

An impossible dream?

The politics of sustainable energy

Philip Wolfe



Let's start with a clean sheet

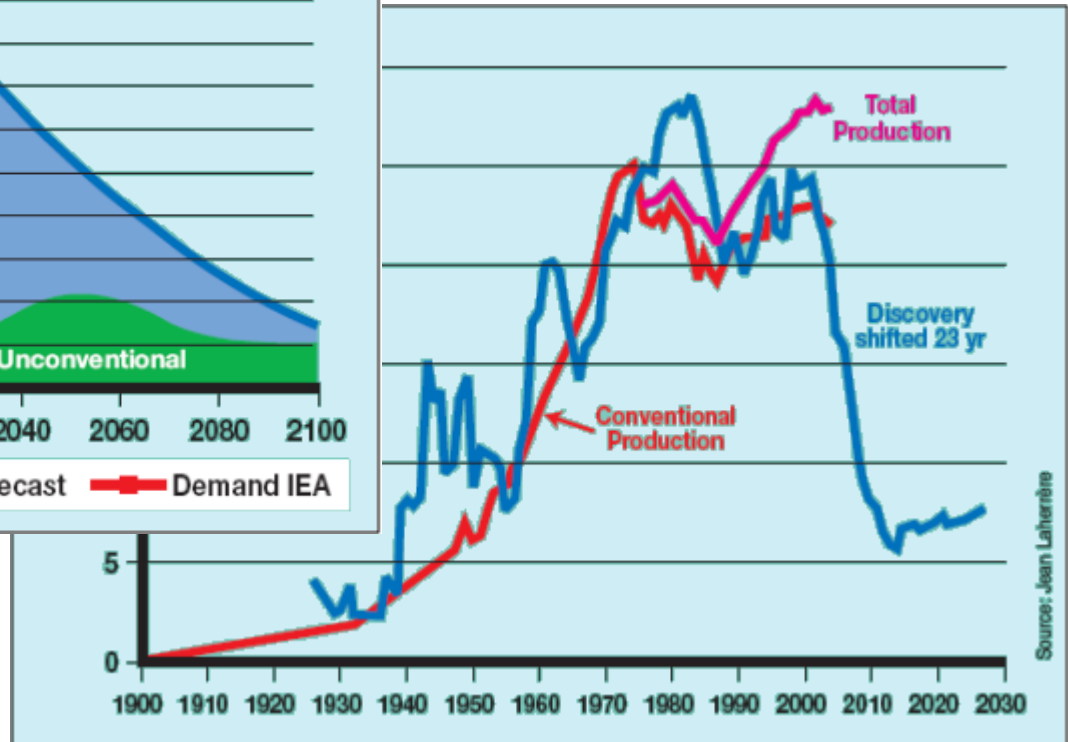
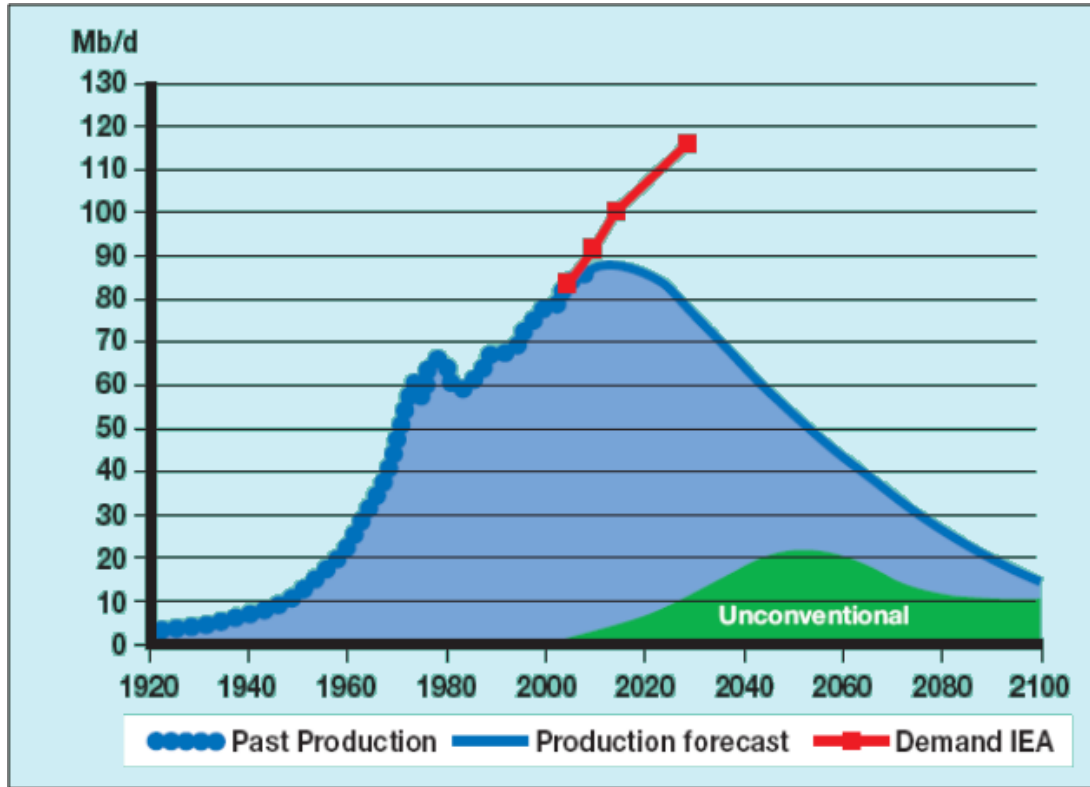
*What
do
we
want
our
energy
to
be?*

