

NEW LABOUR

Since coming into office in 1997 New Labour's policy on global warming has been anything but revolutionary. The use of coal in power stations, the most Carbon intense of all fossil fuels, has risen. Overall CO2 emissions in the UK have increased. And centralized power stations, which waste two thirds of the energy they produce, still account for the majority of our energy production.

This is somewhat surprising given all the urgent talk from Labour about tackling global warming. But hot air is all they have managed to produce. What little actions that have been taken are tokenism of the highest order: David Milliband's recent £10 million commitment to renewable energy, for instance, is peanuts in comparison to the £5.4 billion the government is prepared to spend on introducing a new identity card scheme.

What's really needed is a government that will create policies of real substance, and that will commit proper resources in to preventing climate change. A government, in short, that will deliver a new kind of power. Is there any party out there up for the challenge?



WORLD POWER