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Section 2

Two Key UK Reports

Version 1 – April 2023

2a Summary of Absolute Zero by UK Fires

Introduction

The Absolute Zero Report was published in November 2019 by UK FIRES (a group of academics from the following six UK universities: Cambridge, Bath, Nottingham, Strathclyde, Oxford and Imperial College). UK FIRES is a research programme sponsored by the UK Government. The goal is to reduce UK emissions by 2050 by focusing on resource efficiency within the UK's Future Industrial Strategy.

It is another report in the 'Climate Crisis' arena that claims to be rooted in science. This claim needs to be challenged.

Net Zero Emissions by 2050

The report claims that by using the technologies already in existence today and by everyone adopting incremental changes, we can meet our legal commitment of net zero emissions by 2050. What is the significance of 2050 - why that date? Theresa May *'In her last significant act as Prime Minister changed the UK's Climate Change Act to commit [the UK] to eliminating greenhouse emissions in the UK by 2050',* thus making the UK the first G7 country to legislate for net zero emissions. (The links to The Climate Change Act 2008 and the subsequent amendment can be found below).

The report includes 'Key Messages' for industrial sectors and individuals. Here we will focus on individuals.

- 'Living well': it is claimed we can increase sports, social life, eating, hobbies, reading, tv and music without impacting emissions.

- 'Travelling': take the train rather than the car, cars to be smaller and electric and we are told to stop using planes. **By 2029 all airports in the UK except for Heathrow, Glasgow and Belfast will close. Between 2030 and 2049, those airports will close too and, by 2050, there will be no air travel at all. As ships cannot operate emission free, shipping will have to end. No shipping in 2050.**

- 'Heating and appliances': use the boiler less by only heating one room, wear warmer clothes in winter, change to an electric boiler, buy smaller and more efficient appliances, and **lobby for means-tested support for housing retrofit of such appliances**.

- 'Purchasing': avoid using cement when extending your home but use re-cycled or re-used materials. Reduce the total weight of material purchased each year, lobby

businesses/government to reduce material use and extend material life. **The end of use of cement in building will result in smaller and more expensive homes.**

- 'Eating': reduce consumption of beef and lamb, choose locally sourced food, use fewer frozen meals, lobby supermarkets to support local farmers using less fertiliser. **All consumption of beef and lamb will cease by 2050. All consumption of overseas food that are not imported by rail will cease by 2050 (NB no shipping or flying by 2050).**

Key quotes from the report

- Breakthrough technologies in the energy system such as carbon capture and storage are in their infancy such that they will not materially reduce emissions by 2050. Therefore the focus must be on harnessing already existing technologies and reducing usage/consumption;
- **Evidence is that modern bio-fuels are incompatible with wide sustainability of life on Earth**;
- **We need to use 60% less energy than we do now; the report maintains that we can achieve this with small incremental changes to our habits without detrimentally impacting our lives**;
- **The price of carbon must be prohibitively high by 2050 - this can be done by increasing the price or restrictions on use of carbon becoming ever more strict.**

It is perhaps worth recalling that Imperial College London played a material role in providing the justification for the Covid-19 'pandemic' lockdown policies via its modelling and that Oxford University played a key role in providing the 'solution' for those 'pandemic' policies in the form of a 'vaccine'. Are we are now supposed to trust them with the next emergency - the 'Climate Crisis'? Absolute Zero is not a bottom-up, grassroots environment agenda but rather, like Covid-19, part of the top-down UN global agenda of control as explained by James Corbett in the Corbett Report: https://www.minds.com/CorbettReport/blog/absolute-zero-the-global-agenda-revealed-1276376830613393419

Some people have questioned the validity of Absolute Zero being a government directive. However, the government paid for the research by Cambridge University and then debated it in the House of Lords giving it utmost importance and endorsing it as a blueprint for policy. https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-02-06/debates/22BE288A-6BCF-4D5A-BE0E-F3EFAB702D4A/ClimateChange

The Climate Change Act 2008
https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents

The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019Amendment
https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/1056/contents/made

Theresa May Amendment

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-theresa-may-we-will-end-uk-contribution-to-climate-change-by-2050

Absolute Zero
https://www.repository.cam.ac.uk/bitstream/handle/1810/299414/REP_Absolute_Zero_V3_20200505.pdf?sequence=9&isAllowed=y

2b Summary of The Future of Urban Consumption in a 1.5°C World
C40 Cities Headline Report (June 2019)

Introduction

The Future of Urban Consumption in a 1.5°C World has been co-created and co-delivered by C40, Arup and University of Leeds with funding from Arup, University of Leeds and Citi Foundation.

