in his policy statements by calling in a number of developments at appeal stage and making the rulings himself.

We then went further and said in our manifesto that we would cut new subsidies for onshore wind, but that was not good enough for me: I had had enough of these people and how they dealt with my constituents, so I wanted to deal with them retrospectively. In the energy chapter of the manifesto, it was generous of the Prime Minister to take on my well-registered and well-documented concerns and my ideas about how we should progress, and to state that there would be no new subsidies for onshore wind ...'

And

'My constituents are annoyed by the noise and worried about health concerns. They cannot sell their houses as quickly as they would like'

January 23

UKIP leader Farage visits Northamptonshire for launch of 'Grassroots Out' bid to leave EU – Northampton Chronicle. He is joined in Wellingborough by local MPs Peter Bone and Tom Pursglove, who together with Labour MP Kate Hoey founded 'Grassroots Out'

February 11

Thomas Pursglove becomes a director of GO MOVEMENT along with Peter Bone, Lord David Stevens, Nigel Griffiths, Nigel Farage, Richard Tice, and David Wall. At this time Stevens is a UKIP Peer having been expelled from the Conservatives for writing in support of UKIP. The company is struck off on 21 February 2017 without filing any accounts.

February 12

ENDS reports that investors say confidence in the energy market is 'fading', due to 'rapid policy changes and uncertainty about long-term government support'. ENDS cites this as 'the key conclusion' emerging from the House of Commons Energy and Climate Change Committee on the impact of policy changes to renewable support and of energy secretary Amber Rudd's policy reset speech'. Comments from Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Glennmont Partners, Octopus Investments and the Townsend Group, support this.

February 16

The Express says the board of GO MOVEMENT is expected to be chaired by property entrepreneur Richard Tice. (Go Movement does not become the official Leave campaign but Tice goes on to co-found Leave.EU and work with Arron Banks and Nigel Farage before leaving to found Leave Means Leave after the Referendum).

February 17

Tom Pursglove and Peter Bone are to speak at the UKIP conference in March, reports the Guardian. It is 'a highly unusual move that is likely to antagonise their own party'. [Farage, Bone and Pursglove are all directors of Grassroots Out].

March 5

www.webarchive.org shows 'togetheragainstwind.com has been disabled'.

March 31

The Commons debates the Energy Bill, and votes not to 'relax the imposition of cut-off date after which new on-shore electricity generating wind turbines would cease to be considered renewable energy sources for the purpose of a legal requirement on generators to produce a certain amount of energy from renewable sources'.

May 12

Centre for Sustainable Energy publishes a guidance note: How to identify suitable areas for onshore wind development in a neighbourhood plan

May 12

The Energy Bill bringing forward the closure of the Renewables Obligation for onshore wind to 31 March 2016 (with a grace period for some projects to a year later) becomes law as the Energy Act 2016, after unsuccessful attempts to amend it in the House of Lords. It also establishes an independent Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) to promote exploitation of UK offshore resources.

May 26

At the website 'law and religion' David Pocklington analyses the planning tussle over onshore wind in Cornwall within the Church of England which has pitted the diocese, committed to sustainability, against local opponents. A Good Energy proposal for the 'Big Field Wind Farm' is opposed by Communities Against Rural Exploitation, (CARE), even though it is a revised proposal with smaller turbines has significant community ownership potential and could be subsidy-free.

June 23

In the referendum on EU membership 51.89% vote to Leave and 48.11% vote to Remain.

June 24

David Cameron resigns as Prime Minister triggering a Conservative party election contest won by Theresa May, becoming Prime Minister on 13 July .

June 27

In a LSE blog UKIP energy: promoting distrust and climate scepticism on social media, researcher Matt Reed finds 'UKIP is part of a wider wave of 'anti-reflexive movements', promoting distrust and doubt to further certain political ends'. ['Anti-reflexive refers to opposition to modernization of decision-making for example using environmental science to inform sustainable production]. Reed manually analysed 1,000 tweets by Roger Helmer MEP (UKIP energy spokesman) and Nigel Farage (UKIP Leader) in 2012 – 14, and used automated tools to analyse another 16,000. He writes: 'Very quickly it became apparent that UKIP had little to say about rural life, apart from some very generic statements about pubs and hunting with hounds'.

