

# Net Zero Worse Than Climate Change

What if the Net Zero cure is worse than the Climate Change Disease?

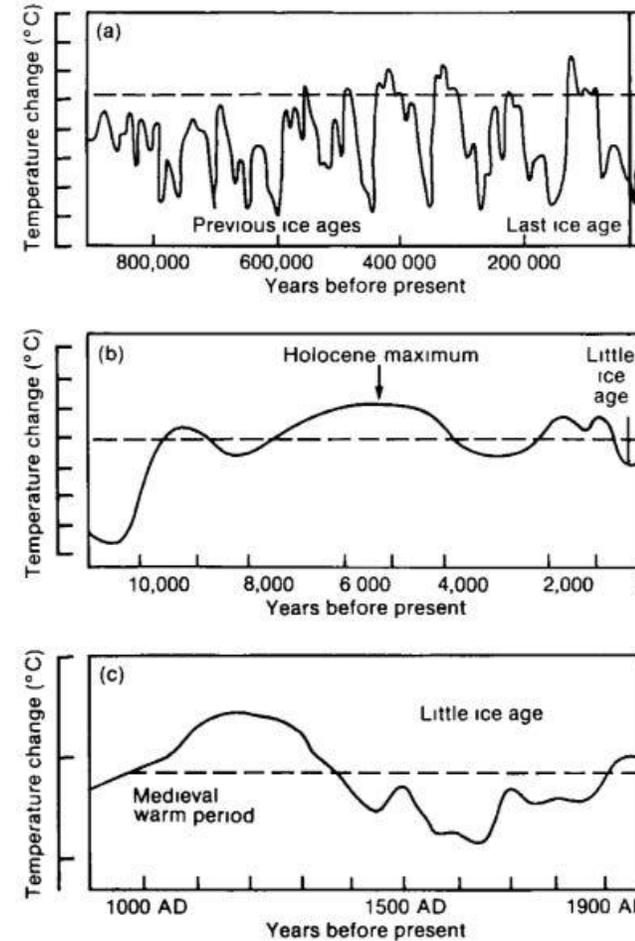
January 2025

# Mitigation and Net Zero

- ▶ Antonio Guterres foolishly says we have entered the era of global boiling, but the world has only warmed a bit
- ▶ The alarmist response to global warming is Net Zero
- ▶ This is the so-called mitigation strategy that calls for everyone to reduce their emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases to “save the planet”

# Mitigation Conditions

- ▶ Mitigation can only work if CO<sub>2</sub> is the only climate control knob, but...
- ▶ The IPCC's first report showed temperatures fluctuated markedly in pre-historic times when CO<sub>2</sub> levels were stable.
- ▶ Clearly, this condition is not met.



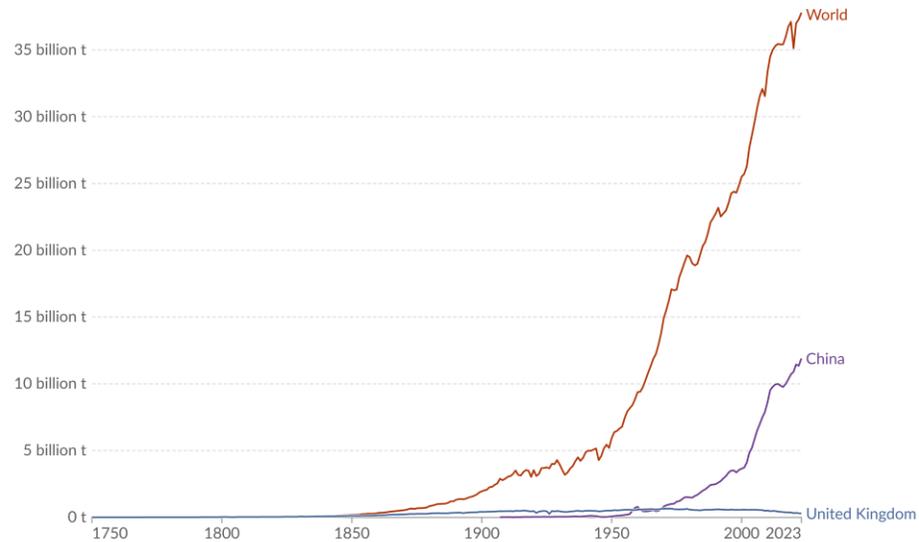
# Mitigation Conditions

- ▶ Mitigation can only work if everyone else follows the same strategy, but...
- ▶ Global emissions are still rising even as ours have fallen into insignificance
- ▶ Consumption of oil, coal and gas at record levels
- ▶ Clearly, this condition is not met

## Annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from fossil fuels and industry<sup>1</sup>. Land-use change is not included.

