

## CALLING TIME ON THE HYPE AND DELUSIONS OF THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

In a hard-hitting report ('**Net Zero Without Nuclear**') launched today (15/04), Jonathon Porritt urges environmentalists to double down on their well-founded opposition to nuclear power.

[Net Zero Without Nuclear 15.04.21.pdf](#)

'The nuclear industry's propaganda machine is working overtime to persuade politicians in the UK, the EU and the USA that new nuclear power stations will be critical to their ambitions to achieve 'Net Zero carbon economies' by 2050. In reality, any continuing support for new nuclear poses a massive threat to those Net Zero ambitions.'

Net Zero Without Nuclear summarises the nuclear industry's continuing inability to overcome the problems it's faced for more than 40 years (on costs, construction delays, nuclear waste, security issues, proliferation and so on), and critiques the 'next generation hype' that its propaganda machine is now churning out on Small Modular Reactors, fusion etc.

The UK Government is particularly susceptible to this tissue of lies, recycled fantasies and special pleading. That poses a major risk to the UK's hopes of leading the world in the kind of radical decarbonisation journey required to get us to a Net Zero economy by 2050.

EU leaders have a chance to demonstrate better judgement. Over the next few weeks, they will need to decide whether or not new nuclear power qualifies for taxpayers' support as part of today's low-carbon transition. As Jonathon Porritt says:

'EU politicians have to focus on the facts – regarding both the industry's woeful legacy and its continuing failure to deliver anything on time or on budget. We already know what we need to do to decarbonise our economies at scale and at speed, and all our

investment must now be focused on those prudent technologies (in terms of renewables, storage, energy efficiency and smart grids) rather than on recycled nuclear delusions.'

**Net Zero Without Nuclear has been warmly commended by leading NGOs in the UK, as attached.**

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**Net Zero Without Nuclear is a personally-authored report, and the views expressed within it are the view of the author alone, and not those of Forum for the Future or any other organisation with which the organisation is associated.**

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**Jonathon Porritt** has been on the front line of environmental campaigning for more than 45 years. He's been a member of the Green Party throughout that time, and has worked tirelessly to promote the solutions to today's converging environmental crises – as Director of Friends of the Earth in the 1980s, Co-Founder of Forum for the Future, the UK's leading sustainability charity, Chair of the UK Sustainable Development Commission (2000-2009), President of Population Matters and The Conservation Volunteers, and Chancellor of Keele University. His work as author and broadcaster has had a huge impact over the years. His latest book, *Hope in Hell*, a powerful 'call to action' on the Climate Emergency, was published in June 2020.

**Contact details:**

[J.Porritt@greenfutures.org.uk](mailto:J.Porritt@greenfutures.org.uk)

Tel: +44 (0)7770 970748

[www.jonathonporritt.com](http://www.jonathonporritt.com)