Deeper analysis 'started to suggest that this opposition to renewable energy generation nestled in a wider pattern of directing readers' attention to other arguments and opinions. Little use of hashtags or indexing terms in the tweets meant that they did not travel widely but were intended for those following the account. Rather than taking part in a wider debate most of the messages in the accounts were creating political messages. This strategy was reinforced by links to blogs, and websites that promote climate scepticism ...'

'The evidence in this paper showed that UKIP did not have an organised presence in rural areas but was taking opportunities where they found them'.

June 27

In the FT, Nick Butler writes ‘To a degree that often puzzles business leaders, energy policy in the UK (and in many other countries) is shaped by the emotional attachments of individual leaders to particular forms of energy and their hostility to others. The choices are not always rational on any objective economic basis’.

July 13

Theresa May becomes Prime Minister

October 19

Climate campaign group 1010 publishes an analysis of newspaper coverage of wind power and fracking by Sandra Bernick from Imperial College. Reader comments about onshore wind posted online ‘tend to be negative. Over half the comment pieces about onshore wind were negative’.

October 28

ENDS reports that ‘The UK has fallen to an all-time low in EY’s renewable energy country attractiveness index At fourteenth place, down from thirteenth in the spring, the country has now fallen behind Morocco. Brazil and Mexico are also far above it in the rankings’.

2017

January 18

Ahead of the March Budget, campaign group 1010 launches a petition against the exclusion of onshore wind and solar from government financial support, despite their being the cheapest renewables. ‘The government are blocking onshore wind from competing in their energy auctions which are known as Contracts for Difference (CfDs). The auctions have two pots of cash ... Pot One and Pot Two. Pot Two auctions are for less mature, newer technologies like offshore wind Pot One is for mature, established technologies like onshore wind and solar’.

Due to EU regulations, the government can’t exclude particular technologies from an auction. They have to be ‘technology neutral’. They can’t just run the auction but keep onshore wind out of it. ‘So instead, they’re not running any Pot One auctions at all .. and freezing out wind and solar’. 1010 says: ‘This contradicts another government manifesto promise to ‘decarbonise at lowest cost’.

March 16

The government announces details of the second contracts for difference (CfD) round covering 2021-2023. It does not include any money for solar pv or onshore wind. The Levy Control Framework is to be abolished with new controls to be announced by Treasury later in 2017.

April 4

Sam Hall from *Bright Blue* writes at Conservative Home: ‘Polling shows ‘70 per cent of Conservatives are concerned about the impacts of climate change’ and ‘most British Conservatives (60 per cent) accept the scientific consensus that climate change is happening and is mostly caused by human activity. Indeed, this was the majority position of all types of Conservatives: young and old, Remain-voting and Leave-voting, men and women’.

‘Conservatives have a more positive view of renewable energy forms like solar, tidal, offshore and onshore wind, and biomass, than they do of nuclear and fossil fuels. Even more remarkably, new onshore wind developments, which the last Conservative manifesto pledged to halt, are supported by a majority (59 per cent) of Conservatives, provided they did not receive any subsidy’.

May 4

ENDS finds that investors are increasingly turning to storage due to poor prospects for renewable generation in the UK. ‘In the last quarter of 2016, only 38 [generation] projects were commissioned, falling to 21 between January and March. In contrast, an average of 275 independent projects have been completed each quarter since 2013.’

May 11

UK renewables growth rate halved in 2016 reports ENDS. ‘The main drivers of growth continue to be onshore wind and solar PV. Yet both of these have been hit by exclusion from the now closed Renewables Obligation and the contracts for difference (CfD) regime that has replaced it, as well as deep cuts to feed-in tariffs. These policy changes led to negative sentiment across the sector from 2015, with effects on project pipelines’.

June 8

In a General Election called by Theresa May, the Conservatives take 330 seats with 36.9% of the vote, Labour under Jeremy Corbyn take 232 seats with 30.4% and UKIP loses its only seat and its vote falls from 12.6% to 1.8%. The Conservatives form a government with a 12 seat majority through a confidence and supply arrangement with the Ulster DUP.