Our World  
in Data



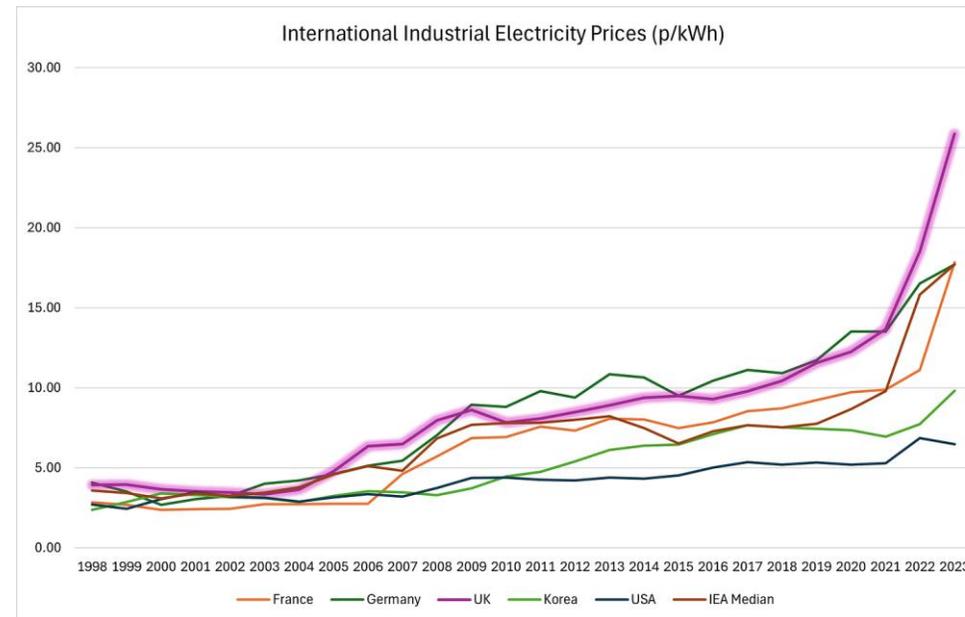
Data source: Global Carbon Budget (2024)

OurWorldinData.org/co2-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions | CC BY

1. **Fossil emissions:** Fossil emissions measure the quantity of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emitted from the burning of fossil fuels, and directly from industrial processes such as cement and steel production. Fossil CO<sub>2</sub> includes emissions from coal, oil, gas, flaring, cement, steel, and other industrial processes. Fossil emissions do not include land use change, deforestation, soils, or vegetation.

# Impact: High Electricity Costs

- ▶ The dash for Net Zero has increased electricity costs
- ▶ According to IEA data published by the Government, the UK has the highest electricity costs in the developed world.
- ▶ 4X those of the US and 2.6X Korea.

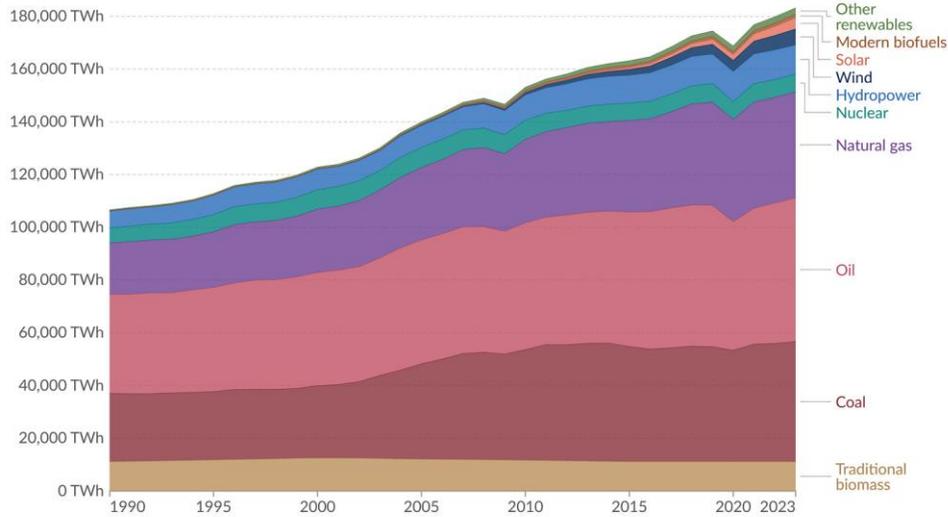


# Impact: Energy Austerity

EIGEN  
VALUES

### Global primary energy consumption by source

Primary energy<sup>1</sup> is based on the substitution method<sup>2</sup> and measured in terawatt-hours<sup>3</sup>.