Abundant
Inexhaustible
Benign
Dependable
Cheap



Inexhaustible?

Fossil fuel availability

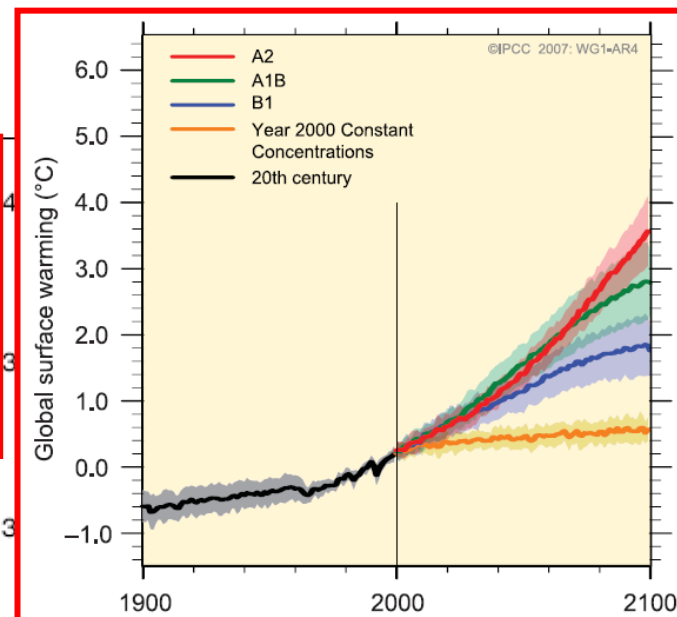
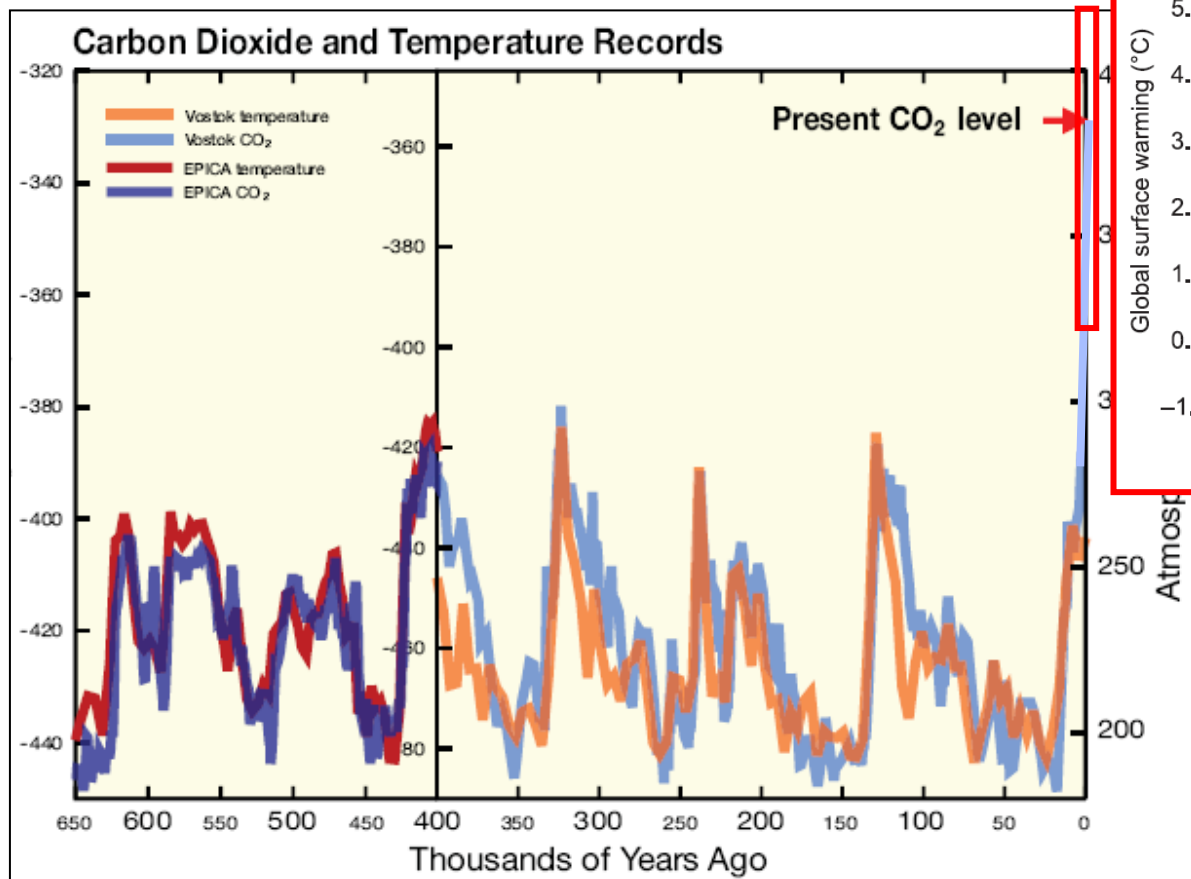


