THE BRITISH ENERGY CHALLENGE

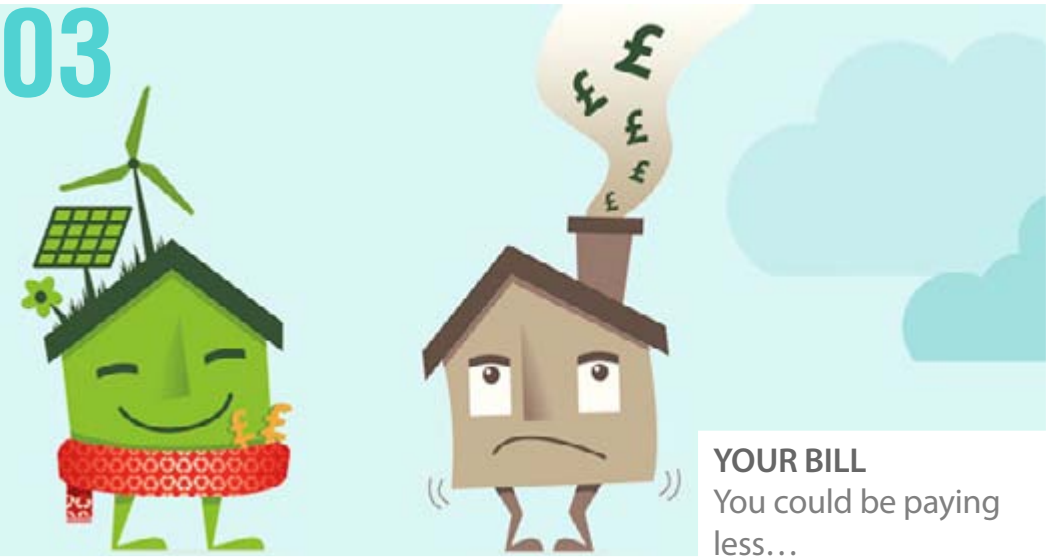
01

THE CHALLENGE
Power the country and protect the planet

02

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
Energy investment is higher than any other sector…

03



YOUR BILL
You could be paying less…

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ENERGY OPTIONS
How should we produce our energy?

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THE NOTTINGHAM ENERGY CHALLENGE

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GET INVOLVED

The Challenge

The need to move to a low carbon economy is one of the most urgent issues facing the UK. Changing the way we power the country will:

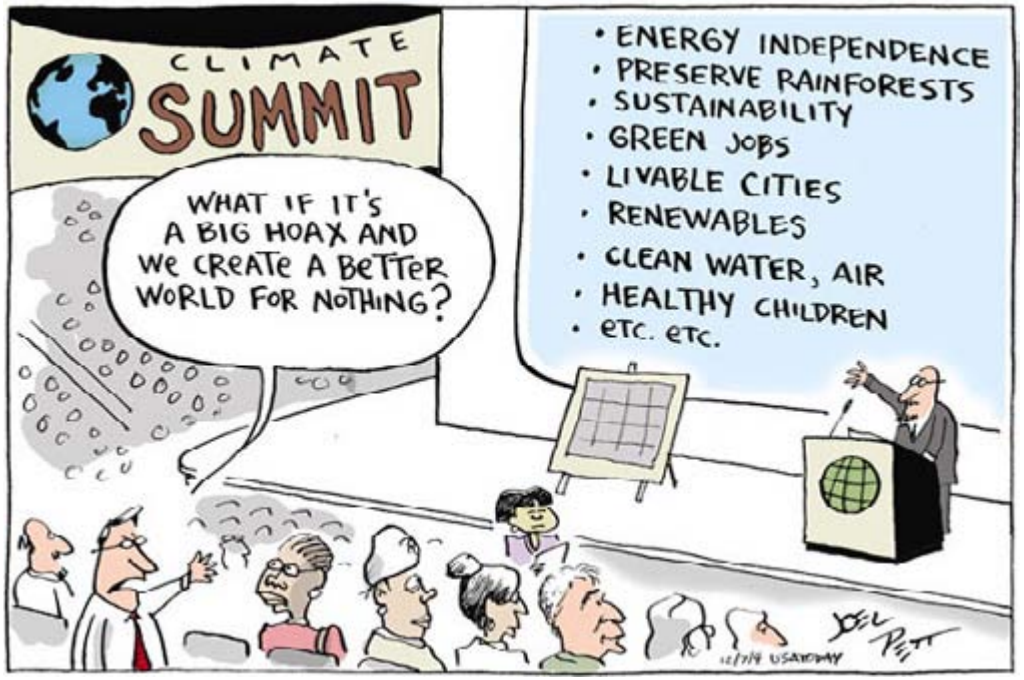
- **Support economic growth and keep bills down**
- **Ensure a secure supply of energy and keep the lights on**
- **Help prevent dangerous climate change**

