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'2016 was a real turning point for UK electricity - it's the cleanest it's ever been, with wind power beating coal for the first time. But it still needs to be a lot cleaner. Contrary to what you might read in some papers - or hear from the odd politician - wind power can help us beat coal. We don't have to let another fossil fuel like gas simply pick up the slack.

Wind power is cheap. According to governments own estimates onshore wind is likely to undercut the price of gas by as early as next year. It's abundant. The UK is the windiest country in Europe and in 2014 was the worlds second largest market for onshore wind.

To top it off, it's also really popular with the UK public. Results from an opinion poll released by ComRes last October showed support for onshore wind at a high of 73%. The same can't be said for fracking, which had support at just 34%.

Unfortunately though, government have slashed support for wind and wrapped up the few projects we have left on the table in piles of red tape, putting a defacto ban in place. Instead of supporting this British success story government are ploughing money into ageing fossil fuel technologies of the past.

Thanks to the capacity market system, payments are being made to coal to 'keep the lights on'. As a result, coal plants are being paid to stay open for longer. Since 2014, at least £700 million has been handed to coal and diesel power alone. These energy technologies are expensive and dirty to run. By continuing to offer coal financial support we're being tied into fossil fuels for longer, putting the chances of meeting our carbon targets at risk. Ultimately, it threatens the UK's chances of cutting out coal for good.

The Treasury estimate we need more than £200 billion worth of upgrades to our energy infrastructure whilst government have set a manifesto commitment to decarbonise at lowest cost. Coal isn't cheap, but onshore wind is. If we're going to quit coal and create an energy system for the 21st century, this favouritism for energy technologies of the past needs to change. And soon.'