June 13

Roger Helmer MEP (formerly Conservative then UKIP) is to stand down in July ‘amid investigation into alleged misuse of funds’ – The Guardian. He is said to face a demand from the European Parliament over a bill close to £100,000 for ‘alleged misuse of public funds’ (illicitly employing a UKIP party worker, Paul Oakden, as his assistant).

[Oakden was also working as UKIP’s Party Chairman, against EP rules. He resigns in February 2018 after working for five different party leaders. Oakden was sacked as Agent by Conservative MP Andrew Bridgen in 2008. Oakden pretended to be a pilot on a dating website and posted pictures of himself with an Aston Martin which in fact belonged to Andrew Bridgen who subsequently described him as a ‘political suicide bomber’.]

‘Helmer is one of eight Ukip MEPs who has been investigated by European parliament financial controllers for alleged misuse of EU funds in 2017. Investigations are ongoing into the offices of Ukip former leaders Paul Nuttall and Nigel Farage, as well as other MEPs, including Raymond Finch, a Farage protégé’.

June 17

The Guardian reports that on what one grid manager called “stunning Sunday”, June 11, ‘a record 70% of the electricity for the UK’s homes and businesses was low-carbon, as nuclear, solar and wind crowded out coal and even gas power stations’. Plus ‘on one Friday in May, solar power briefly eclipsed the UK’s eight nuclear power stations and ‘the grid recently went without coal for an entire day for the first time’.

‘Last week ... high wind output pushed down the wholesale price and resulted in negative power prices, which means some conventional power plants had to pay household suppliers like British Gas to take their electricity’.

‘In Germany, lower power prices driven by the country’s green energy boom have wiped billions off the share prices of energy giants E.ON and RWE’.

Duncan Burt, who oversees daily operations at the National Grid, says: “It’s one of these things where we’ve tipped through a threshold”

July 23

Engineering consultancy Arup says the government should look again at onshore windfarms which can be built as cheaply as gas plants and deliver the same power for half the cost of Hinkley Point.

July 28

‘The rate of growth in renewable energy sector jobs has been slashed by more than two thirds over two years, coinciding with a rollback in government policies and funding since 2015 and Brexit uncertainty’ reports ENDS.

September 11

Roger Harrabin BBC environment analyst writes that ‘Energy from offshore wind in the UK will be cheaper than electricity from new nuclear power for the first time. The cost of subsidies for new offshore wind farms has halved since the last 2015 auction for clean energy projects’.

September 11

According to Carbon Brief ‘the UK government today awarded contracts worth £176m to 11 low-carbon electricity schemes, with offshore wind the big winner’. Two offshore wind schemes won contracts at record-lows of £57.50 per megawatt hour (MWh). This puts them among the cheapest new sources of electricity generation in the UK, joining onshore wind

and solar, with all three cheaper than new gas'. The offshore wind schemes 'are also close to being subsidy-free'.

'In late 2016, BEIS projections suggested offshore wind projects coming online in 2025 would cost around £100/MWh – far more than new gas and comparable with new nuclear'.

'Note that BEIS has so far refused to run so-called pot 1 CfD auctions for onshore wind, solar and other "established" technologies'.

Consultants Baringa Partners say auctions could secure 1GW of onshore wind for £46/MWh, which would be effectively subsidy-free. Meanwhile, Cornwall Energy says some onshore schemes could offer CfD bids as low as £40/MWh.'

24 September

Simon Clarke, Conservative MP for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland writes an article at Conservative Home website: 'The case for lifting the national bar on onshore wind'. He says there has been 'a huge fall in the cost of offshore wind in Britain', and ... 'as Ambrose Evans-Pritchard wrote in the *Daily Telegraph* recently, we have the opportunity to become the Saudi Arabia of wind power'.

September 26

Energy Minister Claire Perry opens the first 'subsidy free solar farm' in the UK near Flitwick in Bedfordshire. The Clayhill development also features five battery storage units.