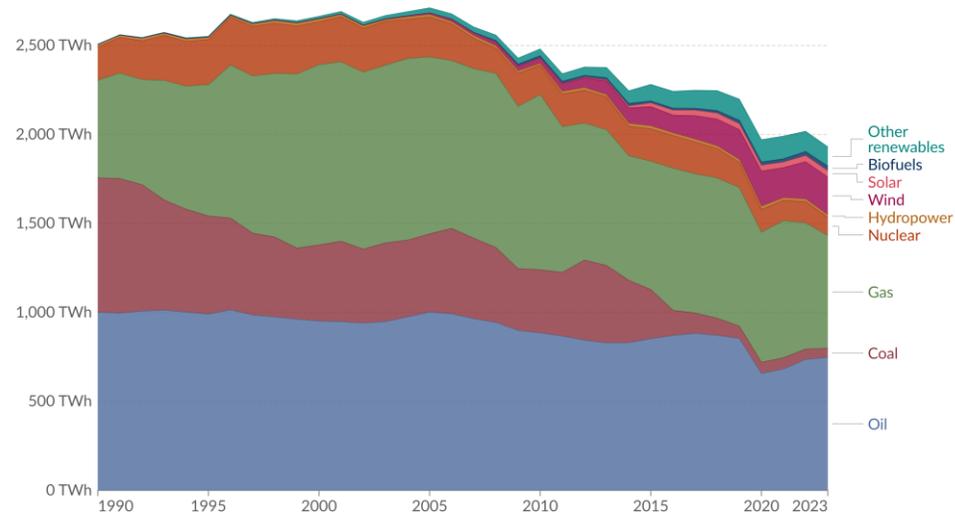
Data source: Energy Institute - Statistical Review of World Energy (2024); Smil (2017)

Note: In the absence of more recent data, traditional biomass is assumed constant since 2015.

OurWorldinData.org/energy | CC BY

### Energy consumption by source, United Kingdom

Measured in terms of primary energy using the substitution method.



Data source: Energy Institute - Statistical Review of World Energy (2024)

Note: "Other renewables" include geothermal, biomass, and waste energy.

OurWorldinData.org/energy | CC BY

**Global Energy Consumption Up 72%  
since 1990**

**UK Energy Consumption Down 23%  
since 1990**

\*NESO wants to halve 2023 energy consumption per capita by 2050.

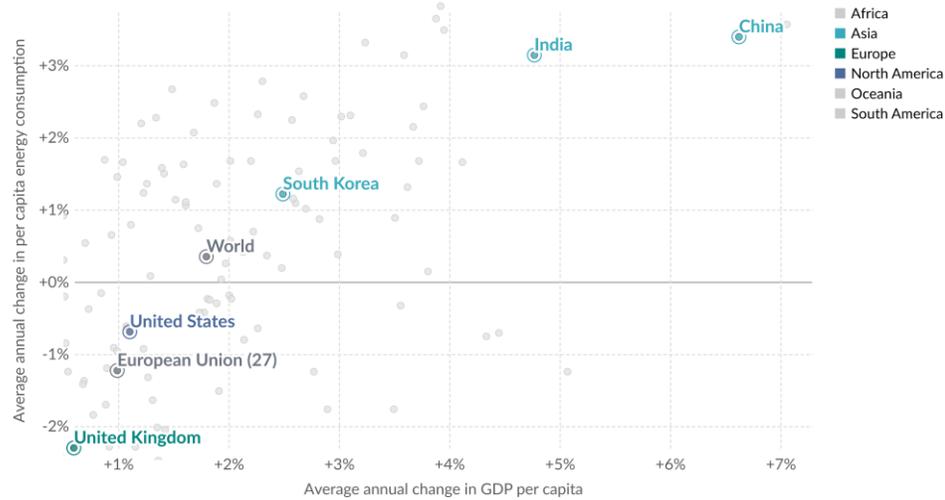
# Impact: Economic Stagnation

EIGEN  
VALUES

## Energy use per person vs. GDP per capita, 2008 to 2022

Energy refers to primary energy, measured in kilowatt-hours per person, using the substitution method. Gross domestic product (GDP) is adjusted for inflation and differences in the cost of living between countries.

Our World  
in Data



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (2023) and other sources

Note: GDP data is expressed in international-\$ at 2017 prices.

OurWorldinData.org/energy | CC BY

## CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita vs. GDP per capita, 2008 to 2022

This measures CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuels and industry only – land-use change is not included. GDP per capita is adjusted for inflation and differences in the cost of living between countries.

Our World  
in Data



Data source: Global Carbon Budget (2024) and other sources

Note: GDP per capita is expressed in international-\$ at 2011 prices.

OurWorldinData.org/co2-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions | CC BY

