



Beware Green Technocrats: Unelected, Unaccountable, Unremitting

This writer pleads that the answer to global warming cannot and must not be Technocracy, but the fact is that Technocracy (aka Sustainable Development and Green New Deal) is the only solution offered by the global elite. □ TN Editor

The UK Committee on Climate Change has nothing but contempt for the public.

Ask people what the UK's biggest housing problems are, and most will tell you, rightly, that there aren't enough homes, and that prices and rents are far too high. But UK policymakers are preoccupied by something else and have been for a long time: that our homes contribute to, and are at risk from, [global warming](#).

So it was that a non-departmental public body, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), announced last week that 'UK homes are not fit for the future', and that tough new building standards and enforcement will be necessary. Most shocking of all, the CCC said 'no new homes

should be connected to the gas grid', and that gas central heating and plumbing should therefore be phased out.

Saving the planet, and homes, from the ravages of climate change is a good idea. But the CCC's claims are questionable. As I reported [here](#) during last Summer's heatwave, the CCC, like many climate alarmists, has a tendency to exaggerate risk and lose historical perspective. In truth, homes are actually better protected from the slightly warmer, slightly wetter and slightly windier weather that scientists predict might be our future than they were even a generation ago.

The CCC argues that UK emissions-reduction targets cannot be met 'without near complete decarbonisation of the housing stock'. Gas boilers should therefore be banned in new (and then older) homes, because 'energy use in homes accounts for about 14 per cent of UK greenhouse gas emissions'. In their place will be more energy-efficient systems, such as ground- and air-source heat pumps, and greater levels of insulation.

The problem with this is that if economic alternatives to gas-fired central heating and hot water existed, there would be no need for standards and their enforcement. But they don't exist. Zero-carbon homes are the stuff of *Grand Designs* - a nice idea, but more a fashion accessory for the wealthy than a design principle that will improve lives.

Lower-cost experiments with low-carbon construction have resulted in complaints of homes becoming too hot in the summer; having poor ventilation and, therefore, damp and mould; and of requiring their inhabitants to sacrifice comfort. Most notably, and most tragically, the incautious application of energy-efficiency standards as dictated by remote technocrats - rather than consumers, according to their own needs - [contributed](#) to the Grenfell disaster.