

Name _____ Date _____

UK 'could face blackouts by 2016'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/sci/tech/8249540.stm>

Adapted from BBC News 11.09.2009 © BBC MMIX

The government's new energy adviser says the UK could face blackouts by 2016 because green energy is not *coming on stream* fast enough.



Ministers have *previously denied* that the UK is heading for an energy gap.

But David MacKay, who takes up his post at the Department of Energy on 1 October, says that the public keep objecting to energy projects. This, he says, is creating a huge problem, which could turn out the lights. Professor MacKay is a researcher at Cambridge University.

His recent book, *Sustainable Energy - Without The Hot Air*, *won applause* for its examination of *current government plans* to keep the lights on whilst also cutting carbon emissions. It concluded that policy is moving in the right direction, but the sums on energy provision simply do not add up - not enough power capacity is being built.

Speaking unofficially, he told BBC News that this meant that Britain could face blackouts in 2016 - when coal and nuclear stations are *phased out*.

"There is a worry that in 2016 there might not be enough electricity. My guess is that what the market might do is *fix that problem* by making more gas power stations, which isn't the direction we want to be going in," he said. "So we really should be *upping the build rate* of the alternatives as soon as possible."

Professor MacKay blamed the public for opposing wind farms, nuclear power, and energy imports, whilst *demanding an unchanged lifestyle*.

You cannot oppose them all, he said, and hope to have a viable policy on energy and climate change.

"We've got to stop saying no to these things and understand that we do have a serious building project on our hands," he said.

Professor MacKay said he looked forward to engaging the public in a more open debate about what he calls the realities of energy policy when he takes up his post.

His says his new masters in Department of Energy and Climate Change have impressive commitment to solve the issues.

Professor MacKay's many supporters will hope that he is allowed to continue speaking openly to the public after he takes office.

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A. Read the article. Now answer the following questions.

1. Why could the UK face blackouts according to David Mackay?
2. What do you understand by "energy gap"?
3. How has the public contributed to the problem?
4. What might start to run low in 2016?
5. Who will David Mackay be working for.?

B. What do you understand by the following words or phrases highlighted in *italics* in the text. What other phrases could you use instead?

coming on stream

previously denied

won applause

current government plans

phased out

fix that problem

upping the build rate

demanding an unchanged lifestyle

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C. The following are anagrams of various nouns found in the text. Can you locate the nouns?

germ vent on	
crop jets	
a bust lock	
tricycle tie	
feel it sly	
malt ice	
inanimate ox	
tans it so	

D. What are your views? Should it be up to the Government to sort out climate change? Do we as the general public need to make sacrifices. Should industrial firms pay to clean up their pollution?

Use the space below to explain your views on how we should tackle climate change.

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Answers

A

1. Green energy is not coming on stream fast enough
2. There will be a lack of energy – too much demand and not enough supply
3. Because they object to energy saving projects?
4. Electricity
5. Department of Energy and Climate Change.

B. What do you understand by the following words or phrases highlighted in red in the text. What other phrases could you use instead?

<i>coming on stream</i>	being put in place/starting
<i>previously denied</i>	in the past rejected
<i>won applause</i>	were praised
<i>current government plans</i>	existing government policies
<i>phased out</i>	discontinued
<i>fix that problem</i>	solve the dilemma
<i>upping the build rate</i>	increasing rate of work/building
<i>demanding an unchanged lifestyle</i>	wishing to keep their existing way of life

C.

germ vent on	government
crop jets	projects
a bust lock	blackouts
tricycle tie	electricity
feel it sly	lifestyle
malt ice	climate
inanimate ox	examination
tans it so	stations