

How green is the hydrogen the UK's planning?

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As the [Guardian reports](#) this morning:

About 3 million households in the UK could begin using low-carbon hydrogen to heat their homes and cook rather than fossil fuel gas under government proposals to attract at least £4bn of investment to the hydrogen economy by 2030.

It adds:

The government has published its long-awaited plans for a UK-wide hydrogen economy, which it says could be worth £900m and create more than 9,000 high-quality jobs by the end of the decade, rising to £13bn and 100,000 new jobs by 2050.

And I am not convinced. As they note:

The hydrogen projects under development include “green hydrogen” schemes, which extract hydrogen from water, leaving only oxygen as a byproduct, and “blue hydrogen”, which extracts hydrogen from fossil fuel gas before trapping the greenhouse gas emissions that are left behind.

And at that point the plan ceases to be green and becomes just another mechanism for perpetuating the production of fossil fuels.

First, there is evidence that blue hydrogen produces more emissions than simply burning fossil fuels.

Second, no one knows how to trap the greenhouse emissions as yet: it is a terribly convenient fiction to suggest that they do, to which my response is ‘come back when you know how to do it’.

Third, the government is not in any event clear about who is paying for this.

So this is not a plan.

Nor is it green.

And nor does it appear to be properly costed.

Which pretty much sums up this government's preparedness for COP 26 and the crisis facing us all.

As the [Guardian also reports](#) this morning, a survey suggests that 74% of people want governments to take green issues more seriously than they are. That's a proportion big enough, and also small enough, to suggest that most Tories do not share that opinion. And that is the problem we face with a small minority of elderly people in the UK, all self-conceited with their pockets of wealth, happy to see us all go to hell on the back of fossil fuel exploitation so long as that keeps paying them their dividends.