



GREENPEACE



The Energy Bill

Tackling the dirtiest power stations

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Tackling high-emitting power stations is another vital step towards decarbonisation. The Bill includes a commitment to limit greenhouse gas emissions from new power stations through an 'Emissions Performance Standard' (EPS) set at 450g of CO₂ per kilowatt hour (gCO₂/kWh).

This limit is too high to have any effect at all on new gas plant which run below 450 gCO₂/kWh. Indeed as the Bill is currently drafted, new gas plants will be allowed to continue operating unabated until 2045. Existing coal and gas power stations are ignored altogether. Additionally the proposed EPS does not count the life-cycle emissions of biomass. The House of Commons Energy and Climate Change Committee described the proposed EPS as "at best pointless." ¹

As such we recommend that the EPS proposals should be amended as follows:

- Plants which undergo re-fits or upgrades which enable significant life extensions to old coal-fired power stations should be covered by the EPS.
- The EPS should ensure emissions from bioenergy are included by introducing a threshold for the EPS applying to stations introducing more than 15% biomass feedstock into the fuel stream.
- The date to which gas fired stations are allowed to carry on polluting at present levels should be brought forward from 2045 (the current proposal) to 2030 to be in line with the date for decarbonising the power sector.
- Finally, EPS levels, rules and coverage will be most effective in helping to decarbonise the power sector if regularly reviewed. A 5-yearly review, with advice from the Committee on Climate Change, should therefore be required in the Bill.

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¹ [Energy and Climate Change Committee - Draft Energy Bill: Pre-legislative Scrutiny - July 2012](#)