

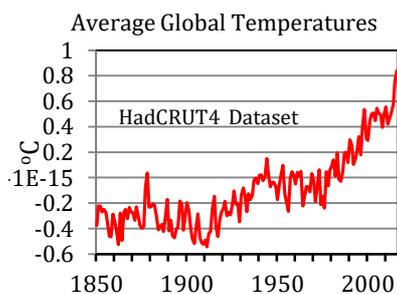
## WHAT HAS THE U.K. DONE SINCE THE PARIS AGREEMENT?

### Will the Election of Donald Trump change the USA's position?

Following the historic agreement signed at COP21 in Paris last year, a milestone was reached when 55% of the 197 parties signing ratified the agreement by 5<sup>th</sup> October meaning that the Paris agreement came into force on November 4<sup>th</sup>, just before the start of COP22 in Marrakech. At that time the UK still had not signed, but belatedly did so as the 111<sup>th</sup> signing country on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

However Donald Trump has said that he will withdraw the USA from the Agreement in one of his pre-election speeches. It can only be hoped that, like some of his other rhetoric, it will be modified or changed now he has won.

On Climate Change, there is plenty to worry about. Global average temperatures in 2016 are heading to be the highest on record and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration has reached new heights exceeding 400 ppm throughout the year.



On present performance, the UK will fail to meet the 2020 renewable energy targets of 15% of all energy. While this may be achieved for electricity generation it will fall far short of the 10% renewable energy target for transport fuels and 12% for heat.. To compensate the UK will need to increase renewable electricity generation to over 30%.

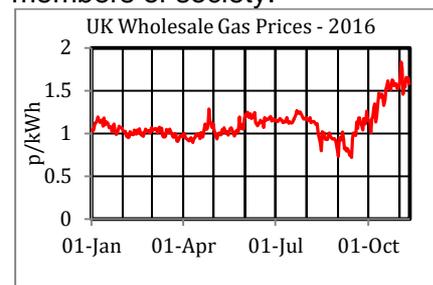


Last week at Marrakech, forty eight of the poorest countries pledged to become 100% renewable by a date between 2030 and 2050. Pledges are one thing, but the less ambitious pledge of the UK, of 80% reduction, is falling well below requirements as the recent Climate Change Committee shows "current policies would at best deliver around half of the emissions reductions required to 2030"

On the other hand there are small signs that attitudes are changing with fossil fuel generation of electricity falling to below 50% for 5 consecutive months in 2016. Every month in 2016 has seen the renewable electricity output exceed coal generation, some months by as much as a factor of 5.

Another concern is whether we will be able to meet the

demands of energy needs in the future. The go-ahead given for the new nuclear station at Hinkley will help, but this will not have an impact for 10 – 12 years. Even with this development, and new offshore wind farms, the UK will need to increase its dependence on imported gas because of poor strategic planning over decades. In just two months, the wholesale price of gas has risen by 52%, and this does not bode well for future energy prices, something which will adversely affect the poorer members of society.



There are many challenges facing all of us in the coming years.

- What should the UK supply mix look like to ensure the global temperatures are kept below the 2°C rise agreed in Paris?
- How can energy demand be most effectively be reduced in our homes, transport and industry?
- How can these be achieved while ensuring both energy security and affordability?

With effective leadership from the UK and others it is still possible to avert serious impacts on climate such as the increasing incidence of stormy weather. But we must act NOW!