

## **INFORSE-Europe Sustainable Energy NGO Seminar Tuesday, 23 August 2011**

### **ZeroCarbonBritain**

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The Centre for Alternative Technology produced its first 'Alternative Energy Strategy for the UK' in 1977 as a response to resource depletion and greenhouse gas emissions.

The most recent scientific evidence on both climate security and energy security reveals a situation more urgent than had been expected, even by those who have been following it closely for decades. Robust scientific evidence now predicts very serious physical and economic impacts.

Dealing with such a challenge requires a degree of urgency that is lacking in current UK policy. Although well ahead of its peers, it falls short of what is now known to be required.

Recent science demands a rapid global peak in emissions and for industrialized nations to head for zero emissions as fast as possible. Such a transition is at the very boundaries of what is 'politically thinkable', and is as much a challenge for our democracy as it is for our technology.

ZeroCarbonBritain sets out to explore scenarios that can meet both the scale and speed of the transition required to fulfil Britain's international obligations to deliver climate and energy security. It aims to stimulate debate and build consensus over this new and challenging terrain, signposting where the path is clear, and highlighting places where there is still considerable uncertainty and urgent research is required.

Through developing a common, coherent vision ZeroCarbonBritain offers a process for integrating detailed knowledge and experience from a wide range of disciplines into a single framework that can be clearly and effectively articulated to endorse urgent action across all sectors of society.

The current economic situation presents a singular opportunity. My presentation outlines the findings of the report, highlighting how taking the necessary action now can re-vitalise economies, create employment and deliver a secure dividend to repay the investment, through the value of the energy saved or generated.

Full report available as free download from [www.cat.org.uk](http://www.cat.org.uk)