Cutting Energy Use Reduces  
Economic Growth

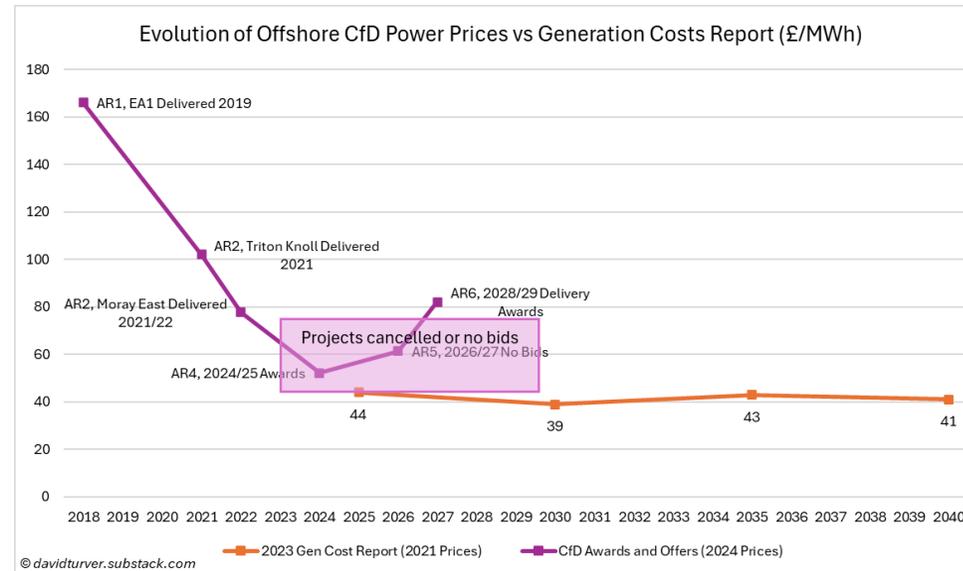
Cutting CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Reduces  
Economic Growth

# Net Zero Energy Policy Myths

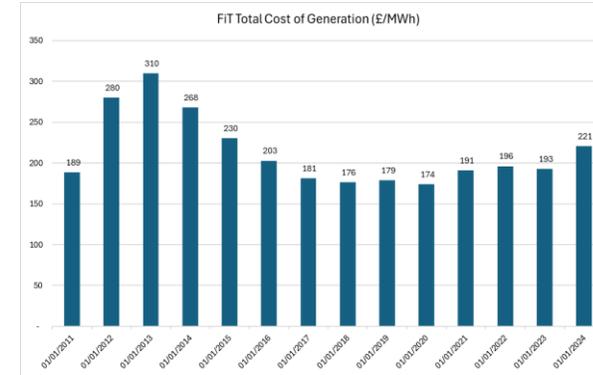
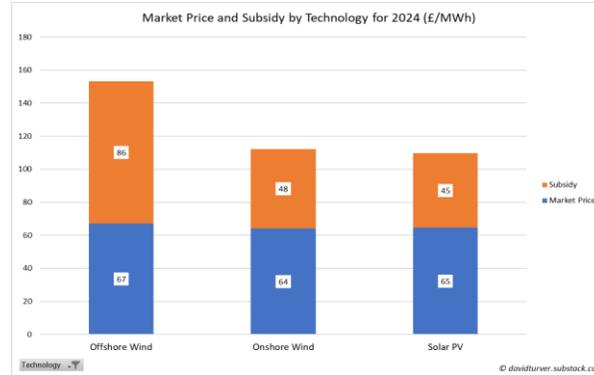
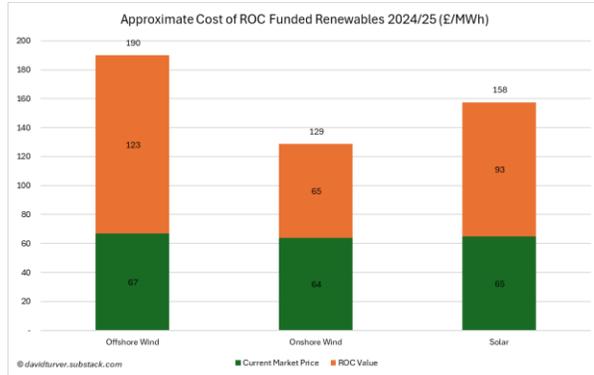
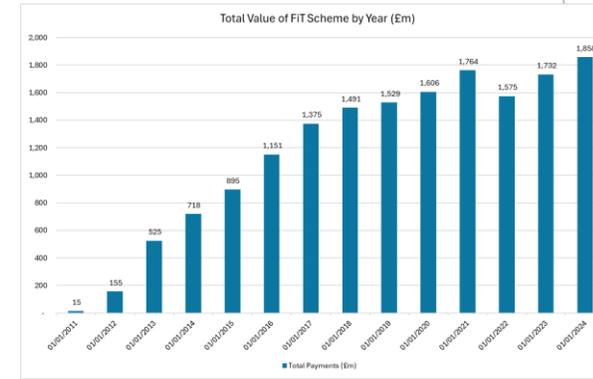
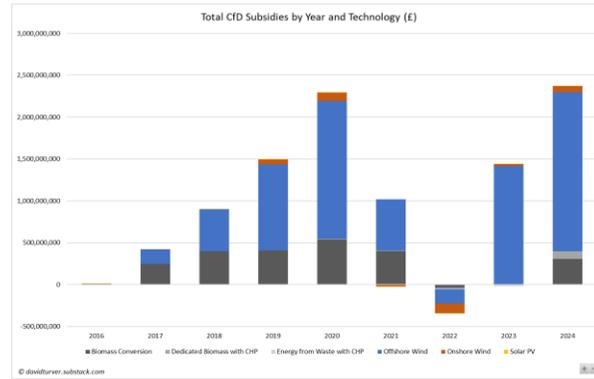
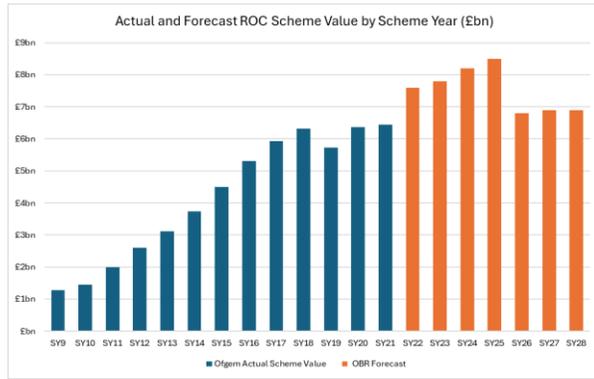
- ▶ Despite the obvious economic and social costs of Net Zero, a series of myths have been created to support the renewables agenda:
  - ▶ Renewables are cheap
  - ▶ Net Zero will create jobs and growth
  - ▶ Renewables will improve energy security
  - ▶ Renewables are green and kind to environment