ARUP, C40 Cities and University of Leeds claim that the research proves that activities of humans cause more greenhouse gas emissions ('GHG') than was previously understood.

C40 Cities

The report states that C40 Cities (a network of mayors from around 100 of the world's largest cities) together represent 10% of the GHG emissions and, unless action is taken to address these emissions, that they will double by 2050.

The report relies upon the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ('IPCC') which published research in October 2018 as justification for action. This IPCC research indicated an average temperature rise of 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels is the number to preserve a hospitable temperature on the globe. (Note the Paris Agreement talked about 2°C above pre-industrial levels.)

C40 claims if this is not achieved, then many cities will face an 'existential threat'. It is important to understand many climate scientists across the world disregard the findings of the IPCC on the basis they represent political opinion rather than scientific fact. C40, ARUP and the University of Leeds should be challenged on this and asked to justify their reliance on IPCC data and research.

Consumption based emissions

The report focuses on consumption based emissions (previous research had focused on production based emissions) and argues that if the global temperature rise is to be kept below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, then consumption based omissions must be cut by at least 50% by 2050. The report states this can be achieved (in combination with city-wide initiatives) by people changing their behaviour and activities.

High income areas need to cut emissions more aggressively - two thirds by 2030 - on the basis that the majority of emissions come from such areas. (Permeating the thinking is the concept of 'fairness'). Many of the people living in C40 Cities do not have their basic needs

met, which means those living in high income areas must reduce consumption more quickly to ensure 'fairness'). This is where the C40 Mayors can have a major influence by providing leadership in pursuing policies that reduce emissions. The report considers action that can be taken across six priority areas of the global economy: food; clothing and textiles; electronics and household appliances; buildings and infrastructure; private transport, and; aviation. In essence it is a road-map to a low carbon economy.

The claim is that taking effective action in the six identified areas will save approximately 113 $GtCO_2e$ per year by 2030 which would result in C40 Cities delivering 35% of their reduction commitment *can we just check this please?* (when combined with the existing city production limits) needed to achieve 1.5°C temperature rise.

Consumption Interventions

Across each of the six categories, consumption interventions are formulated. In relation to each consumption intervention, two target levels are established - a 'progressive target' (2030) and an 'ambitious target' (2050).

- **Buildings and infrastructure**: if all C40 Cities make the changes set out in the report, emissions from buildings and infrastructure could be cut by 29% between 2017 and 2050. The adoption of ambitious targets would enable a 44% reduction.

- **Food**: if the people of the C40 Cities change their food consumption habits in line with the identified progressive targets, the category's emissions could be cut by 51% between 2017 and 2050. The adoption of ambitious targets would result in a 60% reduction. To achieve this, the people of C40 Cities would be required to cease consuming meat and diary products by 2030 and adopt a plant-based diet. They would also need to avoid all household food waste.

- **Clothing and Textile**: if all C40 Cities make the changes set out in the report, the emissions of the clothing and textiles category could be cut by 47% between 2017 and 2050. The adoption of ambitious targets would enable a further 19% emissions reduction. This would require the people of C40 Cities to reduce the number of new clothing and textiles items purchased per person per year to 8 by 2030 and to 3 by 2050.

- **Private transport**: if all C40 Cities make the changes set out in report, emissions from the private transport category could be cut by 23% between 2017 and 2050. The adoption of ambitious targets would enable a further 32% reduction. This would require the people of C40 Cities to accept 190 vehicles per 1000 people by 2030 and no vehicles at all by 2050. Essentially this would end all private transportation.

- **Aviation:** if all the people of C40 Cities fly less (on average 28% less than 2017 levels) and airlines increase the proportion of sustainable aviation fuel they use as outlined in the progressive target, a cumulative 43% emissions saving can be achieved. To achieve the progressive target would require the people of C40 Cities to take no more than **one** short haul return flight (less than 1500km return) every 2 years

per person and to reach the 2050 ambitious target only one short haul return flight every 3 years per person.

- **Electronics and household appliances**: if the residents of C40 Cities keep electronic goods and household appliances for longer and optimise their lifespan, a total emissions reduction of 33% can be achieved by 2050.

It should be now evident that, to achieve even the ‘progressive’ target, people of C40 Cities will be required to make drastic changes to their purchasing and behaviour. If we are to fundamentally change our lifestyles, we need to be certain of the ‘science’. As is evidenced later on in this Going Local Package, the science is far from ‘settled’.