To find out more about the energy challenge and how we can tackle it, watch this short animation.

The Energy Challenge animation

Explore the various options for yourself using the My2050 calculator.

My2050 simulator

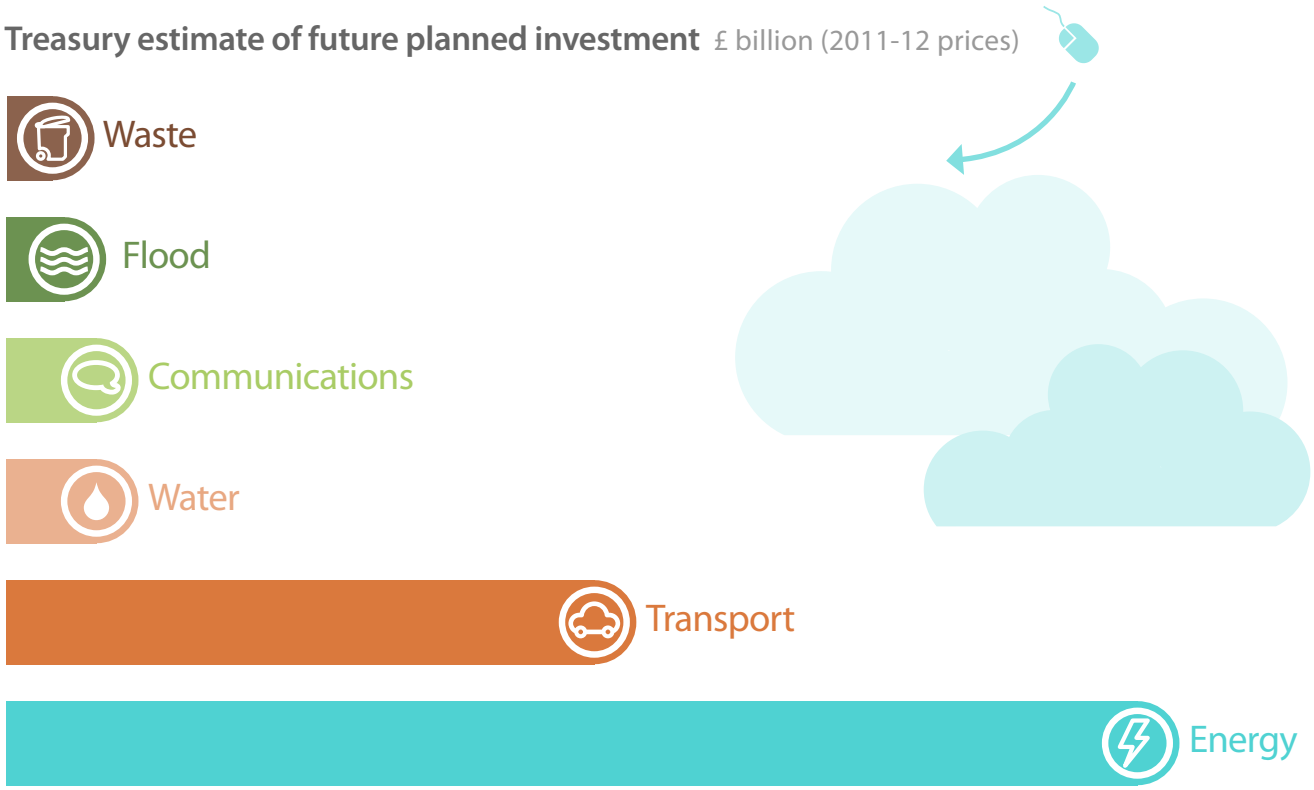


USA Today published this cartoon just before the 2009 Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (© Joel Pett)