October 24

Heaton-Harris is at the centre of controversy after writing the universities demanding "the names of [their] professors involved in the teaching of European affairs, with particular reference to Brexit" as well as requested "a copy of the syllabus" and "links to online lectures." Universities denounce it as 'McCarthyite' and 'sinister'.

25 October

The Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU) says "outdated" policy on onshore wind could cost the UK around £1bn over the next four or five years. ECIU states that price reductions mean onshore wind farms do not need a subsidy, but most developments still require centrally-agreed fixed-price contracts. It says '1GW of new onshore wind farms would be £30m cheaper a year than offshore wind, and £100m less than new nuclear or biomass plants' but the UK's "effective ban" on support for onshore wind is blocking development of the cheapest technology.

'Surveys consistently show onshore wind to be one of the most popular forms of energy in the UK. The government's own most recent results show that nearly three in four Britons (73%) support onshore wind (Figure 6), with only 16% of respondents unhappy to have a large scale renewable energy development in their area.

October 26

ENDS reports that the government-commissioned review by Oxford economist Dieter Helm has called for 'radical change' to the operation of the UK energy system including 'a universal carbon tax', redefinition of grid operators, a single bidding auction for all energy technologies and 'removal of government from decision-making in the country's low-carbon future'.

November 8

Chris Goodall, blogger at 'Carbon Commentary' writes that 0.1% of 16-44 year olds 'strongly oppose' onshore wind. He says: 'Every few months the UK government interviews 2000 people about their views on energy. These surveys show the gradually rising popularity of renewables, including onshore wind. I looked at the underlying data ... and found that just 1 person between 16 and 44 from the entire interview panel was 'strongly opposed' to wind. (Want to know more? She lives in a rural area, earns a high income and supports other renewables. She doesn't like fracking). By contrast, 235 respondents in this group 'strongly supported' the technology'.

'Across all age ranges, wind seems to be rising in popularity. The only group with more than a few opponents are those over 65. And yet the reduction in those opposing onshore wind has been fastest in this age range. Media coverage shouldn't start from the assumption that people don't like turbines. Wind power is popular. Vastly more popular than fracking'.

'Energy minister Richard Harrington said at this year's Conservative Party conference that *'Provided that it goes through a reasonable local planning system, I see no reason why it should not be on the same level playing field as everything else'.*

'Young people are almost universally in favour. However, all age groups have increased approval of onshore turbines in the last few years ... people in rural areas – despite repeated assertions to the contrary – are typically more in favour of wind ... however, more rural interviewees were also 'strongly opposed' although the numbers are tiny.'

Even among the over 65s, only 4% 'strongly opposed' onshore turbines.

November 23

The Guardian reports that the Treasury says there will be 'no subsidies for green power projects before 2025'. New windfarms, solar plants and tidal lagoons, 'have been dealt a blow'. 'The Treasury said it had taken the decision to "protect" consumers'.

November 24

In ENDS magazine Renewable Energy Association's James Court, says: "The UK government seems to be turning its back on renewables by announcing no new support for projects post 2020. The Chancellor talked about embracing the future in his speech, yet hid away the details that he was blocking all renewables to market".

Chancellor Philip Hammond also freezes fuel duty for the eight year running.

2018

January 16

The Independent reports a '56 per cent plunge in investment in renewable energy in 2017' which 'marks the second successive year that financing has fallen in the UK. It follows a ban on subsidies for onshore wind farms and huge cuts to help for solar power'

Mary Creagh, the Labour chairwoman of the Commons environmental audit committee, says: "Current rates of investment simply won't deliver enough renewable energy to meet our legally binding carbon reduction targets. Losing European Investment Bank funding if we leave the EU could make the problem even worse."

January 16

ENDS writes that Dieter Helm defends his review against energy industry critics which he dismisses as 'vested interests'. Leaders of the energy and renewables industries say his Helm's model of the energy market is unrealistic, and 'philosophically consistent but not based on real-world evidence'.

February 11

The Daily Telegraph reports that the row over onshore wind 'threatens to re-ignite' within the Tory party after 'energy ministers Claire Perry and Richard Harrington alarmed their backbench colleagues by revealing that they are working on ways to support future projects.' Emma Pinchbeck, of Renewable UK, agrees that "the political debate about onshore wind has begun to shift because the economics have changed".

