



Coal and Kingsnorth: the story so far

E.ON applies to Secretary of State for Business and Energy, John Hutton, for permission to build a new coal plant at Kingsnorth. (December 2006)

Medway Council is consulted and considers its response - receives more than 10,000 petitions and eventually votes in favour of the plant but recommends a public inquiry into the plan. Lib Dem councillors say they've been 'bullied' by E.ON. (January 2007)

Al Gore says *"I can't understand why there aren't rings of young people blocking bulldozers and preventing them from constructing coal-fired power plants."* (August 2007)

Greenpeace shuts down existing Kingsnorth plant reducing CO2 output. More than 30 activists arrested. (October 2007)

Professor James Hansen, director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, writes to the Prime Minister saying with the Kingsnorth decision he has the potential to influence *"the future of the planet."*

Greenpeace investigation hits the headlines when we expose collusion between E.ON and BERR over potential conditions for a Kingsnorth approval. (January 2008)

Greenpeace blockades annual coal industry conference at Lord's Cricket grounds which was to be addressed by Energy Minister Malcolm Wicks. Beatle Paul McCartney offers his support to the protest as he walks past! (February 2008)

Royal Society criticises government coal policy. Says new coal-fired power stations that fail to capture 90% of their carbon emissions by 2020 should be closed down. (April 2008)

Writer George Monbiot and Welsh climate activists invade and occupy the site of Europe's largest open cast coal mine in South Wales. (April 2008)

Liberal Democrat Party expresses its opposition to Kingsnorth plans. (May 2008)

Conservative Party comes out against Kingsnorth plans proposing all coal plants should have some CCS before the go ahead is permitted. (June 2008)

Sir Jonathon Porritt, Head of the government's Sustainable Development Commission, writes to the Secretary of State saying a new generation of coal plants would, "destroy the overall credibility of the government's climate change programme." (June 2008)

40 protesters "hijack" coal train headed to Drax power plant shovelling coal onto the train tracks and unfurling a banner, "Leave it in the ground." (June 2008)

Cross Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee slams Kingsnorth plans. (July 2008)

Independent research from energy consultants, Poyry, shows that no new fossil fuel capacity would be required before 2020 if Britain hits its 2020 renewables and efficiency targets. (August 2008)

Sir David King, the government's former chief science adviser, says it's dangerous to assume we can keep using coal until CCS is proven. (August 2008)

Climate Camp outside Kingsnorth for ten days. Hundreds arrested taking direct action against the plans. (August 2008)

Kingsnorth 6 goes on trial - Hansen gives evidence - activists acquitted. (September 2008)

Environment Agency chief, Lord Smith, says new coal plants without CCS should be banned. (September 2008)

The Independent and the BBC reports cabinet split over Kingsnorth plans saying David Miliband and Hilary Benn privately opposed to Kingsnorth plans. (September 2008)

John Hutton runs consultation into 'carbon capture readiness.' (Closes September 2008)

John Hutton shuffled out and new decision maker on Kingsnorth will be new Secretary of State for climate and energy, Ed Miliband. (October 2008)

Stop Climate Chaos and its member organisations including the Women's Institute, RSPB, Oxfam and Tearfund join the Rainbow Warrior to deliver pledge against Kingsnorth on behalf of more than four million members. (October 2008)

Greenpeace armada carries out 'amphibious incursion' of Kingsnorth carrying the flags of the 30 least polluting countries in the world combined, the equivalent combined emissions of which match proposed Kingsnorth plant. (October 2008)

Lord Nicholas Stern tells the Today Programme he believes no new coal plant should be allowed without CCS. (October 2008)

Lord Turner and the Committee on Climate Change, commissioned by the Prime Minister to advise how the government can meet its legal commitments under the Climate Act, says no coal plant should be allowed to operate without full CCS by the early 2020s. (December 2008)

Climate Camp protesters invade E.ON HQ dressed as Santas with bags of coal. (December 2008)

New York Times describes Kingsnorth 6 acquittal as one of ideas that changed the world in 2008. (January 2009)

Britain labelled 'climate criminal' because of Kingsnorth plans by representatives of anti-poverty charities in 40 developing countries. (February 2009)

Award winning actor, Pete Postlethwaite says he will hand back his OBE if Kingsnorth is approved. (March 2009)

Ed Miliband says, *"I hear what people like Pete Postlethwaite are saying and we can't build any unabated coal-fired power stations. But we can't do it with renewable energy alone."* Ed Miliband tells the ECCC Committee, *"I think we have got to go beyond what we consulted on last year, which is just carbon capture readiness. I personally do not think that that is adequate as a position in terms of a climate change and the challenge we tackle and in terms of driving CCS towards the market."* It is revealed that Ed Miliband will launch a review of coal policy *"within weeks."* (March 2009)

Energy Minister, Mike O'Brien tells Parliament, *"A decision on the application for a replacement coal-fired unit at Kingsnorth will follow the conclusion of both the carbon*

capture readiness consultation and the planned new consultation on a new framework for coal-fired power stations. " (March 2009)

X-Files actress Gillian Anderson, Mick Jagger's former wife Jerry Hall, and model Laura Bailey join with hundreds of mums and kids to protest at Parliament against Kingsnorth with the banner, "Our lives in your hands." (March 2009)

In a Parliamentary answer to Greg Clark MP, Energy Minister Mike O'Brien confirmed, "The timetable for publication of a planned new consultation on a new framework for coal fired power stations has not yet been set." (31st March)

114 climate activists arrested in 'pre-emptive strike' by police ahead of alleged plan to take direct action against an E.ON-owned coal plant at Radcliffe near Nottingham. (14th April)

Ed Miliband announces a review of coal policy that rules out new unabated coal stations and examines CCS options. (23rd April)