# Myth #1: Renewables are cheap

- ▶ Miliband and commentators have claimed renewables are nine-times cheaper than gas.
- ▶ Truth: The cost of Renewables is rising.
- ▶ Truth: £260-290bn on CP2030 to save ~£7bn/yr on gas.
- ▶ Truth: We pay ~£11bn/yr in subsidies, £2.5bn for grid balancing and £1bn for the capacity market. £112bn more planned for grid expansion by 2035.



# Myth #1: Renewables are cheap



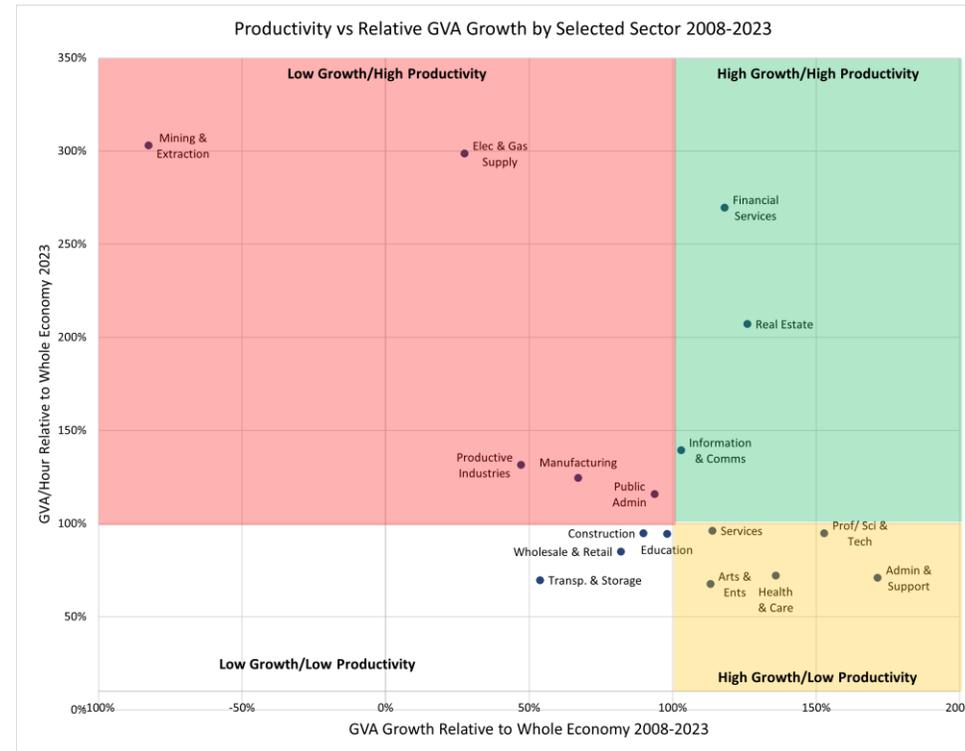
ROCs: £7.6bn / £190/MWh

CfDs: £2.4bn / £154/MWh  
Market price: £67/MWh

FiTs: £1.9bn / £221/MWh

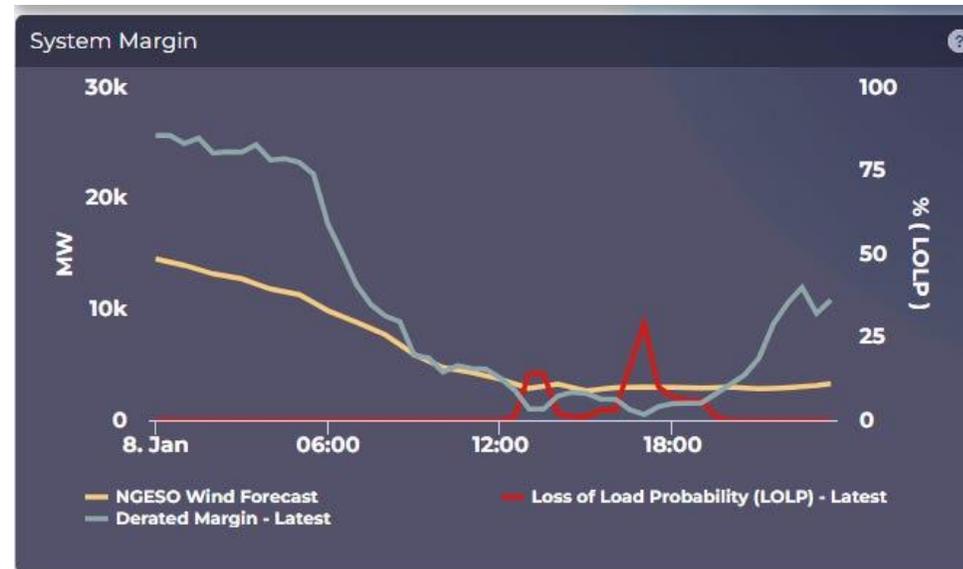
# Myth #2: Net Zero will create jobs and growth

- ▶ Labour's number one mission is economic growth
- ▶ Mission #2 is to make Britain a clean energy superpower to create jobs.
- ▶ Truth 1: Net Zero is destroying jobs and productivity.