February 12

ENDS Report says, that energy ministers are 'talking up onshore wind' at the same time as the fracking 'boom' may have 'gone bust'. It notes that 'Greenpeace journalists at Unearthed have had sight of "confidential Cabinet Office projections" which they say show that the government is not expecting a fracking boom on the scale predicted by the industry'. Shale gas industry backed studies anticipated 4,000 horizontal wells by 2032 but government projections now put the figure at 155 by 2025.

February 14

Figures published by trade body WindEurope show more onshore wind power capacity was installed in the UK in 2017 than offshore wind, reports ENDS. 'However, WindEurope ... warned the growth in 2017 was the result of projects being "pushed through the gates" to

benefit from feed-in tariffs, ahead of the widespread shift to auction-based systems, and could leave to a large drop-off in the medium term’.

March 9

Earlier this week, the government published a draft of a revised version of the NPPF for consultation. - ENDS Report The Town and Country Planning Association ‘fears that a proposed change to the framework’s wording could “downgrade” the planning system’s obligation to deliver on the provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008.’

March 19

Greenpeace’s Unearthed team announce that the government says the 2016 Shale Gas Implementation Report cannot be released for reasons of exemptions concerning ‘commercial interests’ and ‘formulation of government policy’ and the 155 wells figure may now be ‘out of date’ even though they are confirmed as still the most recent available.

March 27

For Carbon Brief Simon Evan reports that ‘Developer Renewable Energy Systems (RES) has planning permission to build 200MW of onshore wind and solar capacity in the UK, which it intends to develop without government support’.

March 29

‘With government’s decarbonisation drive high on ambition but low on funds’ plugging the low-carbon finance gap is now urgent ‘to ensure the UK can meet its low-carbon commitments beyond 2020’ says Paul Hatchwell in ENDS. ‘... there will be no new renewables levies until at least 2025 – just when decarbonisation needs to ramp up to help meet the fourth and fifth carbon budgets through to 2030 ... Enough has been set aside for offshore wind projects in the planning pipeline up to 2020 ... But after this the cupboard is bare, particularly following the ending of feed-in tariffs and Renewable Obligation funding for onshore wind’.

April 26

‘Coal generation at new low, consumers love renewable energy’ says ENDS report and ‘Coal generation falls 28%’ (BEIS statistics). ‘The low-carbon share of electricity from the major producers was up 3.9 percentage points to 45.1% as a result of more renewables’. The energy and climate change public attitude tracker commissioned by BEIS finds that 72% are worried that the UK is becoming “too dependent on energy from other countries”, and 71% feel the UK is “not investing fast enough in alternative sources of energy” up from 66% a year ago. Support for renewable energy is very high (85%), up from 79% last year’, with only 3% opposed.

May 11

Pro-wind groups led by 1010 says the Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) on onshore wind, (HCWS42 - issued 18 June 2015) 'has had a hugely damaging impact ... since June 2015, there has been a 94% decrease in the number of planning applications for onshore wind projects in England, representing a 92% drop in potential new installed capacity. There has been just one application for a community-led wind initiative, which is a single-turbine project'.

May 16

Catherine Early writes in ENDS that Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee says the fall in renewables investment is dramatic and worrying" and questions the UK's ability to meet its legally-binding carbon reduction targets. It blames 'changes to policy in 2015, including closing the renewables obligation to onshore wind one year earlier than planned, reducing feed-in-tariffs for small-scale renewable generation, cancelling the zero carbon homes policy due to come into force in 2016 and scrapping the £1 billion carbon capture and storage competition'. These changes damaged investor confidence in low carbon projects, say MPs.

The UK's vote to leave the EU has also contributed: the European Investment Bank (EIB) contributed €15.69 billion between 2006 and 2016, and in 2016, the EIB €5.5 billion but only €1.9 billion in 2017.

May 24

ENDS reports that the UK's first subsidy-free wind farm has gained financial backing. Withernwick II extension project in Yorkshire has secured a long-term financial contract with a leading supplier, known as a power purchase agreement (PPA), to bring the project to fruition.