Source: Jean Laherrère



Benign?

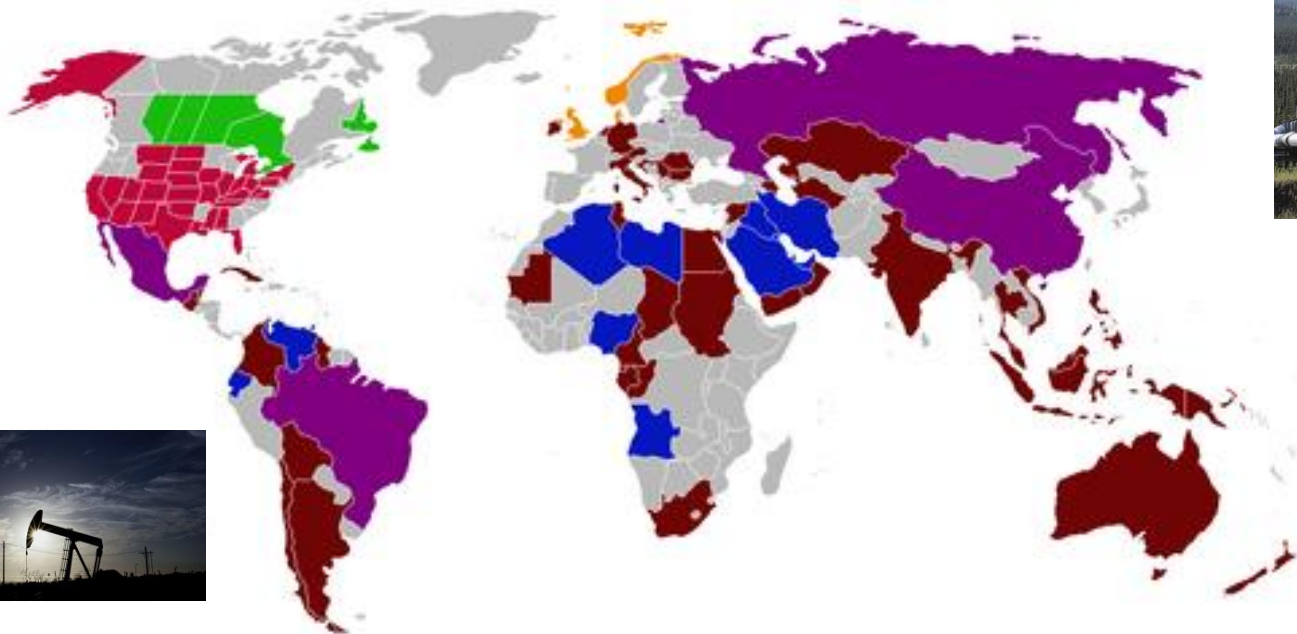
Climate change trends



Dependable?

