

# Funding the Future

## Leadership is not about following the pack but that see...

Published: January 23, 2026, 6:16 pm

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I wrote a tweet yesterday that caused quite a lot of reactions. This was it:



**Richard Murphy**   
@RichardJMurphy

...

The Greek government is evacuating Rhodes.

Both Labour and the Tories are toying with abandoning environmental policies.

I despair.

10:05 AM · Jul 23, 2023 · 3.2M Views

 View Tweet analytics

3,478 Retweets 161 Quotes 14.9K Likes 52 Bookmarks

One reaction was this:



**Gary Lineker**  @GaryLineker · 21h  
Abandoning our kids futures for votes. A dereliction of duty.

...



**Richard Murphy**  @RichardJMurphy · 21h  
The Greek government is evacuating Rhodes.

Both Labour and the Tories are toying with abandoning environmental policies.

I despair.

 2,167

 3,430

 19.5K

 2.3M



Gary Lineker then got this reaction:



**The Horseshoe Party UK**   
@Horseshoe\_Party

...

@RichardJMurphy is smart but lacks critical thinking at times which discredit his interesting takes on economics which often seem accurate or at least innovative. However It is NOT on a tiny British population to fix climate change all by ourselves. How much clout do we have now?

The response is boringly typical of a widespread right-wing trope that suggests there is absolutely no point in the UK doing anything on climate change because most emissions come from China and the USA and so whatever we do is of no consequence.

I disagree with that claim, for at least three reasons.

First of all, if no one does anything then nothing will happen and the full impact of climate change will hit us all even sooner than already looks to be likely.

Second, leadership requires that someone take the lead.

Third, if everyone says they are waiting for someone else to take the lead then we are back with my first point, and nothing will happen.

In other words, it takes someone with some clout to make clear that change has to happen, and given quite how massively climate change will impact the UK (not least because of our dependence on imported food imports) it might as well be us.

Is that a failure of critical thinking on my part? I don't think so. I think it's about calling for leadership, something about which I wrote another tweet last night:



Richard Murphy

@RichardJMurphy

...

Memo to Keir Starmer:

A leader does not follow the pack, mimic others, claim that they are too constrained to act, or decline to comment.

A true leader offers direction, hope, innovation and the courage of their convictions.

Why won't you be a true leader, Keir?

9:24 PM · Jul 23, 2023 · 56.3K Views

Leadership is most definitely not about following the pack, but that seems to be what the right wing wants when it comes to climate change. How very unsurprising.