May 25

An onshore wind farm application first proposed by Good Energy south of Bude in Cornwall in 2014 (Big Field) is turned down in the High Court.

May 28

The Cornish and Devon Post summarises the history of the rejected Good Energy 'Big Field' windfarm in 'Dismissal of plans for Big Field Wind Farm 'will be a huge sigh of relief' for local people, says MP'. Conservative MP Scott Mann said he is 'delighted'

June 12

The Unilever-owned brand Ben and Jerrys joins 1010 in campaigning for onshore wind. Adam Vaughan writes in The Guardian that 'With names like Strawberry Breezecake and Cherry Gale-cia, ice-cream maker pushes for government re-think'.

June 28

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) warns that unless action is taken now, the public faces an unnecessarily expensive deal to make the shift to a low-carbon economy - ENDS

Report. 'In its tenth annual report since the Climate Change Act 2008 came into force, the CCC said the government should support "simple, low-cost" options such as onshore wind and home insulation if it is to meet legally-binding targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the 2020s and 2030s'.

July 25

A YouGov survey of MPs for the ECIU shows just 8% of Members of Parliament know that onshore wind farms are now the cheapest way to add electricity generating capacity. 12% believe that large nuclear power stations, like Hinkley Point C, provide the cheapest new capacity.

MPs also overestimate opposition to onshore wind. The most recent Government survey shows that just 2% of the population strongly opposes it but only 9% of MPs think that the figure is less than 5%. Most (52%) believe 'strong opposition' to be above 20%. A separate poll finds that a majority of voters support lifting the Government's de facto ban on new onshore wind projects. 66% would support a change in policy so that onshore wind farms can be built in areas where they have local backing.

July 30

Carbon Brief writes that 'fossil fuels supplied 80% of the UK's primary energy in 2017, a drop of one percentage point compared to 2016. This is the lowest ever share in the modern era.

August 28

A report by carbon thinktank Sandbag shows new onshore wind and solar power can now compete with 'the short-term costs of generating electricity from existing coal and gas plants in Europe' (ENDS Report).

August 26

Renewable energy consultant Alison Fogg writes at Spin Watch about her experiences of anti-wind campaigning in the South West: 'Connecting The Dots: A Firsthand Account Of How The UKIP Surge Drove The Tories To Sabotage The Renewables Industry'. She describes how in 2014 she found that it was almost impossible to get positive press coverage in the local *North Devon Journal* because of links between UKIP, the "Slay The Array" campaign against an offshore wind farm, and the local branch of the CPRE, whose chair, Penny Evans, had stood for UKIP. She reports 'At one Slay the Array meeting, a 59-year-old supporter of the Array plans was ejected after asking too many questions. This man was then beaten up. And that was at a renewable energy event'. The main suspect 'was described by police as "wearing a purple jacket with a UKIP badge"'.

August 30

Clive Betts MP, chair of the Commons' Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee and a leading advocate of 'localism', contrasts the way the Conservative government treats local communities over fracking and over onshore wind:

"It's very interesting the difference between onshore wind and fracking," he tells ENDS. "Onshore wind is a no-no, the local community has got to agree it first, but with fracking they're going to get it whether they agree or not – the contrast there is absolute and completely ridiculous."

August 31

A report by RenewablesUK 'Onshore Wind Powering Communities' reveals that 2017 was 'a record year for onshore wind deployment, with 2.6GW installed across the UK; enough to power more than 1.8 million homes. However the main driver was an impending 'deadline to accredit for the Renewables Obligation scheme' and as 'new onshore wind projects are currently barred from taking part in competitive auctions.

October 20

Professor David Toke blogs that the Treasury is aiming to change policy so that 'almost all future development for renewable energy in the UK will be stopped. Continued incentives and tax breaks for nuclear power, shale gas and conventional power stations will, however, remain in place.' It wants to end Contracts for a Difference (CfDs), end 'all incentives to solar pv, including for solar power exported to the electricity distribution system', and 'the carbon price floor which makes fossil fuel more expensive and non-fossil sources relatively cheaper'.