- ▶ Truth 2: Green jobs are destroying real jobs and cost ~£250K/yr per job.



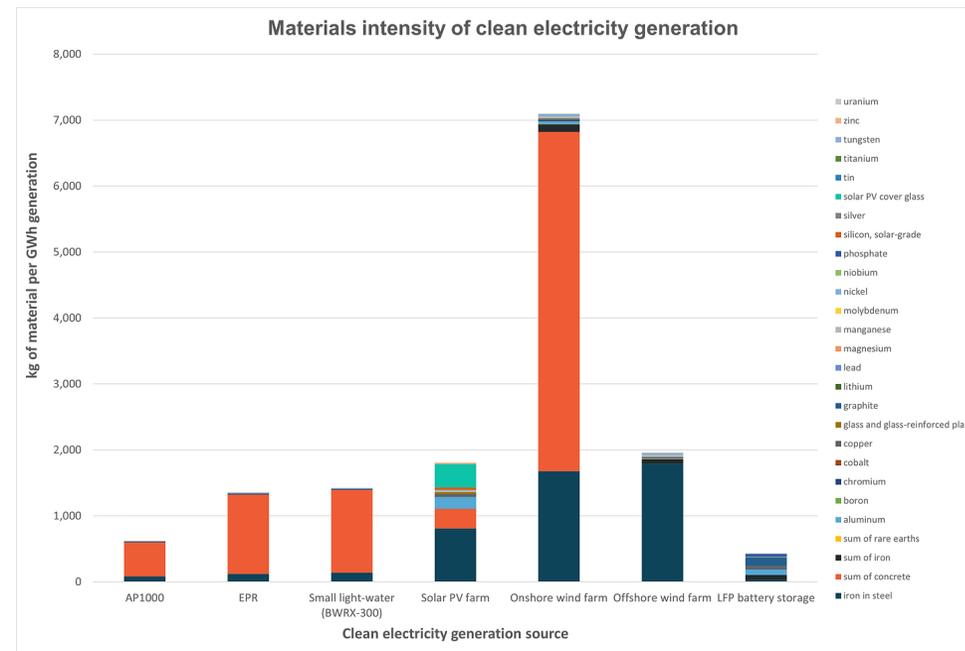
# Myth #3: Renewables increase energy security

- ▶ Miliband has claimed wind is part of our journey away from energy insecurity.
- ▶ Truth: On 8<sup>th</sup> January we came close to blackouts as NESO suffered a margin call.
- ▶ Truth: Output from 30GW of wind capacity fell to <0.1GW on 22<sup>nd</sup> January
- ▶ Truth: Solar produces nothing on cold winter evenings when demand is highest.
- ▶ We can't rely on interconnectors



# Myth #4: Renewables are “green”

- ▶ Successive energy ministers including Miliband and Shapps have referred to clean, green energy
- ▶ Truth: Solar, onshore and offshore wind have very high mineral intensity and large land requirements.



