

## Supporting Renewables & Banning Fracking

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I am amazed, but perhaps shouldn't be, by the sheer hypocrisy or even lies put out by this government in its response to a petition to ban fracking I signed recently. The government claim it is not a renewables versus fracking choice, but the evidence shows that this is clearly not true.

The Tories have cut support for the wind and solar power industries sooner than they planned, while retaining the millions of pounds a year subsidy to the fossil fuel industry. In addition they are spending billions a year decommissioning the old Nuclear Power stations, and are now seeking measures to overrule local councils if they don't decide on fracking planning applications quickly enough.

They argue that they need to reduce the support for renewables to reduce household bills. This is just an accountancy trick to ramp up their rhetoric against renewables while pretending to support them. Luckily for us the cost of the fossil fuel subsidy and decommissioning Nuclear Power stations isn't put onto household energy bills, but we pay for it in the end through general taxation.

The government claim they and their fracking friends will adhere to the strictest environmental protection standards. If this is to be believed then they would not even consider sanctioning fracking, due to the harm it does to the local environment. They can put in all the safety measures they want for fracking, but in the case of multiple wells in the USA plus the nuclear accidents in Fukushima and Chernobyl, an accident has only to happen once to destroy the local environment forever.

If the Tories were truly committed to combating catastrophic climate change and saving the local and global environment, they would put the resources being invested in the dash for gas into renewables.

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