

Plan B press release

CCC advises Government to prepare for apocalypse

Today the Committee on Climate Change, the Government's statutory adviser, published its progress report to Parliament, *Reducing UK Emissions*¹. The report advises the Government to consider preparing for a 4°C world as a priority action for all departments (see Table 1, page 25). Tim Crosland, Director of Plan B, the climate charity which brought successful litigation against the expansion of Heathrow Airport said:

"In 2008 the CCC advised the Government that 4°C was the threshold of "extreme danger"², to be avoided at all costs. Today it is advising the Government to consider preparing for a 4°C world. As the leading climate scientist, Professor Johan Rockstrom has recently warned, a 4°C world implies the loss of not just millions but billions of human lives³, with racially marginalised communities and those in the Global South in the front line. It is madness to prepare for such a world and madness that the Bank of England is financing such an outcome⁴. To the contrary the Government, along with the G20 and others, must do everything possible to transition our economy to bring it into compliance with the Paris Agreement temperature limit of 1.5°C, which it is Government policy to follow. It has no democratic mandate to use the COVID-19 financial stimulus to drive us to destruction. As polls⁵ and Citizens Assemblies⁶ have shown, people are demanding the green transition that according to the IEA⁷ will create far more jobs than the alternative. If the Government ignores the interests of its citizens in favour of the tax-avoiding, polluting corporations who are lobbying it with such fervour, then urgent legal action and mass civil disobedience will be necessary, in the UK and elsewhere."

1

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Reducing-UK-emissions-Progress-Report-to-Parliament-Committee-on-Cli...-002-1.pdf>

2

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/Building-a-low-carbon-economy-Committee-on-Climate-Change-2008.pdf>

3

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/may/18/climate-crisis-heat-is-on-global-heating-four-degrees-2100-change-way-we-live>

4

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/-/media/boe/files/annual-report/2020/climate-related-financial-disclosure-report-2019-20.pdf?la=en&hash=5DA959C54540287A2E90C823807E089055E6721B>

5

<https://positivemoney.org/2020/05/new-polling-only-12-want-uk-to-prioritise-economic-growth-over-wellbeing/>

6

<https://www.climateassembly.uk/news/interim-briefing-post-lockdown-steps-aid-economic-recovery-should-drive-progress-net-zero-target/>

7

<https://www.iea.org/reports/recommendations-of-the-global-commission-for-urgent-action-on-energy-efficiency#recommendations-of-the-global-commission>