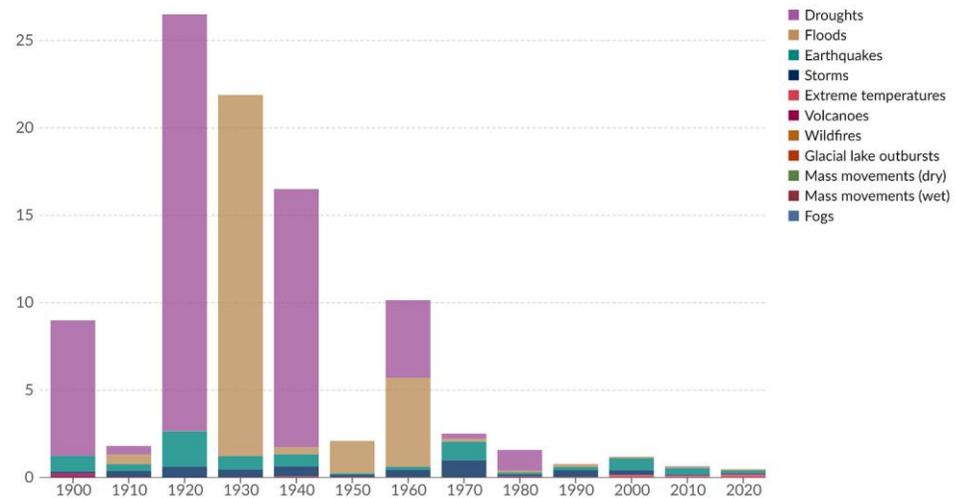
# Adaptation is a far superior strategy

- ▶ Adaptation has been a remarkable success, global death rates from natural disasters and weather events have plummeted, despite rising temperatures.

Decadal average: Death rates from natural disasters, World

Death rates are measured as the number of deaths per 100,000 people.

Our World  
in Data



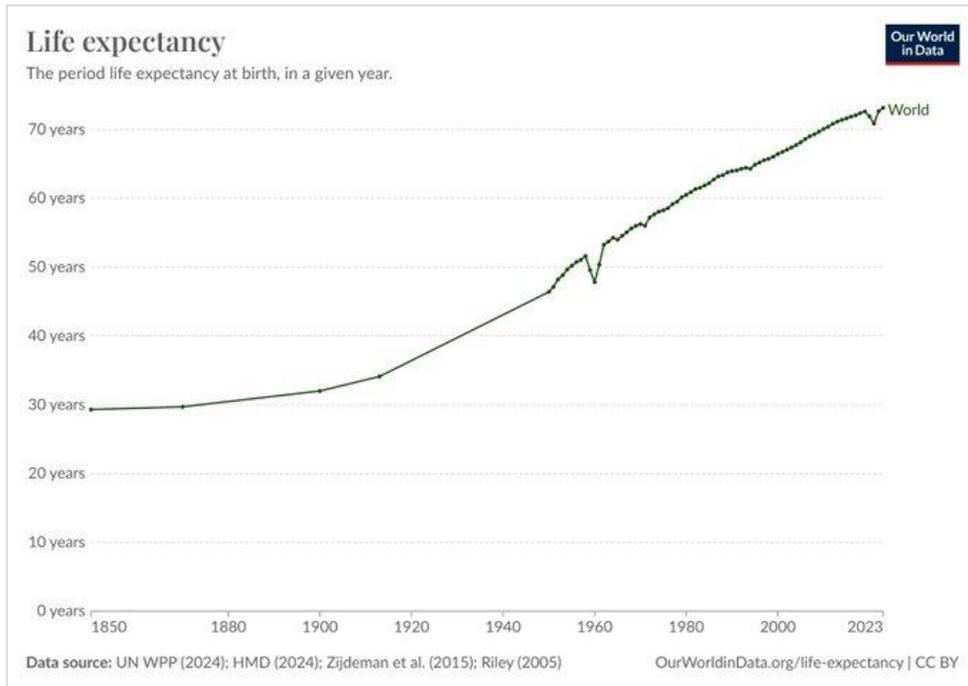
Data source: EM-DAT, CRED / UCLouvain (2024); Population based on various sources (2023)

Note: Data includes disasters recorded up to April 2024.

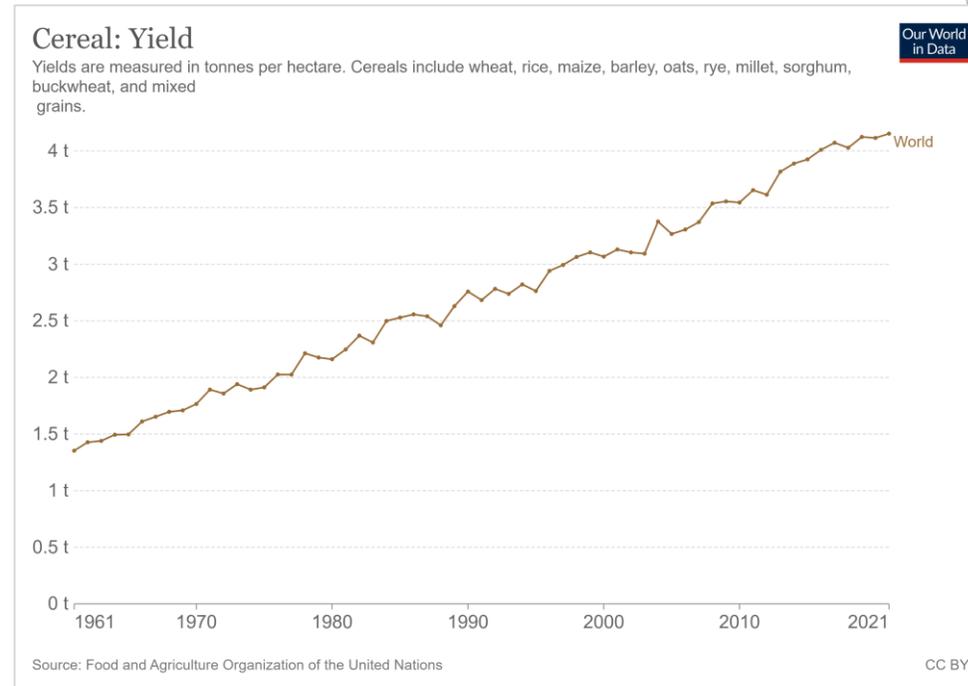
OurWorldInData.org/natural-disasters | CC BY