Where does it come from?

How does it get here?



Cheap?

Stern report for HM Treasury

- Global emissions need to be >25% below current levels in 2050 =75% less emissions per unit GDP
- This will cost 1% of GDP p.a.
- Doing nothing could be equivalent to a 5-20% reduction in consumption



How do present energy sources match up?

Renewable

Abundant



Inexhaustible



Benign



Dependable



Cheap



What if we can't have it all?

Ideal

~~Abundant~~ Adequate

Inexhaustible

Benign

Dependable

~~Cheap~~ Best value

Expedient

Abundant

~~Inexhaustible~~ S.E.P

~~Benign~~ S.E.P

~~Dependable~~ 

Cheap (-looking)



Policy options

Ideal

Monetise impacts

Stop fossil subsidy

Better transport

Expedient

Carbon 'trading'

Utility obligations

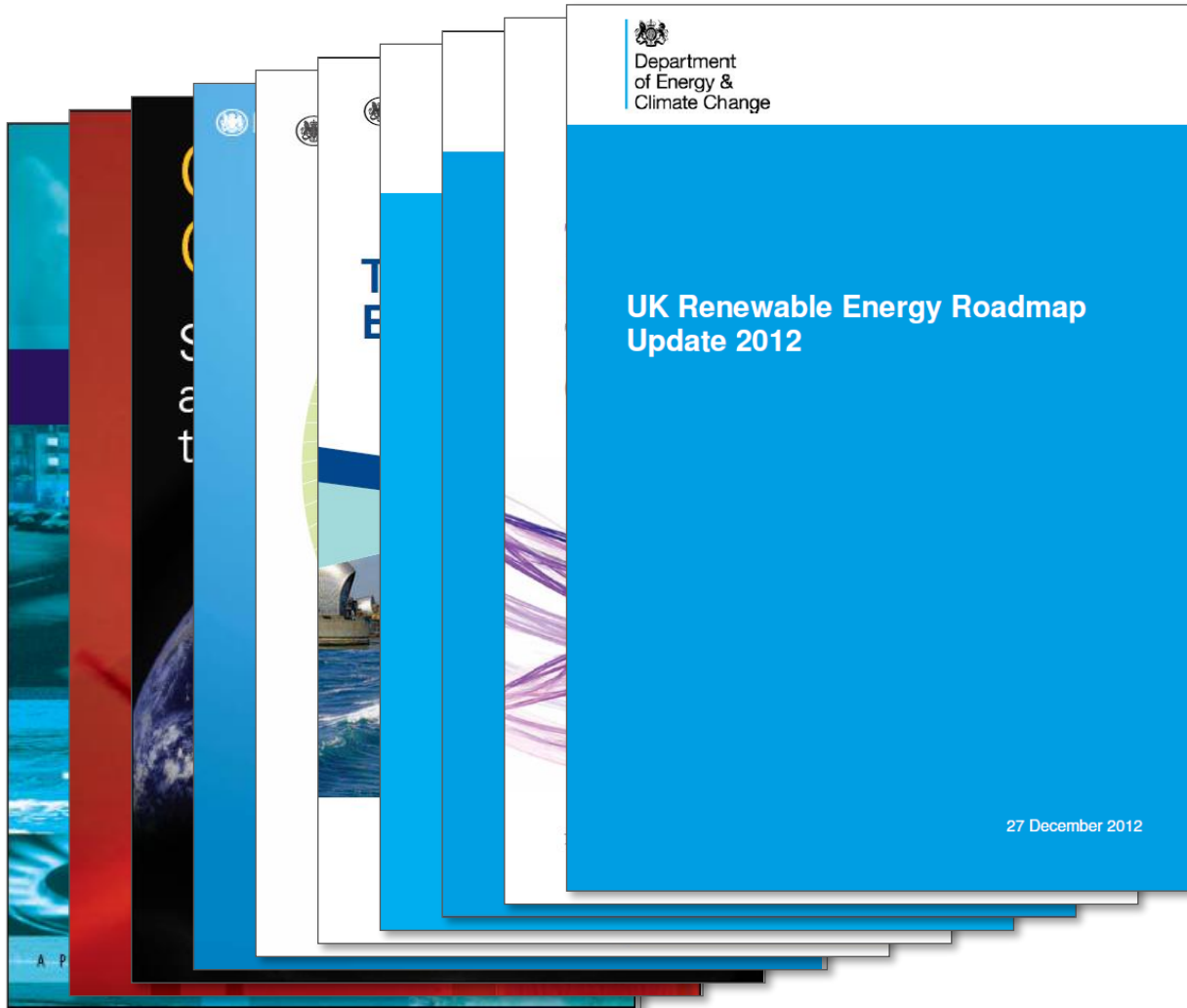
