

THERE HAVE BEEN SOME GREAT VICTORIES IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST COAL IN THE UK, BUT THE BATTLE ISN'T OVER YET!



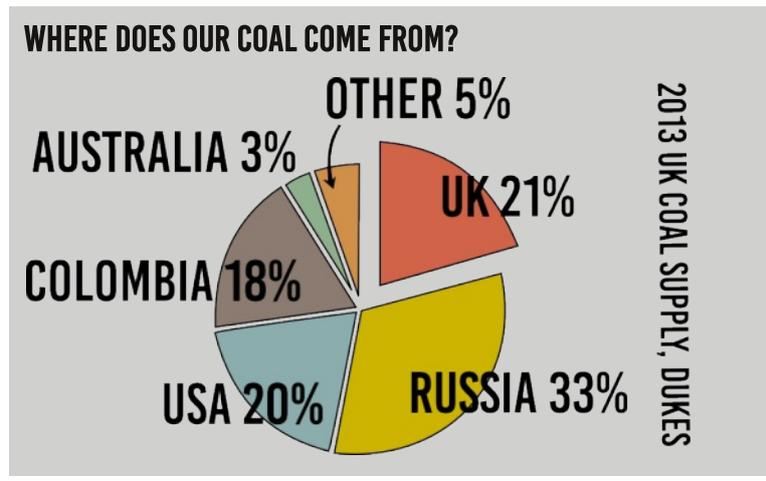
36% of our electricity came from coal in 2013, more than from any other source. There are currently **12 active UK power stations**, only Longannet in Scotland has indicated a closure date. EU directives on air pollution may force the closure some of these plants. We need to make sure they all close. Wales' only power station Aberthaw is breaking the current air pollution limits and the government is being taken to the European Court over this. **Now is the time to act to secure closure dates for all coal power.**

Most of the coal burnt in UK power stations is imported. Countries where it is cheaper to mine coal as working conditions are worse and environmental controls more lenient. Coal also comes from South Africa, Poland, the Philippines and Indonesia amongst other countries.

COAL MINING IN THE UK

There are communities fighting new and existing mines in all of the UK's coal fields. The main coal areas are South Wales, Central belt of Scotland and North East England. Environmental activists have joined with local people fighting coal mines through awareness raising, occupations, planning hearings, direct action, petition signing, sabotage and letter writing. In 2014, 7 coal mine applications were lost or withdrawn, and only 2 were successful. There are several appeals in the planning system at the moment. **Communities need everyone's support to stop new coal mines.**

There are currently 26 opencast mines in the UK. There are three significant sized deep mines, these are all due to close by Summer 2016. **There are still new coal mine applications in the planning system.**



The biggest two UK opencast operators, Scottish Coal and ATH Resources, based exclusively in Scotland, went into liquidation in 2013, with new company Hargreaves taking over some operations. In England, UK Coal keeps going into liquidation and reforming. It has been given a **£4 million loan from the government for a phased closure of its deep mines** and has been made to sell its active opencast mines. These mines have been sold to a 'new' company, UKCSMR Ltd, that has two directors, both of whom are present/former directors of parts of UK Coal.

PROBLEMS WITH OPENCAST MINING IN THE UK

- Increased HGVs on the roads
- Loss of access to land
- 'Restoration' of land is poor and often does not happen
- Destruction of local heritage sites
- Reduction in house prices
- Dust and diesel fumes affecting community health
- Noise and light pollution
- Repeated planning hearings/extensions and stress for local people
- Compounded economic and social deprivation due to impacts e.g. on tourism
- Community exclusion from decision-making

KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH LOCAL COAL CAMPAIGNS THROUGH THE COAL ACTION NETWORK WEBSITE [HTTP://COALACTION.ORG.UK/](http://coalaction.org.uk) AND FACEBOOK PAGE. A MAP OF COAL INFRASTRUCTURE IS ON THE WEBSITE.

INTERNATIONAL COAL IMPORTS

Whole communities in other countries have been violently forced off their land, as has happened to make way for the Cerrejon mine in Colombia, and threatens the Shor people of the Kemerovo Region of Russia. Both areas supply the UK with coal.

Resettlement deals are often inadequate with subsistence farmers being moved from their productive land into urban areas, and communities broken up and spread out. In Indonesia, UK-listed coal companies

threaten to destroy rainforest and are digging up land which previously produced food. UK companies are responsible for the damage caused abroad, even when the coal never comes to our shores.

The Coal Action Network is currently working on a report on the UK's role in the international coal industry, highlighting the human and environmental cost of UK power generation. We will be touring on this topic in Autumn 2015.



Cerrejon mine in Colombia: many UK power stations burn coal from here



Farmland being destroyed by coal mine in Indonesia

CLEAN COAL IS A DIRTY LIE: CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE (CCS)

The three "big" political parties have spoken against unabated coal, **but we need to make them create closure plans and enforce them.** Civil society stopped the building of new 'CCS ready' coal fired power stations in 2010 but we have not won the war.

The government is supporting Drax's new White Rose Project, and the Caledonia Clean Energy Project, in Grangemouth. Both projects would be new-build power stations, the first since the 1970's. The White Rose could have the capacity to capture carbon released and dump (store) it under the North Sea, but there is every possibility that it would run without using CCS, as it could be cheaper and more efficient. These plants would also be exempt from new emissions performance standards for 3 years. Even if it were possible to catch the CO₂ released, the White Rose would still burn coal and biomass. Burning biomass threatens forests and biodiversity, and is spurring the growth of the genetically engineered tree industry. With CCS, more fuel is

required to produce the same amount of energy. The **White Rose project has received £50 million from DECC and is likely to get almost £1 billion more for construction,** as well as access to EU funding.

The Grangemouth Project has received £4.2 million for research. The technology to be used by the White Rose has already been tested and found to be too expensive and inefficient to be commercially viable by other energy companies.

Summit Power, who are behind the Grangemouth project are developing CCS for Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) in the USA. EOR uses captured CO₂ to extract more fossil fuels! Hardly a green technology. We see these projects as false climate solutions that keep us dependant on coal, and they must be opposed.

ONE THIRD OF ALL CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS COME FROM BURNING COAL

WE CANNOT YET SEE COAL AS A FINISHED BATTLE. PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT SUFFER BECAUSE OF EXISTING MINES AND COAL FIRED POWER STATIONS. WE NEED TO CREATE REAL SOLIDARITY TO END COAL!