

Caroline Lucas condemns approval of Rosebank oil field



Green Party

27 September 2023

- **“This Government must be held accountable for its complicity in this climate crime”**

Caroline Lucas, Green Party MP for Brighton Pavilion, has the following response to the approval of the Rosebank oil field:

“Giving the green light to this huge new oil field is morally obscene. This Government must be held accountable for its complicity in this climate crime.

Amidst a summer of raging wildfires and the hottest July on record, this Government approves the biggest undeveloped oil and gas field in the North Sea – set to produce more than the combined CO2 emissions of all 28 low-income countries in the world.

Energy security and cheaper bills aren’t delivered by allowing highly-subsidised, foreign-owned fossil fuel giants to extract more oil and gas from these islands and sell it overseas to the highest bidder.

They come from grasping the opportunities of unblocking and upscaling abundant and affordable renewables, and properly insulating the nation – ensuring clean air and water, thriving nature and wildlife, and high-quality skilled and stable jobs in the process.

If we’re going to secure this liveable future, we must stop all new fossil fuel projects like Rosebank once and for all.”

ENDS

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Greens call for Braverman sacking



Green Party

26 September 2023

Responding to Suella Braverman's US speech [1], Green Party co-leader Adrian Ramsay said:

"This is a horrifying speech from a British Home Secretary that would not be out of place on a far-right conspiracy website.

"It is language straight out of the gutter that should have no place in a fair and compassionate society.

"The Prime Minister should have the decency and moral courage to sack the Home Secretary now.

"Suella Braverman has singled out gay people seeking asylum despite the fact they make up around 1.5 per cent of applications and come mostly from countries where being openly gay can lead to a lifetime in prison or even a death sentence.

"She claims that so-called uncontrolled and illegal migration is an 'existential challenge for the political and cultural institutions of the West', when our country draws its strength from the diversity offered by centuries of migrants sharing their skills and experiences and building lives here.

"The international refugee convention has proved a cornerstone of protection for people around the world and serves as a reminder to every country of our shared obligations.

"We need a government that recognises its international responsibilities and sits down with its neighbours to work out how to create the safe, legal routes that enable people to seek asylum without risking their lives."

Notes

1. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/uk-politics-66922119>

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Conservative inaction fuelling economic crisis, Greens warn



Green Party

21 September 2023

Responding to the news that the Bank of England has held interest rates at 5.25%, Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer said:

“Today’s decision to hold interest rates will come as some relief to households who have been finding it hard to make ends meet over the last couple of years.

“However, keeping the base rate at 5.25% will do nothing to actually help those who are struggling as a result of this Conservative government’s complete and utter inaction in the face of an economic crisis.

“It’s clear the Bank of England feels it has been left with no option but to use the blunt instrument of rising interest rates over the last few months, and risk recession, due to the fact that the Chancellor and Prime Minister see no need to do anything to help those who need it right now.

“It is clear as day that these two millionaires simply cannot see the devastating impact the current economic climate is having on millions of households.

“What we need to do is look for ways to support the economy without fuelling inflation by shifting consumption from the wealthy to those on lower incomes.

‘This means paying public sector workers in line with inflation and funding this through taxing the super-rich. Shifting spending power in this way would reduce any potential consumption impact on inflation without piling pressure on the struggling majority.

“It is the companies currently making billions in profits and the most wealthy who can and should bear the burden of a crisis rooted in inequality.

“At the same time, an increase in Universal Credit of £40 per week, and the same for legacy benefits, would provide immediate support to those that need

it right now.”

ENDS

For more information or to arrange an interview contact the press office on press@greenparty.org.uk or call 0203 691 9401

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[Sunak's u-turn a symptom of government climate policy failure, warn Greens](#)



Green Party

20 September 2023

Responding to Rishi Sunak's press conference in which the Prime Minister confirmed he is weakening the government's net zero policies, Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer said:

“This is a desperate and dangerous u-turn from the Prime Minister which will throw the UK economy, the wellbeing of its citizens and the future of our environment out the window in a misguided attempt to create divisions for political gain.

“More than anything this speech sounded like an admission of the government's failure to implement climate policy in a way that brings people with them while showing the benefits of a more sustainable future.

“The government should be taking responsibility and leading the way by investing in the green transition, rather than putting the burden onto individuals. At the same time, it needs to be honest with the public about the need to reach net zero and what it will take to get there.

“We know that people are extremely concerned about the environment [1] and want clear leadership and action on the climate. This means insulating people's homes, investing in renewables and making sustainable transport more affordable, accessible and convenient.

“Not only would this help the UK reach its climate commitments but it would also help households through the cost of living crisis through cheaper bills and creating jobs.

“Instead, we have a government which is going backwards on all of these things, stoking fears of change and undermining the good work already being done.

“And let’s not pretend there isn’t the money around to make this happen. The government is currently spending billions of pounds subsidising the fossil fuel industry [2] which is actively making the climate crisis worse, costing us all billions more in the process.

“Meanwhile, a wealth tax on the richest 1% could go a long way to fund the changes necessary to reduce emissions and ensure those with the broadest shoulders play a part in improving the lives of those who are struggling right now.”

ENDS

Notes

1

<https://www.ipsos.com/en-uk/public-importance-climate-change-and-environment-doubles-become-joint-third-biggest-issue-facing>

2

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/mar/09/fossil-fuels-more-support-uk-than-renewables-since-2015>

For more information or to arrange an interview contact the press office on press@greenparty.org.uk or call 0203 691 9401

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[Sunak’s net zero roll back “economic and environmental vandalism”, say Greens](#)



Green Party

20 September 2023

Responding to the news that the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is due to weaken the government's net zero policies, Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer said:

"This is nothing short of economic and environmental vandalism that will mean higher energy bills, fewer jobs and lost investment all while weakening the UK's climate action even further.

"Households are already paying way more than they should be doing to heat their homes because of the last time the Conservatives decided to 'cut the green crap' [1], while businesses are crying out for more certainty from the government over the green transition which so clearly needs to happen.

"The UK is already not doing enough to reach its climate commitments [2]. Watering them down further, instead of ramping them up, will make it even harder to achieve these and further damage the UK's climate credentials around the world.

"This reckless political gimmick will mean higher energy bills, colder homes, fewer jobs, more dirty air and more climate chaos. Meanwhile, Labour is not saying it will restore anything the Conservatives undo if they are elected at the next election. [3]

"Once again, this shows why it is so important to elect a group of Green MPs to hold whoever is in government to account and fight for better protections for both people and planet."

ENDS

Notes

1

<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2022/mar/19/david-cameron-green-crap-energy-prices>

2

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/uk-action-on-climate-change/progress-snapshot/>

3

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66862498>

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