Economic Opportunity

The energy challenge represents a big opportunity for the country. Energy investment is larger in scale and more dispersed across the country than any other sector. Upgrading our infrastructure is key to getting our economy moving in the short term.

Treasury estimate of future planned investment £ billion (2011-12 prices)



"The choice between going green and going for growth is a false choice. Green and growth do go together, and the statistics back this up."

CBI – The 'Colour of Growth' report

The low carbon economy has undergone significant growth in recent years, carving out a £122 billion share of the global market and employing close to a million people by 2010-11 according to the CBI.

New jobs

In 2010-11 low carbon and environmental jobs across the UK comprised more than telecoms, motor trade manufacture and retail combined and almost as many as those employed in the financial services sector (Green Alliance). These jobs are spread across a range of sectors (such as manufacturing, engineering, supply, consulting, distribution, R&D, construction and maintenance) and regions.

Your Bill

Significant savings can be achieved by making your home more efficient and engaging in simple energy saving behaviours.

There are things you can do to start cutting your bill now. One of the best ways to lower costs is to reduce the amount of energy we use to heat our homes.

"Be smart with your thermostat. For every degree that you turn down the thermostat, you'll save roughly 10% off your heating consumption. Put thermostats on all radiators. Make sure the heating is off when no-one is at home."

David MacKay – Chief Scientific Adviser to the Department of Energy and Climate Change

A longer-term way to reduce heat consumption is to make your house more efficient. The Green Deal supports consumers to cut waste and reduce bills by providing help to pay for and install energy efficiency measures such as insulation and double glazing. To learn more about the Green Deal, click on the icon below.

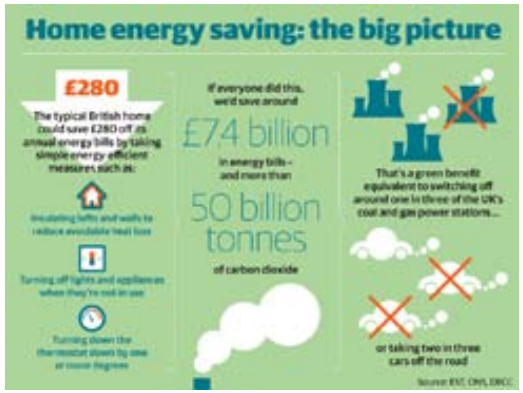
GREEN DEAL APPROVED

Potential Saving

Households could save £150 a year by switching supplier and switching to direct debit payments or £90 a year on average by switching to direct debit payment (DECC).

Find out more

To get further advice on reducing your energy bill, go to **gov.uk/energyhelp** or phone the Energy Savings Advice Service on **0300 123 1234**



Home energy savings (courtesy of The Guardian)

Energy Options

Should we do more to cut demand or rely more on increasing and decarbonising the energy supply? How should we produce our energy? Which technologies should we adopt?

The **Carbon Plan** is the government's response to this challenge, but the 2050 calculator lets you explore the options for yourself.

2050 Pathways Calculator

In addition to My2050 there is the **2050 calculator**, which allows you to explore our energy options in more detail. And if you're feeling really adventurous there is an excel version, which shows the underpinning model behind the calculator.

Compare My Energy

Use the Compare My Energy Tool to find out how much energy you use compared to similar households and get tips on how to reduce consumption. Click on the icon below to visit the website.