# Adaptation is a far superior strategy

EIGEN  
VALUES



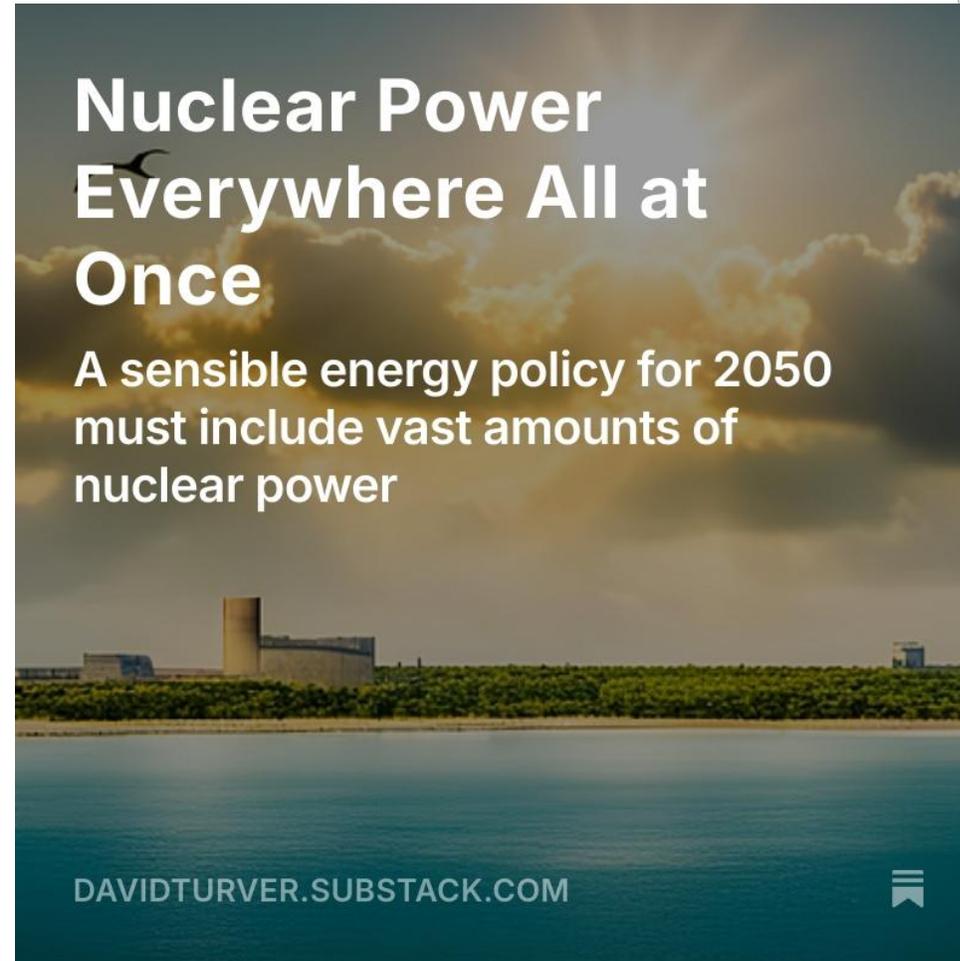
Life Expectancy Up 2X Since 1850



Cereal Yields Up 3X Since 1961

# What is the answer?

- ▶ Cheap, abundant, reliable energy
- ▶ Gas to nuclear strategy for energy abundance
- ▶ Continue to adapt:
  - ▶ Crop varieties
  - ▶ Irrigation
  - ▶ Flood Defences
  - ▶ etc.
- ▶ Nuclear power everywhere, but we need to bring down costs and rebuild skills



# Conclusions

- ▶ Net zero is ineffective in achieving its primary goal and can never stop the weather changing
- ▶ The impact of Net Zero policies is devastating for the economy and high productivity, energy intensive industries in particular
- ▶ The lies told to promote renewables are untenable
  
- ▶ The Net Zero cure is worse than the climate change disease.

# Where to find me

- ▶ My Substack can be found at [davidturver.substack.com](https://davidturver.substack.com)
- ▶ I can be found on X/Twitter as [@7Kiwi](https://twitter.com/7Kiwi)