

# Policy – challenges, risks and paradigms

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# Targets

- Keeping temperature below 2°C
- Requirement for 80 – 95% reduction in GHG from developed countries
- Questions are:
  - Is this enough?
  - When?
  - How fast?
  - Are we already too late?

# Different views

- UK/ EU government
- Environmental charities/ groups
- Doom-mongers
- Deniers

# Actual Policy

- UK 80% by 2050
- Also intermediary targets
  - 20% by 2020
- EU 80% by 2050
- Also EU intermediary targets:
  - 20% GHG reduction by 2020
  - 20% more renewable energy by 2020
  - 20% more energy efficiency by 2020

# How are we doing?

- Acc to EU, we are doing well in GHG and RE but failing by 50% in energy efficiency
- Is it all a fiddle?
  - “Domestic emissions” are used
  - Transport doesn’t include shipping
  - Effect of recession

# Buildings - Policy

- All new buildings and all existing have to be almost zero-carbon and zero-energy
- Rate of 1 every 50 seconds (hurry hurry!)
- New EU target 3% of building stock every year equals 1 every 30 seconds

# How are we doing?

- Not very well
- Energy use was going up (probably still is). Overall 24% in last 30 years.
- Space heating energy up by 19% in this period, while appliance use up by 140%. Food cooking down by 40%!
- UCL work – energy use tracks fuel price and weather almost exactly

# Green Deal and ECO?

- Not about zero carbon or zero energy
- Real issues about process (providers/ advisors/ contractors link)
- Real issues about knowledge
  - Building performance
  - Modelling
  - Financial payback
  - Risks



# Unintended consequences

- Knowns:
  - IAQ
  - Fuel poverty
  - Overheating
  - Rebound
  - Building fabric health
  - Heat Island
  - Health and Safety
- Unknowns!

# Money and economics

- EU – “competitive low carbon economy”
- Green Deal
- Effect of money creation on house pricing and on “growth”
- Decoupling or deceiving?

# Some difficult questions

- What are the right targets?
- Is it about prevention or mitigation?
- Is it about buildings or people?
  
- Where do we as experts and practitioners put our effort?