Various incentives

Tax breaks

Rhetoric



UK energy/climate policy

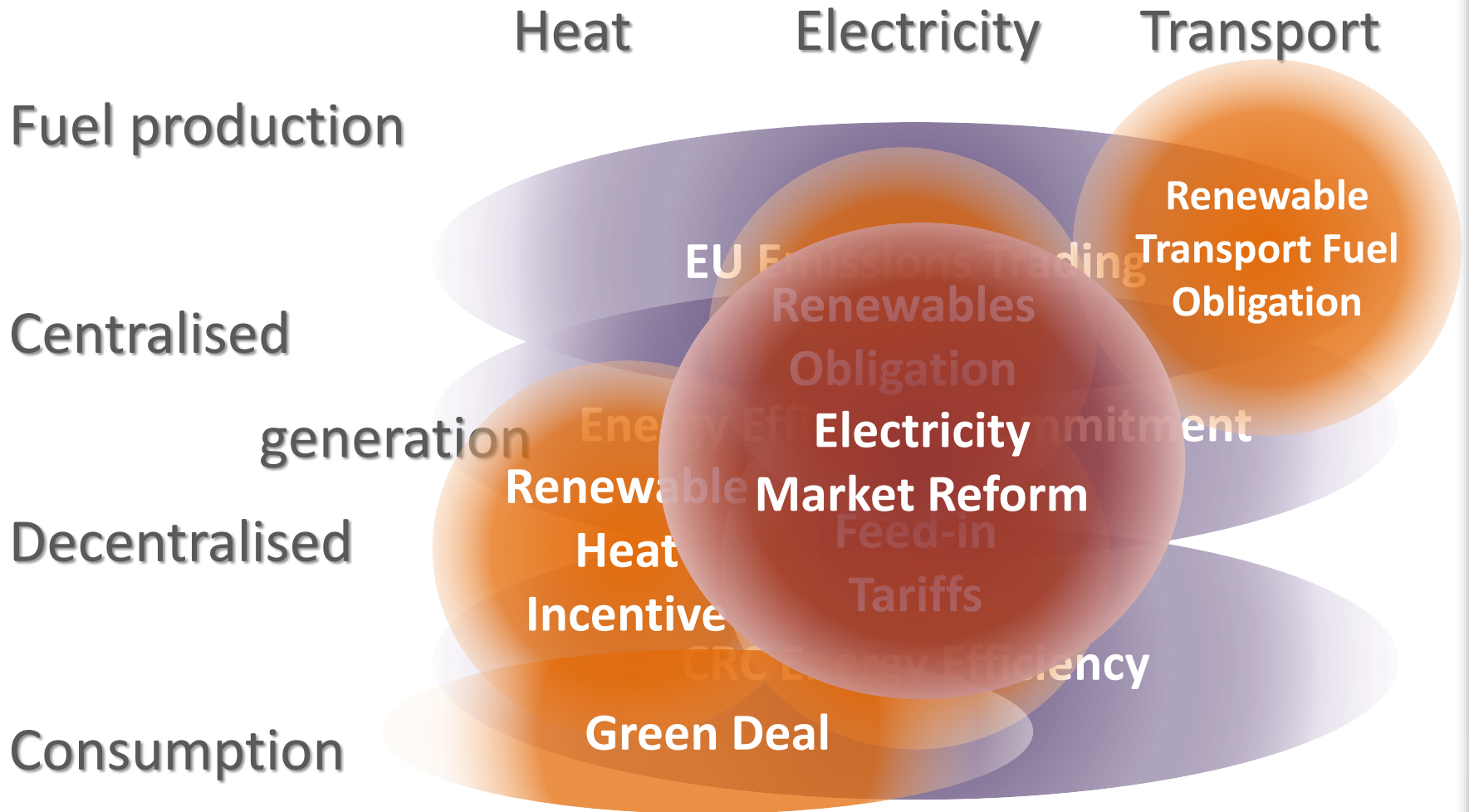


***“Leading the world
with commitment
to cut emissions”
Ed Miliband***

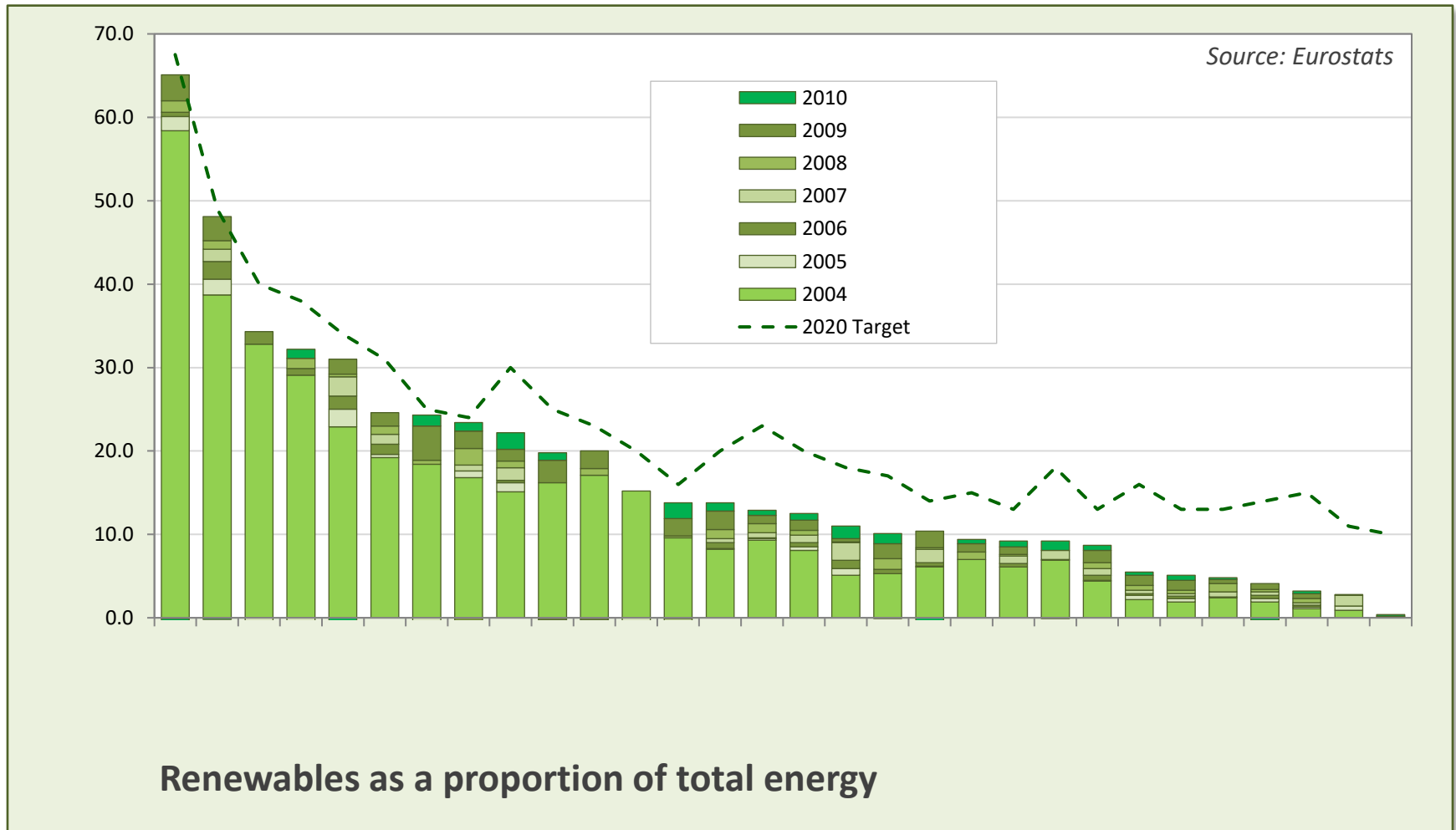
***“the greenest
Government ever”
David Cameron***



UK energy/climate policy measures



UK delivery – amongst Europe's best?



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