November 13

Carbon Brief interviews Sir John Armitt chairman of the Infrastructure Commission about the first infrastructure assessment. Carbon Brief asks 'the report describes the shift to green energy as a golden opportunity for ministers.

November 18

Business and Energy secretary Greg Clark delivers a speech on the energy market, 'After The Trilemma: 4 Principles for the Power Sector'. Clark says the "energy trilemma" is "coming to an end". "Cheap power is now green power ... it is no longer true that when it comes to electricity, you can only choose two of the three things that we really want: green, cheap and secure."

Zero subsidy say Clark should be a principle, and 'it is looking now possible, indeed likely, that by the mid 2020s, green power will be the cheapest power. It can be zero subsidy'.

December 12

As Prime Minister Theresa may faces an internal challenge arising from the Brexit debates, ENDS Report analyses the environmental positions of potential Conservative leadership

contenders. As well as Michael Gove, current DEFRA Secretary, these include Sajid Javid, Boris Johnson, Jeremy Hunt, Penny Mordaunt, Dominic Raab, Jacob Rees-Mogg and Amber Rudd. There are not many upsides.

2019

January 7

ENDS reports: 'Treasury to target green energy programmes as part of spending review'. Chief Secretary to the Treasury Liz Truss writes in the *Sunday Telegraph* "'We must be prepared to junk the white elephants, the programmes that haven't worked'.

Leo Murray of 1010 tweets 'What green energy policies? There's only two left - CfDs for offshore wind and the carbon floor price, both of which have been spectacularly successful. New nuclear?? Which is what we all think of when we think white elephants obviously. But the military need nuclear. Hmmmmm'

January 8

'People who install solar from April will have to give away surplus' until a new scheme launches, writes Adam Vaughan in The Guardian. Conclusions on a government consultation on will not be concluded until perhaps months after the current FiT ends on 31 March.

January 20

Chris Heaton-Harris's website states under 'campaigns - Wind Energy/Planning':

'Working to cut subsidies for wind farms and limit onshore wind farms are one of Chris' main policy focuses. He has made numerous speeches in Parliament on the topic and organized a letter to the Prime Minister signed by over 100 MPs calling for drastic cuts in on-shore wind farm subsidies. Chris has also worked to call attention to the problems created by wind farms for local residents including noise, visual intrusion and their effect on wildlife. He is working with a number of local communities, helping them to fight both wind-farm proposals and giving local committees a greater say in their future.'

'To join the national grassroots campaign against on-shore wind farms and to find out more about what is being done, please click here: <http://www.togetheragainstwind.com/>' [defunct]

'To find out more about how Chris is working to change the Government's policy on wind energy and to read recent publications concerning wind turbine noise, please click here.'

'To read the recent Hansard of the debate concerning the Energy Bill (HL) 2015-2016 please click here and to read Chris' individual contribution to that debate, please click here (begins at Column 1188).'

'If you would like more information about this or would like Chris to help you object to a local on-shore windfarm proposal, please e-mail him at chris.heatonharris.mp@parliament.uk'

January 31

Greg Clark Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, writes in a letter published in the Financial Times, 'the global energy market is changing fast. Cleaner sources of power, such as offshore wind, have fallen in cost to the point they will soon need no public subsidy ... Britain's electricity requirement for the 2030s is not a problem of shortages but the much better challenge of abundance. In fact, the last contract for difference auction in the UK procured 3 gigawatts of offshore wind — equal to the capacity of a nuclear power station — for only £57.50 per megawatt hour'.

Clark states 'We are committed to nuclear power as part of a diverse energy mix' citing Hinkley Point C, Sizewell C and Bradwell and then qualifies it: 'But none of these can be at any price, hence the decision to set limits on consumers' and taxpayers' exposure to the costs of Wylfa'.... 'The developing technology and economics of energy mean that we have a wider choice of power at a lower price than ever before, much of which can be deployed within years rather than decades'.

He continues: 'supplies are secure and costs are falling. Rather than resist this by applying rigidly an approach put together a decade ago, our policy is allowing taxpayers and consumers to take advantage of these developments', signalling that 'this summer ... our energy white paper ... will set out how this can benefit industrial and commercial customers'.

ends