

Starmer announces nothing new on climate change

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Keir Starmer flew to Azerbaijan to announce nothing new on climate change at COP 29 yesterday.

Reports suggested:

The UK will pledge to cut emissions by 81% compared with 1990 levels by 2035, a target in line with [the recommendations of the Climate Change Committee](#).

It was added that:

The goal would be achieved by decarbonising the power sector and through a massive expansion of offshore wind, as well as through investments in carbon capture and storage and nuclear energy.

There are a number of things to note.

Firstly, the 81% target is in line with existing statutory commitments in the UK. So there is nothing new in that.

Second, there is no Green New Deal in this. The necessary insulation and retrofitting and even generation based in UK homes is not happening under this plan.

Third, nuclear power is not the answer to any known question because we still do not have the slightest clue about how to de-commission plants. It does, therefore, create another nightmare for generations to come.

Fourth, offshore wind is fine, but a policy of reduced energy consumption is also key - and Ed Miliband talked about this power being needed for new electric vehicles (EV) yesterday - which are themselves deeply polluting in many cases because the middle-class obsession with indicating status by moving around in cars that look like tanks is now reflected in EV design.

And fifth, carbon capture and storage is all about extending the opportunity to burn

fossil fuels and nothing at all about tackling climate change. It also suffers the slight problem of not being shown to work at anything like the required scale.

All in all, this was a statement about nothing at all that changes things but about quite a lot that indicates no real effort is being made to achieve appropriate goals. So very Labour.