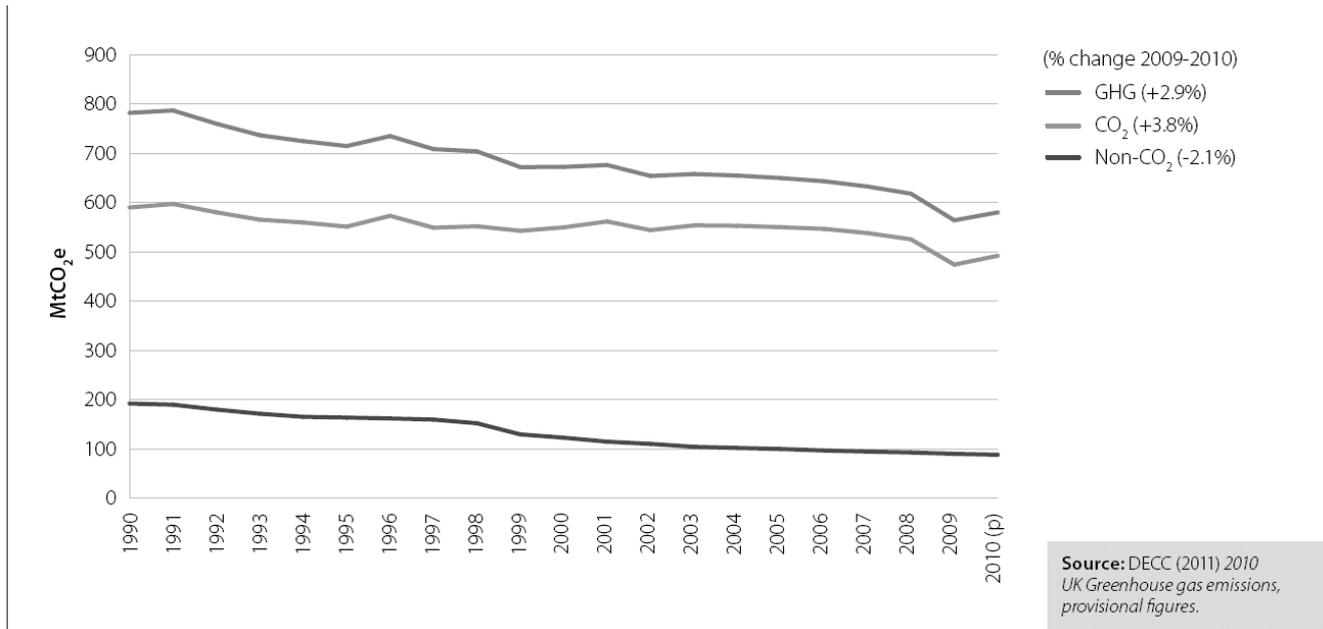




Halving Emissions By 2025

The Challenge, The Opportunity, The Future



UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions, 1990 to 2010, showing a 21% fall over 20 years

In May 2011 Chris Huhne pledged to halve UK carbon emissions, compared with 1990 levels, by 2025. The UK now has the most ambitious targets on greenhouse gases of any developed country. But targets are easy - Labour hardly ever did anything else. The hard part is delivering, and that's what Libdems are good at, as we prove repeatedly at local level. UK emissions of all greenhouse gases have fallen by 21% in the 20 years since 1990, so asking for 29% in 15 years is hard, but doable.

LibDem policy:

Policy Paper 58 - Conserving the Future, published in 2003

Liberal Democrats would use economic instruments to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from energy use at lowest economic cost, by:

- Making urgent preparations for participation by UK firms in the European Union Emissions Trading scheme which will become mandatory by 2008, particularly by drawing up a fair National Allocation Plan which will achieve real emission reductions, promote more efficient technologies and industries and maintain British industries' competitiveness.
- Reforming the Climate Change Levy into a Carbon Tax payable by all energy users not involved in the Emissions Trading Scheme, initially set at the same overall level as the CCL but with the level in future to be set on the advice of our proposed Green Tax Commission.

- Recycling any additional revenues from the Carbon Tax into offsetting tax cuts, including for example cutting VAT on energy saving materials to 5%

Policy Paper 82 - Zero Carbon Britain: Taking a Global Lead, published in 2007

1.0.8 A reduction in emissions of the magnitude that we are advocating will only happen if developed countries such as the UK take the lead by cutting their own emissions. We have to show by example that that we can combine prosperity and care for the planet. Developed countries start from a higher level of emissions and are responsible for more of the carbon in the atmosphere than developing countries. It follows that the objective of climate change strategy over the longer term must be to make the UK carbon neutral. That is why we have called this policy paper Zero Carbon Britain – Taking a Global Lead.

Challenge:

08 Spring	p8	Towards Greener Living
08 Summer	p1	Mainstreaming Environmental Action
08 Summer	p9	Babies, Biofuels and Bathwater
08 Autumn	p15	Tidal Barrages: The Debate Hots Up
09 Spring	p13	Can We Mobilise A Carbon Army?
09 Summer	p4	A Local Green Way Out Of Recession
09 Summer	p19	The Hydrogen Economy in Practice
10 Spring	p22	The Path To Transition
10 Summer	p5	Will Cars Ever be Green?
10 Summer	p10	Europe's Energy Revolution
11 Spring	p10	The Grid Gets A Brain
11 Summer	p11	The Big Switch

Resources:

Zero Carbon Britain <http://www.zerocarbonbritain.org/>

The Committee on Climate Change <http://www.theccc.org.uk/carbon-budgets>

DECC Press release http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn11_41/pn11_41.aspx

Direct Gov - UK Low Carbon Transition Plan (2009)

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG_179190

The Carbon Trust - <http://www.carbontrust.co.uk>

Business Link - advice on carbon reduction for businesses

<http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/layer?topicId=1086029607>

Earthtrends - Stabilization Wedges <http://earthtrends.wri.org/updates/node/346>

ERPHO - emissions reduction in the NHS <http://www.erpho.org.uk/viewResource.aspx?id=20385>

NHS Sustainable Development Unit <http://www.sdu.nhs.uk/>

The Energy Saving Trust <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/>

The 2050 Game <http://www.brightknowledge.org/knowledge-bank/geography-and-environment/can-you-balance-the-uk2019s-carbon-budget>

10:10 - cutting carbon 10% at a time <http://www.1010global.org/uk>