

Carbon dioxide levels keep rising



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The more the UK cuts emissions of CO₂ the more the rest of the world increases them. Someone sent me the 2018 latest figures from the BP Energy Review. Since 2010 world CO₂ emissions are up 9% whilst the UK has been cutting. Last year there was a 2% global rise, with only the UK and Europe down. The increases were led by China, India and the rest of the world excluding the USA and Europe.

China still uses coal for more than half her energy demands, whilst the UK has eliminated coal in its generation mix. Last year an additional 280 million barrels of oil equivalent of gas, oil and coal was consumed, compared to just 100 m barrel equivalent increase in non carbon renewables and nuclear. Renewables now account for just 4% of world energy, with hydro and nuclear 11%, whilst coal represents 27% and oil and gas 54%.

Those who see rising carbon dioxide as a major threat need to answer the simple question what are they going to do about the huge increases in fossil fuel use outside the UK and Europe. The figures show even if the UK succeeded in eliminating net carbon usage world use and output of CO₂ would continue upwards with no visible impact of the UK on the world graph. It will take major changes of behaviour and investment in China, India and the other large carbon users to shift the numbers in the way climate campaigners want.