Compare My Energy

The Nottingham Energy Challenge

Nottingham is playing a leading role in tackling the British Energy Challenge:

- **Sustainable energy is one of four key sectors that Nottingham City Council has designated for growth.**
- **Nottingham is the most energy self-sufficient city in the UK, with 11% of heat and power generated from renewables and waste.**

To find out in more about what Nottingham is doing, read **Councillor Graham Chapman's blog** or visit the **Council's website**

Initiatives in your area which you might like to get involved with:

- Looking to save money on your energy bills? The Council's **Energy Tariff Switching tool** could knock up to £200 off your annual energy bills.
- Got a great idea for a project that will help reduce environmental impacts within Nottingham? Try the **Low Carbon Grants scheme**
- Find your local **Green Deal provider** using this tool
- If you run a business consider contacting **Nottingham Carbon Club**
- Contact **energy related groups** in your area.

Get Involved

There are lots of different ways to start engaging in the British Energy Challenge.

Here are a few ideas on how you can do this:

- Start an online conversation by tweeting #britishenergychallenge
- Share this leaflet
- Encourage others to use **My2050** and to share their experience
- A **My2050 schools toolkit** is available for younger audiences

To find out more on the energy challenge:

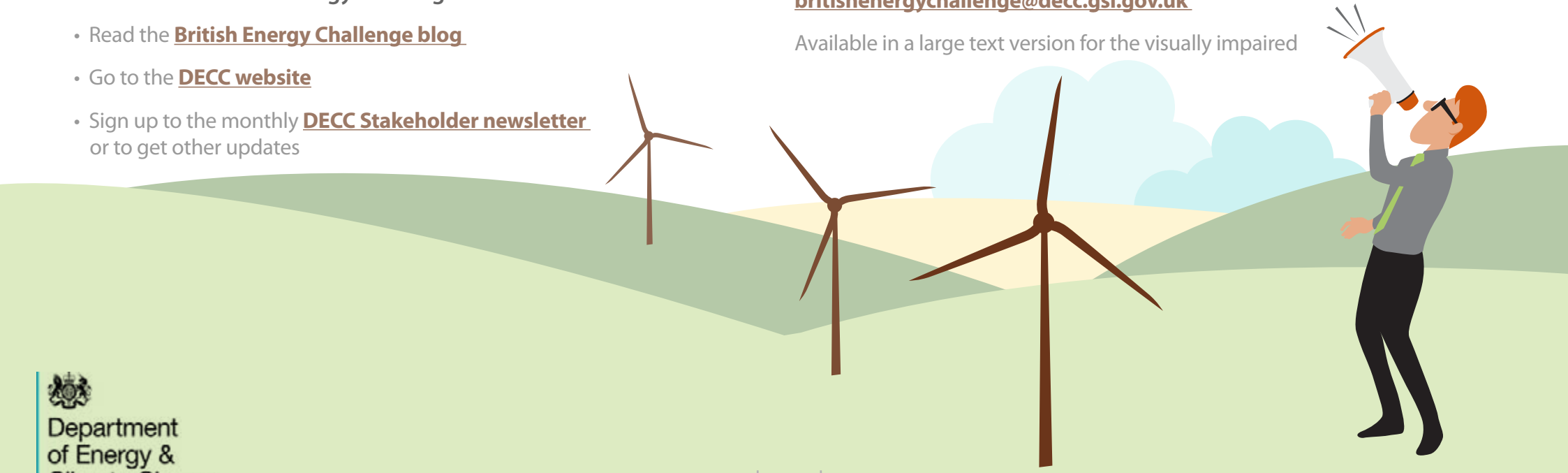
- Read the **British Energy Challenge blog**
- Go to the **DECC website**
- Sign up to the monthly **DECC Stakeholder newsletter** or to get other updates

To find out more on the presenters at the Nottingham British Energy Challenge event on 17 May:

- Read David MacKay's *Sustainable Energy – Without the Hot Air*. Free online at **www.withouthotair.com**
- Visit Mark Lynas's website at **www.marklynas.org**

We would welcome any comments on this leaflet or the event to britishenergychallenge@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Available in a large text version for the visually impaired



Department of Energy & Climate Change

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